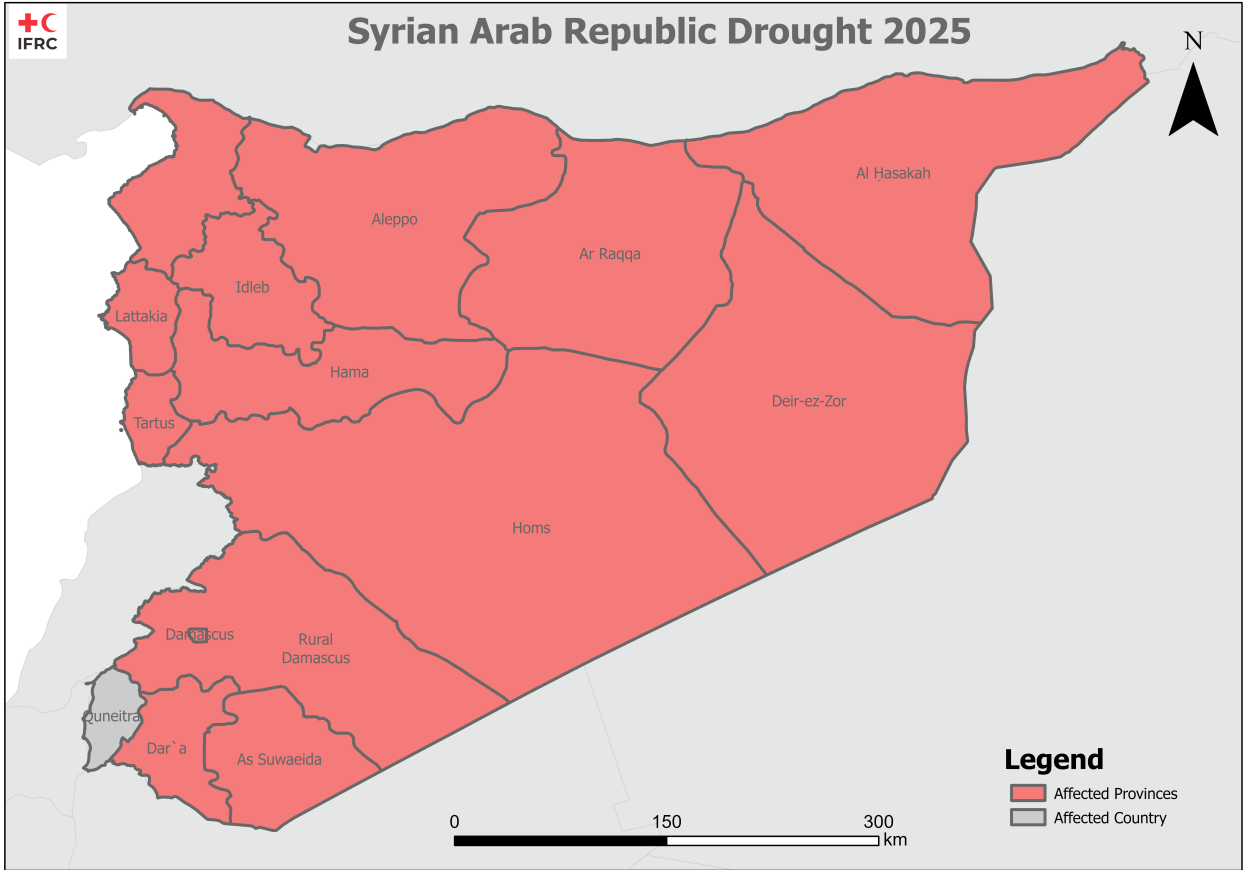




SARCS volunteers are conducting drought awareness session to the communities.

Appeal: MDRSY017	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 999,893	Crisis Category: Orange	Hazard: Drought
Glide Number: DR-2025-000152-SYR	People Affected: 16,200,000 people	People Targeted: 100,000 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 29-08-2025	New Operational End Date: 30-11-2026	Total Operating Timeframe: 15 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 29-08-2025		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 31-08-2026	
Additional Allocation Requested: -		Targeted Regions: Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Deir Ez-Zor, Hama, Al-Hassakeh, Homs, Idleb, Lattakia, Al-Quneitra, Al-Raqqa, Al-Sweida, Tartous	

Description of the Event



Date when the trigger was met

08-08-2025

What happened, where and when?

Since the launch of this DREF operation in August 2025, the humanitarian situation in Syria has remained highly complex, with the impacts of severe drought continuing to interact with economic decline, deteriorating public infrastructure, prolonged pressure on basic services, and increasing climate-related hazards. Although parts of the country experienced localized improvements in rainfall during the 2025/2026 rainy season and severe flooding affected sections of the Euphrates Basin between May and June 2026, these events were insufficient to reverse the cumulative impacts of consecutive years of below-average rainfall, depleted groundwater reserves, and years of underinvestment in water infrastructure. Consequently, water insecurity remains a critical humanitarian concern across many governorates.

Throughout the implementation period, water and sanitation services continued to face significant operational challenges. Ageing infrastructure, persistent electricity shortages, limited financial and institutional capacity, rising operational costs, and shortages of essential equipment and spare parts have constrained the ability of water establishments to adequately operate and maintain critical water systems. These factors continue to reduce service reliability and place additional pressure on already fragile water supply networks.

Despite localized rainfall and flood events, the underlying structural drivers of water insecurity remain largely unchanged. Groundwater resources continue to experience increasing pressure due to unsustainable abstraction and unregulated well drilling in some areas, while high levels of non-revenue water resulting from ageing distribution networks and inefficient irrigation practices continue to increase demand on already stressed water resources. These pressures have further reduced the resilience of local water systems and, in some communities, have contributed to increased competition over limited water resources, affecting access to safe and reliable water supplies for vulnerable populations.

Between May and June 2026, flooding along the Euphrates River affected Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates, damaging water stations, irrigation infrastructure, and transport routes. While the floods temporarily increased surface water availability in some



locations, they also disrupted water services and caused additional damage to critical WASH infrastructure. The simultaneous occurrence of prolonged drought impacts in many parts of the country and flood-related damage in others illustrates the growing variability of climate-related hazards and the increasing vulnerability of Syria's water resources and water service infrastructure.

These evolving conditions demonstrate that improving water security requires not only responding to climate-related emergencies but also strengthening the resilience of essential water systems. These evolving conditions demonstrate that improving water security requires strengthening the resilience of essential water systems through more efficient water resource management, reduced water losses, and sustainable management of available water resources, supported by community participation. Such measures are essential to sustain safe drinking water services, reduce humanitarian risks, and enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities to future climate-related shocks.

Communities across Syria remain highly vulnerable to both slow-onset hazards, such as drought, and sudden climate-related events. These overlapping risks continue to undermine reliable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, reinforcing the need for sustained humanitarian interventions that strengthen essential WASH infrastructure and improve the resilience of affected communities.

Scope and Scale

The impacts of water scarcity continue to be widespread across Syria, affecting both urban and rural communities, with varying levels of severity depending on local water availability, infrastructure conditions, and communities' coping capacities. While rainfall patterns improved during the 2025/2026 season compared with the previous year, the accumulated impacts of prolonged drought and increasing pressure on water resources continue to affect the reliability and sustainability of water services in many areas.

The most affected governorates include Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, As-Sweida, Daraa, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, and Al-Hasakeh, where communities continue to experience challenges in accessing reliable and affordable water supplies. In urban areas, intermittent water supply and reduced service reliability have increased households' dependence on alternative water sources, including private water vendors, placing additional financial pressure on vulnerable families. In rural areas, limited water availability continues to affect agricultural activities, livestock production, and household resilience, particularly for communities that rely heavily on local water resources for their livelihoods.

The pressure on water resources has also increased vulnerabilities in areas already affected by years of conflict and economic hardship. Declining groundwater availability, high water losses within distribution networks, and increasing demand on limited resources have reduced communities' ability to cope with additional shocks. In some locations, competition over available water resources has increased pressure on local communities and water service providers, highlighting the importance of sustainable and equitable water management approaches.

The humanitarian consequences of water scarcity extend beyond access to drinking water. Reduced water availability affects hygiene practices, increases household expenditure, contributes to livelihood losses, and places additional burdens on vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, older people, and persons with disabilities. Agricultural communities and livestock-dependent households have been particularly affected by reduced water availability, increased production costs, and declining productivity.

Overall, the scale of the crisis is driven not only by reduced water availability but also by the interaction between climate-related shocks, deteriorating infrastructure, economic constraints, and limited capacity to maintain essential services. These compounding factors continue to increase humanitarian needs and highlight the importance of strengthening resilient water supply systems and ensuring sustainable access to safe water for affected communities.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Syria left high and dry as water system evaporates, experts say	https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2025/08/06/syria-drought-crisis-deepening/?utm_source=The+National+newsletters&utm_campaign=352bf785e8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_01_18_11_48_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-53af5a22d1-59700268
2. Syria battles its worst extreme weather in 60 years	https://www.unocha.org/news/syria-battles-its-worst-extreme-weather-60-years#:~:text=But%20Syria%20is%20dealing%20with,like%20conditions%20on%20wheat%20production.
3. SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - INTER-SECTOR RESPONSE PLAN FOR DROUGHT-LIKE CONDITIONS (JUL - DEC 2025)	https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/syrian-arab-republic/addendum-syrian-arab-republic-humanitarian-



	response-priorities-response-plan-drought-conditions-july-december-2025
4. 'Zero season': Syrian farmers face worst drought in decades	https://syriadirect.org/zero-season-syrian-farmers-face-worst-drought-in-decades/#:~:text=Syria's%20cumulative%20rainfall%20during%20the,and%20Agriculture%20organization%20

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Are you requesting an additional allocation?	No



Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Based on the official request received from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the IFRC Syria Delegation is seeking a three-month no-cost extension of the Drought DREF Operation (MDRSY017). The extension is requested to ensure the successful completion of all planned activities, allow sufficient time for the finalization and documentation of implementation processes, and facilitate the timely booking and reconciliation of all operational costs under the drought operation.

The proposed extension will enable the operation to achieve its intended objectives while ensuring compliance with IFRC financial and reporting requirements. The key justifications for the requested no-cost extension are outlined below:

WASH Component: Rehabilitation of Boreholes - Homs - On 16 February 2026 during the evaluation of bids, in collaboration with the Procurement Unit, the technical offers were submitted for technical evaluation to WatRehab team, in coordination with Water board.

Some modification of technical parameters for main components of projects has been required by water board to ensure compatibility with the operating conditions of the main drinkable network.

Therefore, a meeting was held with the Studies Department of Water board on 2 March 2026 to discuss the required technical modifications which were primarily related to the submersible pumps parameters that led to changing in the electrical motor capacity with associated accessories such as cables and control panels. As a result, the technical evaluation of the bids was pending. Then, WatRehab team re-prepared the technical study based on the new specification. The tender was subsequently re-launched on 2 June 2026. Moreover, the contract was signed on 16 July 2026. The worksite was handed over on 27 July 2026.

Rehabilitation of Boreholes - Damascus: The initial objective of the intervention was operation of 4 boreholes to obtain maximum water production since Damascus was facing an emergency caused by dry season. During the simulation of wells and preparing the technical specifications, it has been found that connecting all 4 boreholes to the network was not feasible based on operating circumstances. Therefore, the project was considered as. A final decision of reframing scopes the intervention to include rehabilitation of the main collective line, the ground reservoir, and one well.

Preparation of the technical specification was further delayed due to the limited logistical capacity of the Water board such as testing pump to get the actual parameters of wells and modification in the investment mechanism. As the worksite is located along both sides of a highway (Almotahik Aljanobi ST) that required to coordinate with Damascus governorate to get the As-built drawing plan to ensure that the collective water lines would not conflict with the highway or prevent any potential interference with existing infrastructure and utility networks already installed at the site. Moreover, the contract was signed on 19 July 2026. The worksite was handed over on 28 July 2026 the delay was because of internal procedures at water board.

Several operational and contextual factors have affected the timely implementation of the Drought DREF operation and have necessitated a three-month extension of the implementation period to allow for the completion of planned activities and the achievement of the intended outcomes.

Procurement Processes: Significant delays were encountered in the procurement of key drought response interventions, particularly the hydroponic systems and borehole rehabilitation works.

Hydroponic Systems Procurement: The procurement process for the hydroponic systems and associated materials, including metal structures and feeding components, took considerably longer than anticipated. Changes in Government policies regarding the use of the Syrian Pound and USD during the tendering process required the tender to be cancelled and re-launched, resulting in substantial delays.

Following completion of the procurement process, the awarded contract value was lower than the allocated budget. Based on technical assessments and identified priority needs, it was proposed to reallocate the resulting savings to provide additional cash assistance to the same targeted beneficiaries, thereby enhancing support to drought-affected households.

Overlapping with Implementation: During the implementation period, several flood events affected some of the same geographical areas targeted by the drought response. Four significant spells of heavy rainfall occurred during February, March, and May, in addition to the overflow of the Al-Firat River dam, resulting in flooding across some drought-targeted locations.

These concurrent emergencies required operational teams to temporarily redirect resources and response capacity to address urgent flood-related humanitarian needs. Furthermore, the implementation of community awareness activities on drought was considered inappropriate while communities were responding to the immediate impacts of flooding. As a result, these softer activities were postponed to a later stage.

The evolving humanitarian context therefore required adjustments to operational priorities, contributing to delays in the implementation of planned drought response activities.

Changes on the budget allocation and activity based on needs: Considering these developments, the Disaster Management team, in coordination with the relevant technical departments, agreed to reallocate the budget originally allocated for drought awareness activities to the Livelihoods sector. This reallocation will enable the provision of additional cash assistance to the same targeted drought-affected households, ensuring that the most urgent priority needs of affected communities are addressed while maximizing the efficient use of available DREF resources.

Given the procurement delays, the operational disruptions resulting from the flood emergencies, and the necessary adaptation of activities and budget allocations to the evolving humanitarian context, a three-month extension of the DREF implementation period is requested. The extension will provide sufficient time to complete the remaining procurement-related activities, finalize the

borehole rehabilitation works, implement the outstanding interventions, and ensure that the operation achieves its planned objectives and intended outcomes.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC has a permanent presence in Syria through its Country Delegation in Damascus, supported by the MENA Regional Office. The IFRC has been actively supporting the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) since the onset of the crisis. IFRC has maintained close coordination with SARC to provide technical guidance on WASH assessments, response planning, and DREF development. The IFRC Country Office participated in joint field visits and technical meetings with SARC's WASH and Emergency teams to monitor the evolving situation in affected areas. IFRC facilitated regular coordination calls with Movement partners and contributed to the consolidation of field findings into a structured response plan. In parallel, IFRC supported the initial analysis of the emergency context and helped document the situation overview and affected population data to inform the DREF application. Coordination with relevant clusters and technical working groups, particularly on WASH and Health, has been ongoing to harmonize efforts and avoid duplication.
Participating National Societies	RCRC actors continue their support to SARC on regular bases, allowing the team to be the first responder, ready to scale up as per needs and support such a response. Many PNSs shows their flexibility to support, during this response and in the later phases in addition to the already ongoing support.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Present in Syria since 1967, the ICRC is a neutral, impartial, and independent organization with an exclusively humanitarian mission. The ICRC works closely with and supports SARC to meet the food, water, and health needs of people and communities affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence and to help them start rebuilding their lives. They also work together to raise awareness about the risks of mines and other explosive remnants. The ICRC works to restore family links between persons who have been separated by conflict and migration and promotes respect for international humanitarian law. Finally, ICRC provides technical advice and support to local authorities and forensic practitioners in managing human remains with respect and dignity. During emergencies, the ICRC supports SARC, such as DM, Wash, or EMS teams, provides emergency food and medical supplies, and participates in the movement task forces to coordinate response beside this SARC by support of ICRC distributed safe drinking water to 250,000 people through water tankering in Northern, Eastern, and Western areas of Al-Hasakeh under drought operation. Some of the regular planned and emergency interventions, in particular WatHab and EcoSec, also address the scarcity of water and drought and related needs.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
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National authorities	In response to the escalating drought in Syria, several government entities, UN agencies, and NGOs have mobilized efforts to address urgent water, sanitation, and food security needs. The Ministry of Energy/Water Authority has been involved in monitoring groundwater levels, managing existing pumping stations, and coordinating with humanitarian actors on emergency water delivery in severely affected areas.
UN or other actors	UN is developing response plan for drought-like conditions. This response plan is an addendum to the extension of the 2025 Humanitarian Response Priorities.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

There are several coordination mechanisms established in Syria. UNOCHA & Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), in which SARC, IFRC, and ICRC have observer status. Sectoral coordination bodies—Shelter/NFI, Food Security & Agriculture, Early recovery and Livelihoods, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Logistics, Protection, led by designated UN agencies, managed through the IASC cluster approach.

Assistance is provided by UN Agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and local actors operating.

Ministry of Energy/Water Authority has been involved in monitoring groundwater levels, managing existing pumping stations, and coordinating with humanitarian actors on emergency water delivery in severely affected areas.

SARC coordinates with INGOs and UN agencies as the main partner in carrying out humanitarian activities while maintaining its mandate without compromising the basic principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Furthermore, SARC is coordinating with the relevant authorities (government) through its relevant channels in order to join efforts in the response to the drought.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The livelihoods of small-scale livestock keepers and agricultural households in drought-affected areas, already weakened by years of conflict, economic decline, rising production costs, and repeated climate-related shocks, are facing a severe and escalating crisis. The prolonged 2025 drought has significantly reduced water availability, degraded rangelands, and diminished agricultural productivity across multiple governorates. At the same time, recent flash floods in several affected areas have caused further damage to agricultural land, irrigation infrastructure, livestock assets, and rural livelihoods, compounding existing vulnerabilities.

In Homs, nearly 1.5 million people are affected by widespread well failures, groundwater depletion, and advancing desertification, which have severely degraded pasturelands and reduced crop production. Farming households are increasingly unable to irrigate their land due to water scarcity and prohibitively high fuel costs. In Aleppo, rural and peri-urban communities report substantial declines in agricultural yields because of both prolonged drought conditions and localized flood damage to agricultural assets and infrastructure. In Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqa, drought pressures have further strained already fragile irrigation systems damaged by years of conflict, leading to reduced cultivation and diminished productive capacity. Across Daraa, Quneitra, and Al-Hasakeh, declining groundwater levels, recurrent water shortages, and climate-related shocks have significantly reduced fodder production and pasture availability, forcing livestock owners to reduce herd sizes, engage in distress sales, and adopt negative coping mechanisms that threaten long-term food security and economic resilience.

The combined impacts of drought and flooding have intensified feed shortages, increased livestock mortality risks, and reduced the income-generating capacity of vulnerable households. In this context, the timely provision of emergency livestock feed, coupled with the establishment of water-efficient hydroponic fodder production systems, has become critical to sustaining livestock assets and protecting livelihoods. These interventions, complemented by practical training on drought-resilient and climate-adaptive livestock management practices, can help maintain animal health, stabilize milk and meat production, and preserve household income sources.

However, significant challenges continue to limit the scale and effectiveness of the response. These include limited availability of quality fodder, hydroponic production equipment and inputs, shortages of qualified technical facilitators, damage to rural infrastructure, and high transportation costs to reach remote and hard-to-access communities. Furthermore, recurrent climate shocks are increasing the demand for livelihood support while reducing the capacity of local communities to recover independently.

Immediate priorities include delivering targeted emergency feed & cash assistance to the most vulnerable livestock owner and farming households based on current needs and situation , supporting the establishment of sustainable fodder production units, controlling the outbreaks, animal diseases, rehabilitating critical water and agricultural infrastructure where feasible, and providing tailored technical assistance to strengthen climate-resilient livestock and crop production practices. Targeting should prioritize women-headed households,



elderly farmers and herders, persons with disabilities, displaced agricultural workers, and other highly vulnerable groups, ensuring that assistance is equitable, accessible, and responsive to the multiple risks affecting rural livelihoods.

Health

The health sector in drought-affected areas, already strained by years of conflict and limited resources, is facing increased pressure due to the combined impacts of the 2025 drought and recent flash floods. Reduced access to safe water, coupled with damage to water and sanitation infrastructure, has heightened the risk of waterborne and communicable diseases, particularly among vulnerable communities in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Raqqqa, Daraa, Quneitra, Al-Hasakeh, and Sweida.

In this context, strengthening risk communication, hygiene promotion, and community awareness on safe water practices remains a key public health priority. These efforts should be complemented by enhanced community-based disease surveillance and referral mechanisms to support early detection and timely response to potential outbreaks. However, limited public health capacity, shortages of essential supplies, and operational constraints continue to challenge response efforts.

Immediate priorities include expanding targeted health and hygiene awareness activities, reinforcing disease surveillance systems, and ensuring access to timely referral services, with particular attention to vulnerable groups and communities most affected by drought and flooding.

The health sector in drought-affected areas, already overstretched by years of conflict, underfunding, and degraded infrastructure, is facing heightened risks due to the severe 2025 drought and the widespread collapse of safe water systems. In Damascus, where the Ein al-Fijeh spring has dropped to historic lows, and in Rural Damascus, where the Barada River has nearly disappeared, millions are forced to rely on tanker water or unsafe sources—dramatically increasing the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks such as cholera, hepatitis A, and acute diarrhea illnesses. In Sweida, reduced water consumption in some villages has fallen below minimum survival thresholds, further compromising hygiene and public health. In Homs, the failure of wells and irrigation systems has left communities dependent on informal or contaminated water sources, while in Daraa, Quneitra, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Raqqqa, damaged or non-functional water and sanitation infrastructure has weakened the ability to contain potential outbreaks.

In this context, scaling up risk communication, hygiene promotion, and water-safety messaging is a critical public health intervention to prevent disease transmission. These efforts must be complemented by strengthening community-based disease surveillance and outbreak readiness, enabling early detection and rapid referral of suspected cases to functioning health facilities. However, the shortage of trained public health volunteers, limited availability of testing kits and treatment supplies, and insufficient coordination between WASH and health actors are slowing the response.

Immediate priorities include intensifying targeted public health messaging on safe water use and personal hygiene, expanding community-based surveillance systems, and ensuring timely referral pathways to functioning health facilities. Communication should be adapted for accessibility and cultural appropriateness, ensuring it reaches all groups, women, men, children, older persons, and people with disabilities, through trusted local channels.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The WASH sector in drought-affected areas, already weakened by years of water scarcity, fuel shortages, conflict-related damage, and aging infrastructure, continues to face significant challenges due to the combined impacts of the prolonged 2025 drought and recent flash floods affecting several of the same governorates. While drought has led to declining groundwater levels, reduced spring discharge, and severe water shortages, flooding has caused localized damage to water networks, boreholes, pumping stations, and sanitation systems, further disrupting access to safe water services.

In Damascus and Rural Damascus, reduced water availability from key sources has placed considerable pressure on water supply systems, increasing reliance on alternative water sources and water trucking in some areas. In Sweida, Homs, Daraa, Quneitra, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Raqqqa, communities continue to face challenges related to water scarcity, declining groundwater resources, and damaged or underperforming infrastructure, while recent flooding has increased the risk of water contamination and service disruptions in affected locations.

In this context, the rehabilitation and upgrading of critical water infrastructure, including boreholes, pumping stations, transmission lines, and water storage facilities, remain key priorities to improve access to safe and reliable water services. These efforts should be complemented by water quality monitoring, chlorination activities, and community awareness initiatives on safe water handling, hygiene practices, and water conservation. However, limited technical resources, operational constraints, and funding gaps continue to affect the scale and pace of the response.

Immediate priorities include restoring and strengthening priority water infrastructure, supporting safe water supply services in underserved communities, improving water quality management, and enhancing community outreach and hygiene promotion activities.

Attention should be given to vulnerable populations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, displaced populations, and households affected by both drought and flooding, ensuring equitable access to essential WASH services.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) needs in drought-affected areas are being compounded by the collapse of safe water systems and the resulting strain on households. Across Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida, Homs, and other affected governorates, women and children are bearing the brunt of unpaid care work, walking long distances to collect water from unregulated tanker points or unsafe sources. In Damascus, severe rationing of less than two hours of piped supply per day has forced low-income and displaced families into dependency on costly water deliveries, exposing them to economic exploitation and potential safety risks. In Rural Damascus and Sweida, the lack of nearby safe water points increases the risk of harassment or violence during collection, particularly for women and girls, while older persons and people with disabilities face physical barriers that prevent them from accessing sufficient quantities of water. In some villages, reduced water consumption below survival thresholds is exacerbating existing vulnerabilities, leading to deteriorating hygiene, poor health outcomes, and heightened protection concerns.

In this context, integrating PGI considerations into all drought-response activities is essential to ensure equitable access and to mitigate protection risks. This includes proactively identifying barriers to participation, adapting facilities and services to diverse needs, and incorporating protection risk analysis into the planning of water points, distribution areas, and community facilities. However, the shortage of PGI-trained staff, absence of comprehensive sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data, and limited resources for inclusive infrastructure are restricting the ability to address these needs effectively.

Immediate priorities include ensuring all create safe referral system for protection cases, focusing more on community initiatives that reduce the risk of drought and protection as well, for example: providing safe water for schools to reduce the dropout that happened as a result of missing water in the school.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) remain a critical component of the response, helping to ensure that interventions are informed by community priorities, implemented transparently, and accessible to those most affected by drought and recent flooding. Across the affected governorates, communities continue to require timely, accurate, and accessible information regarding available services, assistance modalities, and response activities.

A key priority is to strengthen inclusive and two-way communication with communities through trusted and appropriate channels, while ensuring that women, older persons, persons with disabilities, displaced populations, and other vulnerable groups are meaningfully reached and engaged. Equally important is the continued strengthening of confidential feedback and complaints mechanisms, enabling communities to safely share concerns, provide input, and contribute to improving the quality and relevance of assistance.

Enhancing CEA across all sectors will support greater transparency, build community trust, promote accountability, and help ensure that humanitarian interventions remain responsive to evolving needs and local priorities.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Despite SARC's rapid field assessments and coordination with local water authorities, significant unmet needs remain across multiple sectors, particularly in WASH and livelihoods. In several governorates, water infrastructure rehabilitation and solarization plans exceed the current DREF's budget and timeframe, leaving some high-priority boreholes, pumping stations, and rural networks unaddressed. Livelihood support for small livestock holders is limited to targeted areas, while similar needs in other drought-affected districts remain uncovered.

Resource shortages—including constrained funding, limited availability of critical spare parts and treatment chemicals, insufficient water trucking capacity, and a shortage of trained technical personnel—are impeding the full restoration of safe water services. Prolonged power cuts and fuel shortages further disrupt pumping and distribution, while inflation increases procurement costs and reduces purchasing power for both communities and implementing partners.

Operational challenges include delays in importing specialized equipment due to sanctions and administrative approvals, restricted humanitarian access in some areas, and deteriorated roads that complicate the transport of materials. Coordination with utilities is ongoing, but long-term operation and maintenance commitments are not yet fully secured, raising risks of infrastructure falling back into disrepair.

Coordination gaps persist in areas where multiple actors are providing parallel water trucking or hygiene activities without harmonized targeting, resulting in coverage overlaps in some locations and under-served communities in others. While SARC participates in WASH cluster coordination, limited real-time information sharing between partners hinders rapid gap-filling.

The needs of vulnerable groups—including displaced households in informal settlements, low-income families reliant on tanker water, female-headed households, older persons, and people with disabilities—are only partially captured in existing assessments. The lack of consistent sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data (SADD) constrains the ability to tailor assistance, especially for those facing protection risks at water collection points or in accessing livelihood support.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF, SARC aims to seek to implement a multi-sectoral response to address the humanitarian impacts of the ongoing drought, while taking into consideration the additional challenges posed by recent flooding in some affected areas. The intervention aims to support vulnerable communities by improving access to safe and reliable water services, protecting and restoring livelihoods, and promoting essential health and hygiene practices. Through a coordinated and need-based approach, the operation will help reduce immediate humanitarian risks, strengthen community resilience, and support the recovery of affected populations.

Operation strategy rationale

The 2025 drought in Syria has triggered one of the most severe water crises in the country's recent history, with rainfall levels dropping to only 25 per cent of seasonal norms. This has drastically reduced surface and groundwater availability, leaving millions of people without reliable access to safe water. The Ein al-Fijeh spring in Damascus, which supplies nearly 70 per cent of the city's water, has fallen to its lowest levels in six decades, affecting 5 million residents with extreme rationing. In Rural Damascus, Sweida, Homs, and other governorates, entire communities face the collapse of irrigation and water supply systems, forcing households to rely on unsafe or unregulated sources. These conditions are compounding existing vulnerabilities created by over a decade of conflict, economic collapse, and weak public services.

Most urgent needs include:

- Immediate restoration of safe and reliable water supply for drought-affected communities.
- Prevention of public health risks, including outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, and hepatitis A.
- Protection of rural livelihoods heavily dependent on livestock and agriculture, which are collapsing under the pressure of scarce water and soaring fodder costs.
- Safeguarding vulnerable groups, including displaced families, women, children, older persons, and people with disabilities, who are at heightened risk of exclusion and exploitation.

Strategic priorities were defined through joint assessments and coordination with local authorities, Movement partners, and cluster actors. The operation will therefore focus on:

- WASH: Rehabilitation of boreholes, pumping station, digging well, chlorination, and hygiene promotion to restore access to safe water and reduce health risks.
- Livelihoods: Provision of animal feed and fodder seeds to 300 vulnerable herder households to prevent asset loss, distress sales, and further deterioration of food security.
- livelihood- distribution of cash assistance to 270 affected household by drought & those who completed the hydroponic system training to meet their urgent and basic needs.
- Community Support and Protection (CSP): Integrating protection monitoring, awareness, and safe referral pathways into all interventions, ensuring equitable access and safeguarding vulnerable groups.

Rationale for chosen strategy and methods:

The operation adopts a dual approach: (i) immediate life-saving interventions to restore water access and protect livelihoods, and (ii) medium-term risk reduction and resilience-building measures to prepare communities for recurring droughts. This approach is designed to directly address the most urgent needs while contributing to longer-term adaptation and community resilience.

Key influencing factors include the fragile socio-economic context, damaged infrastructure, and limited institutional capacity, which make water trucking and short-term relief alone insufficient. Therefore, priority has been placed on rehabilitating existing infrastructure and promoting sustainable solutions such as solar-powered systems. In addition, recognizing the heightened risks for women, children, and displaced families, PGI and CEA are mainstreamed across all sectors, ensuring accountability, equity, and safeguarding.

Through this integrated, community-driven, and multi-sector strategy, the operation seeks to reduce immediate suffering, protect vulnerable livelihoods, and build resilience against the worsening impacts of climate-induced drought in Syria.



While this DREF operation is designed as a 12-month emergency response, the drought's impacts will continue well beyond the immediate intervention period. To ensure sustainability, the operation emphasizes investments in durable solutions such as the rehabilitation and solarization of boreholes and pumping stations, which will provide lasting improvements in water supply beyond the lifespan of the DREF. Awareness sessions on water conservation and hygiene, along with the introduction of low-water fodder systems, are intended to build adaptive practices that remain in use after the operation ends. Protection monitoring, feedback mechanisms, and PGI/CEA integration will leave behind strengthened branch-level capacities for inclusive and accountable service delivery. The transition will be managed through continued coordination with local water authorities, agricultural actors, and Movement partners, ensuring that longer-term needs are addressed through complementary programmes, future Emergency Appeals, or bilateral projects. In this way, DREF serves both to meet urgent humanitarian needs and to establish a foundation for sustained resilience and adaptation in the face of recurrent drought.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Of the population in need of humanitarian assistance due to the water crises and drought conditions, SARC is targeting to support 100,000 people. This operation will prioritize drought-affected populations in governorates where the collapse of safe water systems, loss of livelihoods, and heightened public health risks are most severe. These locations have been identified based on a combination of factors:

- Severity of water scarcity (e.g., Damascus rationed to <2 hours/day; Rural Damascus with Barada River collapse; Sweida villages below survival water thresholds; Homs widespread well failures).
- High concentration of vulnerable groups with limited coping capacity.
- Documented reliance on unsafe or unregulated water sources.
- Significant livelihoods loss among small-scale herders and agricultural households.

The primary target groups are:

- 1- Households reliant on unsafe water sources or facing extreme water rationing, prioritizing those without the financial capacity to purchase tanker water.
- 2- Small-scale livestock holders and agricultural households whose livelihoods are at immediate risk due to lack of fodder, failed pasture, or collapse of irrigation systems.
- 3- Vulnerable groups including:
 - Displaced populations living in informal settlements or hosting communities with poor WASH infrastructure.
 - Women-headed households, due to their disproportionate caregiving burden and reduced economic options.
 - Older persons and people with disabilities, who face physical and logistical barriers in accessing safe water or livelihood assistance.
 - Children, who are at higher risk of school absenteeism due to water collection responsibilities or illness from unsafe water.

Targeting will be guided by community-led identification and verification processes, in collaboration with local authorities, community leaders, and SARC branch volunteers. This approach will ensure transparent criteria and prioritization of households with the greatest unmet needs. PGI and CEA principles will be applied across all sectors to ensure equitable access, minimize exclusion, and provide clear information on selection criteria. Community feedback mechanisms will be active from the outset to allow for rapid adjustment of targeting based on real-time inputs.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection of targeted households and communities is based on a combination of severity of drought impact, vulnerability status, and access to alternative coping mechanisms. Criteria will be applied in a transparent and participatory manner, with community input and verification to ensure fairness and minimize exclusion.

1. Severity of drought impact
 - Households in areas experiencing extreme water rationing or total network collapse
 - Communities where water infrastructure has been rendered non-functional and urgent repairs are not possible without external support.
 - Areas with documented reliance on unsafe, unregulated, or distant water sources, increasing public health risks.



2. Livelihood vulnerability

- Small-scale livestock holders who have lost or are at immediate risk of losing productive assets due to failed pasture, fodder shortages.
- Those households who completed the hydroponic trainings, will receive cash assistance t, per HHs will receive approximately 600 USD.

3. Socio-economic vulnerability

- Households unable to afford market alternatives such as tanker water or purchased fodder.
- Families with limited income or experiencing economic shocks due to drought-related loss of livelihoods.

4. Vulnerable groups

Priority will be given to:

- Women-headed households, who often carry the greatest caregiving burden and have fewer economic opportunities.
- Older persons and people with disabilities, who face mobility challenges in accessing water and services.
- Children, particularly those missing school to collect water or affected by waterborne illnesses.
- Displaced populations in informal settlements or hosting communities with inadequate WASH infrastructure and limited livelihood opportunities.

Rationale

The logic behind targeting these groups is driven by the intersection of exposure to drought impacts and limited capacity to cope without external assistance. This dual-lens approach ensures that assistance reaches those who are both the most affected and the least able to recover without support. PGI principles will ensure inclusive targeting, while CEA mechanisms will be in place to inform communities of selection criteria, receive feedback, and adjust as necessary.

Total Targeted Population

Women	24,390	Rural	30%
Girls (under 18)	26,830	Urban	70%
Men	22,764	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	26,016		
Total targeted population	100,000		

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	Yes



policy?	
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
Public health risks from unsafe water: Without effective water treatment and hygiene promotion, there is a high risk of outbreaks of cholera, hepatitis A, and diarrhea disease, undermining the WASH response's impact.	Integrate hygiene promotion and safe water messaging with all WASH interventions. Ensure chlorination of trucked and rehabilitated water points. Coordinate with health actors for outbreak preparedness and rapid response.
Access and security constraints: Restricted humanitarian access in certain areas due to insecurity, administrative barriers, or shifting frontlines could delay or prevent the delivery of assistance, affecting coverage and timelines.	Work through SARC's established branch network with strong community acceptance, coordinate closely with ICRC and local authorities for access negotiation and security updates, and adjust target locations if access becomes impossible.
Supply chain delays and shortages: Limited in-country availability of critical WASH equipment, treatment chemicals, and animal fodder could delay implementation and reduce coverage.	Diversify suppliers at local, regional, and international levels, pre-position stocks where feasible, use framework agreements, and prioritize early procurement of long-lead items.
Deteriorating drought conditions: Escalating water scarcity could expand needs beyond planned capacity, creating resource strain and unmet expectations among communities.	Maintain flexible operational planning, conduct regular rapid assessments, coordinate with WASH and Livelihoods clusters for complementary support, and prepare contingency stocks for scale-up if needed.
Community dissatisfaction or mistrust: Perceived inequities in targeting or delays in service delivery could damage SARC/IFRC's reputation and reduce cooperation from affected communities.	Implement CEA activities from the outset, including clear communication of selection criteria and schedules. Establish functional feedback and complaints mechanisms, and adjust targeting based on verified feedback.
Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:	
The targeted governorates present a range of security and safety concerns that could impact personnel, volunteers, and communities during the operation. Localized conflict dynamics persist in parts of Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Raqqa, where sporadic clashes or armed group activity could restrict access or create sudden evacuation needs. In several areas, administrative movement restrictions and layered clearance requirements may cause operational delays. Additionally, drought-related grievances and competition over scarce water resources could trigger community tensions or demonstrations in high-stress areas. Safety risks are also significant. Field teams and communities are exposed to unsafe water sources, heightening the risk of waterborne illnesses. Extreme summer temperatures pose risks of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke, particularly during extended water trucking and distribution activities. Long-distance transport of water and fodder along poor-quality or insecure roads increases the likelihood of traffic accidents, while large gatherings at water points or distribution sites could result in overcrowding, pushing, or conflict if not carefully managed. Mitigation measures will include close coordination with SARC's Security Department and the ICRC for continuous security assessments, route planning, and real-time updates. All staff and volunteers will be briefed on IFRC and SARC security protocols, including personal safety, movement restrictions, and incident reporting procedures. The operation will leverage SARC's established community acceptance and volunteer networks to maintain safe access and diffuse potential tensions. Distributions will be scheduled to avoid peak heat hours, with shaded rest areas provided for staff, volunteers, and community members. Staff and volunteers will be equipped with appropriate PPE, hydration, and first aid support. Crowd-control measures, including clear queuing systems and adequate staffing, will be implemented at all distribution points to ensure orderly and safe service delivery.	
Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been	No



Planned Intervention



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 366,949

Targeted Persons: 1,500

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of Small-scale livestock breeders supported to protect their livelihoods.	300	0
Number of trainings conducted on Hydroponic systems	15	15
Number of attendees of awareness sessions	500	270
Number of HHs received cash assistance	270	270

Progress Towards Outcome

During the reporting period, the Livelihood unit made significant progress in operationalizing the drought response in Talbiseh, Rural Homs, advancing from the preparatory phase into active technical capacity-building and logistics delivery. Building upon the previously completed beneficiary verification and baseline survey, the unit initiated specialized training sessions on hydroponic (soilless) fodder production delivered in coordination with livestock nutrition specialists from the Directorate of Agriculture. These practical, interactive sessions—tailored for groups of approximately 20 participants—have successfully reached nearly 200 of the verified 270 vulnerable, livestock-rearing households to date, with full completion of the training cycle scheduled for late July 2026.

Parallel progress was achieved in supply chain management and inter-departmental planning to ensure the delivery of the complete assistance package. The SARC Homs branch successfully received the full inventory of physical hydroponic assets, including metal stands and cultivation trays. Concurrently, procurement and quality assurance processes for agricultural inputs advanced to the final laboratory sample testing phase for the 1,000 kg of animal feed and 100 kg of barley seeds allocated per household. To maximize household flexibility and asset preservation, the operation integrated a cash component into the response strategy, finalizing the targeted list of 270 households to receive 8,000,000 SYP per family via the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) unit and Financial Service Providers.

The operation is now fully positioned to launch the unified field distribution phase. Upon finalization of seed quality testing and CVA administrative clearances, the unit will distribute the full package—comprising animal feed, barley seeds, hydroponic units, and direct cash assistance—to all 270 verified families. Following distribution, the Department of Agriculture will immediately roll out 30 post-distribution technical advisory visits over a two-month period alongside the scheduled endline monitoring survey to evaluate system performance, provide ongoing guidance to breeders, and assess program impact.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 480,035

Targeted Persons: 90,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of boreholes rehabilitated	5	0
Number of people reached with hygiene promotion and water conservation messages	90,000	90,000
Number of Pumping Station rehabilitated	2	0

Progress Towards Outcome

During the reporting period, the WASH unit achieved major implementation milestones across both software and hardware components of the drought response, advancing from initial technical design into active construction and site handovers. On community outreach, the unit successfully conducted widespread hygiene promotion and water conservation campaigns, reaching 20,309 individuals across targeted drought-affected communities to promote water preservation and public health practices.

Significant technical progress was made toward the rehabilitation of critical water infrastructure in Homs and Damascus, despite unavoidable operational and administrative delays encountered during technical adjustments and procurement:

- **Homs Borehole Rehabilitation:** During bid evaluations in mid-February 2026, the Water Board required specific technical modifications regarding submersible pump parameters to match the operating conditions of the main drinking water network. These adjustments necessitated modifying electric motor capacities and associated electrical components (cables and control panels), resulting in a re-preparation of technical studies and a re-tendering process launched on 2 June 2026. Following successful procurement, the contract was signed on 16 July 2026, and the worksite was officially handed over on 27 July 2026. Works are now actively underway, with a 45-day execution timeline.
- **Damascus Infrastructure Rehabilitation:** Detailed technical simulations revealed that operating all four originally planned boreholes was technically unfeasible given existing network parameters.

During the simulation of wells and preparing the technical specifications, it was found that connecting all 4 boreholes to the network was not feasible based on operating circumstances. Therefore, the project was considered as

A final decision of reframing scopes the intervention to include rehabilitation of the main collective line, the ground reservoir, and one well. Consequently, the scope was reframed to focus on rehabilitating the main collective water line, the ground storage reservoir, and one strategic well. Preparation was further complicated by limited Water Board logistical capacity for pump testing, changes in investment mechanisms, and the site's proximity to a major highway (Almotahalik Aljanobi Street), which required specialized coordination with Damascus Governorate to retrieve As-Built drawings and avoid interference with existing utility networks. Following internal administrative clearances, the contract was formally signed on 19 July 2026, and site handover took place on 28 July 2026, initiating the 45-day implementation phase.

With physical site handovers completed for both Homs and Damascus in late July 2026, the operation is now in full execution. Over the coming reporting timeframe, the unit will complete physical rehabilitation works, finalize a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey, carry out project closures and technical handovers to the respective Water Boards, and complete final operational reporting.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 47,084

Targeted Persons: 1,200

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Number of CSP volunteers trained on community-based sessions	10	13
People reached through community awareness sessions	1,200	1,200
Number of Community initiatives implemented	8	2

Progress Towards Outcome

During the reporting period, the Community Support and Protection (CSP) unit significantly expanded its frontline protection operations and community-based interventions in Talbiseh, Rural Homs. Building upon initial volunteer capacity-building, the unit maintained active delivery of structured protection and psychosocial support (PSS) activities, targeted community awareness sessions, and individual assessments. To ensure comprehensive protection coverage for vulnerable and at-risk individuals, SARC teams actively conducted individual case management and established systematic referral pathways to local specialized services.

In line with community empowerment objectives, the sector achieved major milestones in capacity building and localized implementation. Following the completion of specialized CSP team training, the unit successfully moved from project design to physical execution, fully implementing 2 community-led initiatives designed to enhance safety, social cohesion, and inclusive access to services within drought-affected areas. These activities operated alongside ongoing awareness sessions focused on safe resource management and protection risks associated with water scarcity.

Progress also advanced toward completing the remaining community-led interventions. Four additional community initiatives successfully obtained formal technical approval and are currently awaiting financial advance disbursement to launch field execution. Upon receipt of the allocated funds, the implementation team is scheduled to complete all physical activities and handovers within a two-week operational window. Throughout the implementation process, the CSP team maintains routine monthly quantitative reporting and scheduled quarterly monitoring visits to safeguard service quality, ensure adherence to PGI standards, and incorporate continuous community feedback.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 8,925

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Assessment reports produced	1	0

Progress Towards Outcome

During the mid-term reporting period, the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) team, in close coordination with the WASH sector, initiated the preparatory phase for a comprehensive national drought assessment. The teams are currently collaborating with relevant SARC departments and local authorities to streamline data collection processes. This multi-sectoral data will be used to produce a comprehensive situation report analyzing nationwide drought dynamics and evolving context changes. Furthermore, this assessment will generate a high-risk area map to visually highlight the most vulnerable zones, establishing a localized, evidence-based foundation to formulate targeted response plans and strategic recommendations for upcoming humanitarian interventions.

Based on the changes in the seasonal context, rainfall patterns, and needs identified during the rainy season, as well as the decision to deliver drought awareness-raising activities separately under the Disaster Management (DM) program, the DM team, in coordination with the relevant departments, has decided to reallocate the assigned budget to the Livelihoods team. This reallocation will enable the provision of cash assistance to the same targeted affected population, ensuring that their priority needs continue to be addressed effectively.





Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of community feedback and complaints addressed in targeted activities and IDP centers.	1,000	0

Progress Towards Outcome

During the reporting period, the Livelihoods unit successfully initiated community-level engagement and accountability measures in the targeted areas. In close coordination with local authorities and community leaders, the department conducted comprehensive orientation meetings and consultation sessions to transparently share critical intervention details, including beneficiary selection criteria and assistance packages. As well as, the WASH team conducted awareness-raising sessions were implemented for the community. These frontline activities established an essential platform for promoting SARC's feedback and complaints mechanisms, ensuring that the response remains transparent, accountable, and thoroughly aligned with the immediate priorities of the affected population.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 47,925

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
field monitoring visits	2	2

Progress Towards Outcome

IFRC Ops and PMER teams have conducted 2 field visits under drought operations to Damascus and Homs to monitor the ongoing implemented activities under WASH and Livelihood.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 48,976

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	0
Number of Media & Coms workshops attendees	20	32
Number of Media products related to droughts produced	5	3

Progress Towards Outcome

During the reporting period, the Media and Communications unit achieved significant progress in expanding public awareness and institutional communication activities in support of the drought emergency response. Under visibility and educational materials, the multi-sectoral awareness booklet—developed in close technical coordination across WASH, Livelihoods, Community Support and Protection (CSP), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)—was successfully finalized and printed. The printed booklets have now safely arrived at the branch level for immediate distribution to drought-affected communities. However, the procurement process for accompanying educational posters remains ongoing due to tendering administrative steps.

In terms of institutional capacity building, the team successfully conducted a specialized training workshop for media professionals and content creators to enhance field coverage and humanitarian storytelling surrounding drought impacts. The final technical and analytical report for this capacity-building milestone is currently being drafted for formal sharing. Concurrently, production and preparation activities are underway for a dedicated documentary video and a broader multi-channel media campaign, with completion anticipated within a one-month timeline.

The department also advanced strategic external alignment and coordination with national authorities through the planning and the coordination for the campaign.

About Support Services

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

About 450 Volunteers, 50 Staff members.

EMS, DRR, WASH, Health, Livelihoods, CSP, OPs, CEA, logistics

The response is fully managed by SARC HQ and the sub operation room in the branches

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?

SARC ensures that its volunteer teams reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the communities they serve. The response to the Drought is led jointly by headquarters and the affected branches, with volunteers mobilized directly from the impacted areas. This localized approach ensures that teams are culturally attuned with the people they are supporting, which helps build trust and deliver more effective assistance. Both men and women are actively engaged in the response, allowing for more inclusive outreach which is particularly important when supporting vulnerable groups such as female-headed households or individuals with specific cultural or protection needs. While the current composition of teams reflects the local demographic, SARC continues to assess and address any gaps in representation to ensure that all affected individuals feel safe, respected, and understood throughout the response.



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

The procurement will be done through SARC, nationally, and in alignment with the IFRC procurement standards. IFRC remains ready to support if and when needed.

How will this operation be monitored?

The 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 put into action during this response in direct conjunction with the PMER and Quality Assurance team at IFRC MENA RO. PMER, IM, and CEA capabilities are included in the PMER and Quality Assurance unit and will work directly with SARC.

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 flows 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 Drought response, documenting activities in a way that motivates local communities and associations to undertake similar initiatives. Verified field 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 Drought 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

MDRSY017 - Syrian Arab Red Crescent
Drought 2025

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	902,991
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	366,949
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	480,035
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	47,084
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	8,925
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	96,901
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	47,925
National Society Strengthening	48,976
TOTAL BUDGET	999,892

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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IFRC Project Manager: Bilal Shah, Operations Manager, Bilal.shah@ifrc.org, +963953333860

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Raja Assaf, Head of Disaster and Crisis Health, Disasters, Climate and Crises, Raja.ASSAF@ifrc.org

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[Click here for the reference](#)

