

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Syria: Drought

Emergency appeal n° MDRSY001
GLIDE n° DR-2009-000149-SYR
Operations update n° 2
28 March 2010

Period covered by this Ops Update: 26 August 2009 to 28 February 2010. This update represents a six-month summary of the operation (cumulative narrative and financial).

Appeal target (current): CHF 3,255,615

Appeal coverage: 34%; [<click here to go directly to the interim financial report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 26 August 2009 for CHF 3,255,615 for 12 months to assist 260,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 320,856 was initially allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the National Society to respond. The allocation was returned to DREF.

Summary:

During the first months of the launch of the Emergency Appeal, distribution of 6,500 food parcels were finalised. Another 10,000 food parcels have been purchased and distribution is ongoing based on a thorough beneficiary identification. The distribution is envisaged to reach approximately 70,000 persons.

In addition, 37,500 shrubs have been planted in two areas affected by the drought, in an effort to prevent desertification. The population in the area is approximately 10,000. The main impact on medium to long term will be for the population to use the fodder shrubs as pastures - the plants re-grow quickly once they have been established. The communities living close to the selected sites will hopefully also be less exposed to sand storms, an increasing hazard for the population in the area. Hence, this intervention may have contributed in a positive way both to livelihood and to the environmental situation and hopefully, may have raised awareness among the population of the possibility to contribute and influence the immediate local environment. The action was carried out as a result of a vulnerability and capacity assessment by volunteers from Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) supported by the national SARC disaster risk reduction (DRR) team in the most affected communities in Al Hassakeh and Deir al Zor.

Following the kind donation by Finnish Red Cross of 26,000 hygiene parcels which have recently arrived to Syria, a hygiene promotion workshop was organised for 29 SARC volunteers who will carry out promotion activities in the communities during the distribution of the hygiene parcels.

Preparations and a plan of action have been made jointly with Spanish Red Cross for the arrival of a water delegate in mid March for a one month mission. The delegate will support SARC on the water related activities in the Appeal. The water kit 2,000 donated by Spanish Red Cross and the water kit 10,000 received from Finnish Red Cross have recently arrived to Syria together with hygiene promotion materials. Lengthy customs procedures



Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers joined their forces with local communities to prevent desertification. Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

have delayed issuing confirmation of goods received which also affects the updated contributions list. With the arrival of the water kits, SARC will enhance its preparedness in view of another water emergency that unfortunately may not be ruled out. One of the prime activities of the water delegate will be to organise trainings for SARC staff and volunteers on the use and maintenance of these kits.

A rapid assessment was carried out on the needs to enhance logistics support in the concerned branches in this Appeal. Implementation of the recommendation is ongoing. In general, time and efforts have been spent to coordinate with SARC local structures to ensure ownership and adherence to International Federation standards.

A project coordinator has been seconded by SARC to follow up on the objectives in the Appeal. It is expected that the presence of this qualified and experienced coordinator will enhance the implementation of the Appeal objectives. Until very recently, the implementation of the activities in this Appeal was carried out by the core structures of the National Society without additional human resources. This response has added extra burden on SARC already overstretched with responsibilities, particularly in its response to and coordination of activities for the Iraqi displaced.

Although rain has dropped this winter, the farmers still do not feel confident about harvesting later this year. The situation will be monitored by SARC and the International Federation and any decision on the continuation of the relief objective will be depending on the situation in the months to come.

The International Federation wishes to thank the Swedish Red Cross and government, Italian government, Japanese Red Cross, American Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Danish Red Cross and government, the Iranian Red Crescent, Canadian Red Cross and government, British Red Cross, and the Libyan Red Crescent for their contributions to this Appeal. The International Federation also sends its compliments to the Icelandic Red Cross for the deployment of the FACT delegate to assist the representation in Syria and Syrian Arab RC with a water assessment. Appreciation is also extended to United Arab Emirates (UAE) Red Crescent, Turkish Red Crescent and Egypt Red Crescent for bilateral contributions to SARC's response to the drought affected populations.

The situation



Sandstorms are continuing to be seen in Deir al Zor. SARC

Severe drought affecting an area of 1, 3 million inhabitants has resulted in many small farmers not being able to harvest for two consecutive years, while many medium and small herders have lost over 80% of their livelihood due to lack of pasture and fodder. In the eastern governorates of Al Hassakeh, Deir az Zor, Raqqah, Homs and Hama, the drought has had an impact on almost the entire rural population. This area used to be the granary for whole Syria. Out of a total of 1.3 million people affected by the drought, the government and UN in Syria estimate that some 800,000 people suffer from severe vulnerability. Over the past three years, their income has decreased by 90% and their assets and sources of livelihood have been severely compromised.

Thousands of families from the east and north eastern parts of the country have migrated to urban centres. It is difficult to know exactly how

many have moved but government figures estimate between 40,000 to 60,000 families with 35,000 families from Al Hassakeh alone.

Serious shortage of clean water supplies last summer resulted in an increase in the number of diarrhoeal diseases. The International Federation's water assessment indicated that appropriate measures were taken and the outbreak of water borne diseases was halted. However, access to potable water remains scarce and the quality is not consistent. In addition, the water situation for irrigation remains problematic. The International

Federation assessment has reaffirmed that the drought has seriously affected the population who is extremely vulnerable and in need of food and other assistance.

The government has adopted a National Drought Strategy and the International Federation has learned of several initiatives aiming at improving the lives of those affected. These include food distributions, measures to support farmers and herders and the establishment of a new early warning system.

Although it has rained this winter, the farmers still do not feel confident about harvesting later this year. The situation will be monitored by SARC and the International Federation and any decision on the continuation of the relief objectives will be depending on the situation in the months to come.

Coordination and partnerships

In coordination and cooperation with government authorities, SARC has the lead role in the implementation of the activities in this Emergency Appeal. Close contacts exist with government authorities at national, regional and local level. At local level, SARC branches also coordinate and cooperate with community leaders.

The International Federation supports SARC in areas of planning, technical assessments, resource mobilization, monitoring and reporting, information and communication and international representation outside Syria. It supports SARC in Red Cross and Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement cooperation and coordination with UN agencies when required. Technical support through disaster management structures of the International Federation, including the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) zone is readily available. The regional logistics unit (RLU) in Dubai provides logistics coordination and support.

Adequate information sharing between SARC and relevant UN agencies, primarily the World Food Programme (WFP) has been ensured through bilateral meetings and information sharing meetings with relevant partners.

The vast majority of partners who have responded to this Emergency Appeal have done so through multilateral mechanisms. Bilateral contributions include support received by the UAE Red Crescent, the Turkish Red Crescent and Egypt Red Crescent. The UAE Red Crescent has provided a cash contribution to SARC following the launch of this Appeal. The Turkish Red Crescent finalized distribution of food parcels in Al Hassakeh governorate for 6,500 families and the Egyptian Red Crescent supported SARC with tents and blankets. British Red Cross assists the disaster management capacity and DRR activities of SARC. This assistance is outside this Appeal but is strengthening the capacity of the National Society and has contributed to achievements in this intervention. The Spanish Red Cross has agreed, in addition to its multilateral in kind support, to provide SARC and the International Federation with a water delegate to strengthen the capacity of the host National Society.

Partner National Societies (PNSs) currently present in Syria are Danish Red Cross and French Red Cross. The Danish Red Cross, which supports SARC psycho-social support programme at national level, will extend its support this spring by establishing one additional community centre in Deir al Zor and one in Damascus. The Danish Red Cross also supports capacity building of all 14 SARC branches. The French Red Cross is contributing to the displaced Iraqis programme by providing health care services.

Following the rapid water assessment carried out jointly by SARC, the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), an ICRC water delegate has arrived to Syria to assist with the implementation of the ICRC support.

Among the 16 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) currently working in partnership with SARC in response to the Iraqi displaced, ACF Spain (Action Against Hunger) is the only NGO that is permanently located in the affected area. ACF and the International Federation maintain close cooperation and coordinate interventions when appropriate.

In addition to this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation also supports SARC in its response to the Iraqi displaced. The support focuses on 10 basic health clinics located all over Syria and four mobile health units to provide access to health to poor, rural communities. For further information, please refer to Syria: population displaced from Iraq Emergency Appeal (MDRSY002) at <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRSY002ea.pdf>.

The International Federation also works closely with SARC leadership on issues related to institutional development, strategic planning and training.

National Society Capacity Building:

DRR is one of the areas where SARC has increased its capacity substantially over the last years. Supported by the International Federation MENA zone, the Global Alliance for DRR and British Red Cross, SARC has become a leading National Society in the region, particularly focusing on interventions at community levels. SARC's DRR officer has during the last year been seconded to the International Federation MENA zone to implement DRR objectives in the region. SARC national working group for DRR was established in early 2007. All of the members are motivated volunteers with experience in community based approaches. This group has been acting as the "mentor" for DRR teams at branch level.

A very good example of SARC's DRR capacity was the planting of shrubs organized by SARC DRR team during Christmas and New Year. This cross cutting intervention was aiming to prevent desertification, which is one of the serious threats in the region. In cooperation with the authorities, the communities and SARC volunteers, 37,500 fodder shrubs were planted in the last two weeks of December, contributing both to drought prevention and to community awareness and resilience as a part of 2020 strategy implementation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food items)

Outcome: Food parcels for 20,000 families (140,000 persons) are distributed in the affected areas of Deir az Zor and Al Hasakeh according to the ongoing detailed assessment and selection criteria.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Drought affected families are provided with food parcels to maintain their living.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with local authorities and government to ensure the effective distribution to the most vulnerable and avoid overlapping. Sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with WFP and other UN agencies in relation to food distribution. Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Identify families in need in cooperation with the local authorities. Set up distribution points in coordination with local authorities and UN agencies. Mobilize branch distribution teams. Procure 40,000 food parcels (delivered to 20,000 families two times). Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. Continue ongoing detailed assessment for emerging needs. Develop an exit strategy in cooperation with the Syrian government.

Progress: During the first months of the launch of the Emergency Appeal, distribution of 6,500 food parcels were finalised which is estimated to have reached 46,994 beneficiaries. Calculated on a similar number of family members, it is anticipated that the second distribution of 10,000 food parcels which is ongoing will have reached more than 70,000 individuals once completed. Detailed figures for the second distribution with more aggregated data will be developed in the next operations update.

Table 1 The total quantity of delivered food parcels

SARC Branch	Quantity	
	First distribution	Second distribution
Al Hassakeh ¹	3,000	3,000
Raqqa	500	2,500
Homs	2,000	1,500

¹ The 3,000 food parcels for Hassakeh remain at the warehouse at SARC headquarters. Distribution is pending due to the branch elections.

Deir al Zor	1,000	3,000
Total	6,500	10,000

Table 2 Gender aggregated data covering only the first distribution

SARC branches	No of villages	Beneficiaries		
		Female	Male	Families total
Al Hassakeh	28	18,000	6,000	3,000
Raqqa	17	1,737	1,572	500
Homs	15	6,488	5,876	2,000
Deir al Zor	8	4,186	3,135	997
Total	68	30,411	16,583	6,497

Needs assessment and identification of families based on SARC's vulnerability criteria was reinforced prior to the second distribution. In close cooperation and coordination with government officials and village leaders, SARC volunteers are reaching out to the female headed households, disabled, elderly and sick people and to families with many children. In an area where needs are to be found in every household, the understanding among beneficiaries and authorities regarding the selection criteria of SARC is crucial. SARC headquarters and the International Federation have attended several coordination meetings with SARC branches to enhance the role of SARC as complementary to government efforts and UN agencies, mainly WFP.

Similar to the earlier distribution, the distribution points were established in coordination with government officials and village leaders who also attend the distribution. Each family head receives the food assistance and signs the beneficiary list. For very vulnerable families and female headed households, SARC branch representatives deliver the food assistance directly to the house.

The contents of the food parcels are based on Syrian Arab RC and Syrian government standards. The content of the food parcels are rice (seven kilos), sugar (five kilos), tea (one kilo), beans (two kilos), lentils (two kilos), vegetable oil (two litres), and tomato paste (one kilos)

Challenges: Until very recently, the implementation of the activities in this Appeal was carried out by the core structures of the National Society without additional human resources. This response has added extra burden on SARC which is already overstretched with responsibilities, particularly in its response to and coordination of activities for the Iraqi displaced. A project coordinator has now been seconded by SARC to follow up on the objectives in the Appeal. It is expected that the presence of this qualified and experienced coordinator will enhance the implementation of the Appeal objectives.

Emergency health and care

Outcome: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population is monitored and reduced through the provision of preventive, community-level and curative services to 70,000 beneficiaries in Deir az Zor and Al Hasakeh.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Health status of the affected population is maintained through adequate curative and preventive basic health care services ensured through SARC health clinics and mobile health clinics in coordination with the local health authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the health situation in the affected areas and analyse the information gathered by SARC health clinics. Reinforce the capacity of the existing five SARC basic health care clinics in the affected areas with the provision of additional medical supplies. Strengthen and mobilise the two SARC mobile health clinics to conduct screening of patients. Distribute 26,000 family hygiene kits (delivered to 13,000 families two times). Conduct training workshops for 100 volunteers of SARC in community based health and first aid. Organize hygiene promotion sessions targeting 50 schools. Train 108 volunteers (53 in Al Hasakeh and 55 in Deir az Zor) on nutrition and food security assessment, and on supplementary and therapeutic feeding. Develop a monitoring system for malnutrition of children in coordination with the local health authorities. Monitor and coordinate with local health authorities the immunisation

	<p>status of children below the age of five, mainly for polio and measles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise outreach services and health education campaigns among the displaced and host communities.
<p>Psycho-social well-being of the people in the affected areas has improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the psycho-social situation of the most vulnerable families affected by the drought. Mobilize SARC psycho-social support teams in the affected areas. Organize field visits to the affected areas to provide basic psycho-social support to affected families. Coordinate with local health authorities and other stakeholders the referral of cases which might need further counselling or treatment. Support training of 50 SARC volunteers on psycho-social support activities.

Progress:



SARC mobile health units provide health support to rural communities. International Federation

The International Federation continues to support ten SARC health clinics under the Syria: population displaced from Iraq Emergency Appeal (MDRSY002). Five of these clinics are located in the areas affected by the drought; namely, Deir az Zor, Al Hassakeh, Abu Kamal, Al Raqqa and Homs. A sixth area, Qamishly, has drought in its surroundings. These clinics are either long time SARC clinics or have been established during the last years as a response to the needs of the Iraqi displaced.

Four mobile health units are part of the support under the displaced Iraqi Appeal. The two mobile units in the area affected by the drought are reaching out to poor rural communities with no other or limited access to health services. They have been strengthened with additional medication under this Appeal, particularly thanks to support from British Red Cross.

A coordination meeting with all doctors from the mobile health units took place at SARC headquarters to agree on increasing efforts to address populations in the affected area and to reach more people in need. The SARC medical coordinator and International Federation's program coordinator joined all mobile health units to monitor and advice on the interventions. The recommendations presented after the visits are currently being implemented.

A monitoring system to identify malnutrition has been developed through SARC health information system. To date, and according to the information available in the health information system, there seems to be no significant numbers of malnourished populations but SARC continues to monitor the situation. ACF (Action Against Hunger) is also supporting SARC in this issue. ACF is providing staff in SARC clinics in the affected area with on the job training to enhance the staff knowledge in detection of particularly malnourished children less than five years of age. Necessary technical equipment has also been provided by ACF.

Thanks to support by Finnish Red Cross, 26,000 hygiene kits have recently arrived in Syria. The next operations update will be able to report on the distribution.

SARC clinic staff regularly follows up and controls vaccination. It is however the responsibility of the Ministry of Health (MoH) to provide vaccination, which is free of charge. The role of SARC clinic staff is to encourage patients with children to approach MoH for vaccination.

Challenges: The expected result related to psycho-social support has not yet materialised. SARC, in cooperation with Danish Red Cross, is running community centres in three locations and are about to open another two - one of which will be located in Deir al Zor which is in the drought affected area. Hundreds of volunteers have been trained as part of the Danish Red Cross support. This expected result will be evaluated prior to the next operations

update to decide whether the activities are still valid and if the National Society continues to see a possibility to enhance its outreach in psycho-social support.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation in line with WHO/SPHERE standards as well as hygiene promotion to 40,000 beneficiaries.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted beneficiaries have access to 15 litres safe water daily per person. • Key hygiene messages are disseminated effectively at household and community level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an ongoing water/sanitation assessment and agree on a plan of action with the government. • Design and procure 50 school tap purification units to be distributed to the selected 50 schools in line with the technical procedures agreed with the Ministry of Education. • Procure 13,000 jerry cans. • Based on ongoing assessment, consider the potential deployment of ERUs. • Deploy a water sanitation specialist. • Mobilize a water/sanitation team to support the response operation. • Train SARC staff and volunteers in water supply, sanitation and hygiene interventions. • Design and conduct hygiene promotion campaigns at the most affected areas.

Progress: During a two weeks field assessment during the initial stage of the Emergency Appeal, the water and sanitation specialist visited the governorates of Al Hassakeh, Deir az Zor and Al Raqqah. The water and sanitation specialist was provided with all necessary support and information by the National Society branches, clinics and mobile health unit staff. In line with the conclusion of the assessment, SARC and the International Federation decided not to request deployment of an emergency response unit (ERU). The assessment however concluded the need for the National Society to prepare for another emergency.

During the reporting period, 13, 000 jerry cans were purchased and delivered by SARC branches to the most affected villages to enhance access to clean water. In addition, 29 SARC volunteers participated in a hygiene promotion workshop organised for the branches in the drought affected area. The workshop aimed to equip the branches with well trained volunteers to conduct hygiene promotion awareness campaigns at community level. The community promotion will be carried jointly with distribution of 26,000 hygiene parcels that recently arrived in Syria with the kind support by Finnish Red Cross. To disseminate key hygiene messages effectively at household and community level was one of the recommendations made by the field assessment and coordination team (FACT) delegate during his earlier mission to Syria.

Two water kits, 2,000 and 10,000 donated by Spanish Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross respectively, has arrived in Syria. With the arrival of a water delegate later this month, on mission from Spanish RC, SARC volunteers will gain additional knowledge on the use and maintenance of the water kits. It is of utmost importance for SARC to have the capacity and knowledge to respond to a next emergency, which unfortunately can not be ruled out. The secondment of a water delegate from Spanish RC is a reply to a request made by the International Federation after the recommendations of the earlier FACT mission to Syria. The water and sanitation specialist should also be able to conduct trainings with SARC volunteers on water handling and support SARC in developing a plan for community based water handling education at household level and in schools in the affected areas. SARC staff and volunteers should also be trained on the handling of chlorine and chlorination for safe water. Chlorine-tablets for household level should be in stock at SARC headquarters for use during the first five to six weeks in emergency situations. The water delegate will also work with SARC to decide on supporting schools with any kind of purification or other water installations.

Challenges: To ensure the availability of water treatment units and the capacity of Syrian Arab RC for an immediate response in the next emergency situation is crucial. Developing a community based plan of action for education on water handling and hygiene promotion at household level is also an issue that needs high attention.

Capacity Building for Preparedness and Response

Outcome 1: The disaster response capacity of the two SARC branches – Deir az Zor and Al Hasakeh – is improved.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The disaster management teams at branch level have trained volunteers which are ready to respond to the emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize disaster management workshops (number to be decided by SARC based on the ongoing assessment). Establish DRR working groups from two branches. Mobilize national DRR working group to support DRR and community based plans and activities. Provide necessary office equipments to branches.

Outcome 2: The capacities of selected communities exposed to drought risks in Deir az Zor and Al Hasakeh are improved.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The resilience of the community is improved through better awareness, knowledge and behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a VCA study at local communities' level to identify DRR micro projects. Support the establishment of local community committees to design DRR projects. Conduct awareness campaigns at most affected communities and selected schools with a focus on the following modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Water conservation awareness programs. ❖ Hygiene promotion. ❖ Risks of water-borne diseases. ❖ Water conservation techniques and drought management strategies. Establish working groups per branch for community intervention activities with clear roles and responsibilities.
Public education is improved through community participation and involvement of national and local media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize drought information meetings for the public and the media. Organize workshops (number to be decided by SARC based on the ongoing assessment) on drought-related topics. Develop training materials. Consult a marketing firm for strategies to draw public attention. Establish community committees at local level and train them in project management.

Progress: 37,500 fodder shrubs were planted in an effort to prevent desertification in two areas affected by the drought. The action was carried out as a result of a vulnerability and capacity assessment in the most affected communities in Al Hassakeh and Deir al Zor. Focus groups with women were part of the assessment to ensure a gender perspective. Women were also present in high numbers during the actual implementation phase.

Upon request by SARC headquarters, the SARC DRR national working group started preparing an action plan aiming at reducing the risk of drought in the affected area. The action plan included support to branches on the following activities:

- Conduct vulnerability and capacity assessment in the most affected communities in Al Hassakeh and Deir al Zor
- Train two groups of volunteers to enable them to work jointly with the communities in DRR activities in the same provinces
- Determine the micro projects that were to be implemented based on the assessment outcome and participatory planning with the communities affected

During the reporting period, two workshops were carried out with the branches in the affected areas.

Workshop	Number of participants	Date
Deir Al-Zor	27	10-15 November 2009
Al-Hassakeh	29	11-16 November 2009

Participants in the workshops were also volunteers from other branches in the drought affected areas (Raqqqa, Aleppo, Homs and Hama). Based on the vulnerability and capacity assessment and in cooperation with relevant authorities, the decision was made to support the communities with planting of trees in an effort to reduce the consequences of sandstorms that increasingly affect populations in the area. The activity was closely linked to the International Federation Global Alliance for DRR where SARC is a member. Upon request by new DRR team members, these two workshops were followed by a national community mobilisation workshop aiming at strengthening the ability of the volunteers to work with communities on long term sustainable development.



Jointly with community members, SARC planted 37,500 plants during the last two weeks of December. Women were present in high numbers during the planting exercise. SARC

The planting exercise took place between 24 and 31 December 2009. It was the result of several weeks of preparations with the relevant authorities, including the government authority, the general commission for Badia management and development (the Badia Commission) that provided the plants, technical expertise and necessary infrastructure. SARC mobilized volunteers and ensured community participation; provided logistics support; catered for the participants; provided necessary equipment, clothing and coordinated in general the intervention. Local organizations and community members assisted SARC volunteers in the planting.

In the first location, Al Shoola, an area of about 40 hectares, 40 kilometers south of Deir al Zor, 10,000 shrubs were planted. 400 participants from SARC branch in Deir al Zor, SARC sub-branches in Al Mayadeen and Kasra, the family planning association, the children's parliament and community members from the affected populations carried out the action.

Another 27,500 of the shrubs were planted by some 500 participants in Zhemmiah, an area of 60 hectares, around 130 kilometers southeast of the town of Al Hassakeh. SARC branch in Al Hassakeh and sub-branches in Shaddadi and Qamishly provided the volunteers; the youth union in Shaddadi and community members assisted in the planting.

The shrubs used are *Atriplex Halimus* and *Salsola vermiculata*. They are well suited for arid zones. They need water twice, immediately after the planting and again after six months. The Badia commission will be responsible for the second watering. The expected life time for these kinds of plants is 20 years, presuming they will survive the first year. To protect them from animals during this first year, 2-3 metres of sandbanks were created around the area as protection. After one year, these protective measures will be removed.

The number of beneficiaries living in the two areas is approximately 10,000. The main impact on medium term and long term will be for the population to use the bushes as pastures - the plants re-grow quickly once they have been established. The communities living close to the selected sites will hopefully also be less exposed to sand storms, an increasing hazard for the population in the area. Hence, this intervention may have contributed in a positive way both to livelihood and to the environmental situation and hopefully, may have raised awareness among the population of the possibility to contribute and influence the immediate local environment.

Key factors to the successful outcome were the excellent support provided by relevant authorities. The ownership of the project by the local population is another important factor that will enhance sustainability of the intervention. Important to the success is also the motivated and professional SARC DRR team.

The cost effectiveness of the operation is in itself a success and shows that not every important activity needs a tremendous lot of money.

Challenges: Coordinating an intervention of this size, with several hundreds to be cared and catered for is a challenge in itself. The DRR team managed very well with limited support.

Logistics

Outcome: The logistics capacity of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent is reinforced.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The incoming goods are received, recorded and efficiently dispatched to the final distribution points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the establishment of logistics systems in two branches. • Support SARC in establishing and maintaining an adequate resource mobilisation table and relief system. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Coordinate actions with the local authorities.

Progress: The food parcels were purchased, dispatched and distributed according to International Federation policy and procedures. The logistics unit in SARC headquarters has developed immense experience following the National Society's response to the Lebanese crisis in 2006 and the assistance programme to Iraqi displaced carried out since 2007. The National Society supports several UN agencies in relief programs to Iraqi displaced and is handling thousands of tons of relief each year.

A rapid assessment was carried out to identify needs to enhance logistics support in the three branches relevant to this Appeal. Implementation of the recommendations is ongoing.

The activities related to distribution of relief supplies are already in force.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The drought and its consequences receive frequent coverage in national media, mainly with reference to UN reports or actions taken by the government.

The monthly magazine Syria Today has published several articles describing the situation in the affected areas as well as interviews with families who have moved from the area. Syrian Arab RC president, Dr. Attar, was quoted in the September edition in relation to the National Society's response.

The disaster management coordinator in the MENA zone was interviewed by IRIN in an article on the drought, published on IRIN's website. In the meantime, the International Federation country representative is continuing to disseminate the SARC/International Federation response to diplomatic missions in Damascus.

SARC DRR officer was interviewed by Syrian TV during the planting of 37,500 shrubs and SANA news agency forwarded the news item to all its partners. Photos from the action are published on the International Federation's Gallery <http://www.ifrc.org/photo/index.asp?navid=08>

A case study is being developed for the International Federation's web site and a web story is also planned to be published on <http://ourworld-yourmove.org>

It is a priority for the National Society to develop communication and public information and recruitment of a communication officer is ongoing.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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[<Interim financial report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSY001 - Syria - Drought

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/08-2010/02
Budget Timeframe	2009/08-2010/07
Appeal	MDRSY001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,415,508	1,840,107				3,255,615
B. Opening Balance	0	0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	92,585					92,585
<i>British Red Cross</i>		38,992				38,992
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)</i>	49,525					49,525
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)</i>	66,187					66,187
<i>Iran Red Crescent</i>	51,500					51,500
<i>Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund</i>	75,540	75,540				151,080
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	107,400					107,400
<i>Libyan Red Crescent</i>		2,940				2,940
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>	30,221					30,221
<i>Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands RC Silent Emergency Fund)</i>	75,882					75,882
<i>Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	321,733	121,733				443,466
<i>Unidentified donor</i>	-0					-0
C1. Cash contributions	870,572	239,205				1,109,777
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	870,572	239,205				1,109,777
D. Total Funding = B + C	870,572	239,205				1,109,777
Appeal Coverage	62%	13%				34%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0	0				0
C. Income	870,572	239,205				1,109,777
E. Expenditure	-686,220	-52,133				-738,353
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	184,352	187,072				371,424

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSY001 - Syria - Drought

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/08-2010/02
Budget Timeframe	2009/08-2010/07
Appeal	MDRSY001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,415,508	1,840,107				3,255,615	
Supplies								
Food	1,200,000	548,476					548,476	651,524
Water & Sanitation	650,000							650,000
Medical & First Aid	30,000							30,000
Teaching Materials	12,000							12,000
Utensils & Tools	65,000		9,212				9,212	55,788
Other Supplies & Services	780,000							780,000
Total Supplies	2,737,000	548,476	9,212				557,688	2,179,312
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	6,000							6,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	1,000							1,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	7,000							7,000
Transport & Storage								
Storage	5,000							5,000
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000	3,075					3,075	1,925
Transport & Vehicle Costs	40,000							40,000
Total Transport & Storage	50,000	3,075					3,075	46,925
Personnel								
International Staff	70,000							70,000
National Staff	15,000	100	91				191	14,809
National Society Staff	48,000		1,357				1,357	46,643
Consultants	20,000							20,000
Total Personnel	153,000	100	1,449				1,549	151,451
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	45,000		13,209				13,209	31,791
Total Workshops & Training	45,000		13,209				13,209	31,791
General Expenditure								
Travel	16,000	600	6				606	15,394
Information & Public Relation	5,000	526					526	4,474
Office Costs	12,000							12,000
Communications	12,000	135	101				236	11,764
Financial Charges	2,000	-1,351					-1,351	3,351
Other General Expenses	5,000							5,000
Total General Expenditure	52,000	-90	107				18	51,982
Programme Support								
Program Support	211,615	46,335	3,284				49,618	161,997
Total Programme Support	211,615	46,335	3,284				49,618	161,997
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		88,325	24,872				113,196	-113,196
Total Operational Provisions		88,325	24,872				113,196	-113,196
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,255,615	686,220	52,133				738,353	2,517,262
VARIANCE (C - D)		729,288	1,787,974				2,517,262	