



SYRIA

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 50.2M**

Appeal number **MAASY002**

In support of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent



14

National Society branches



5,749

National Society staff



8,031

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



1,000

Climate and environment



320,000

Disasters and crises



1M

Health and wellbeing



50,000

Migration and displacement



30,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- food and non-food assistance
- cash and voucher assistance
- livelihoods support • shelter support
- health and water, sanitation and hygiene interventions
- protection and assistance to displaced people and returnees

Longer term needs

- crisis recovery • climate change adaptation

Capacity development

- humanitarian diplomacy • coordination

Key country data

Population

18.3M

INFORM severity rating

very high

Human Development Index rank

151

Hazards



Conflict



Food insecurity



Displacement



Poverty



Drought



Disease outbreaks

Funding requirements

Total 50.2M CHF

Through the IFRC



Through Participating National Societies



IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

250,000 CHF
Climate and environment

19.5M CHF
Disasters and crises

6.1M CHF
Health and wellbeing

330,000 CHF
Migration and displacement

150,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

8.5M CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Australian Red Cross

British Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society

Red Cross Society of China*

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

French Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Irish Red Cross Society*

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society

The Netherlands Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, founded in 1942 and headquartered in Damascus, is a leading humanitarian agency within Syria. It has a network of 14 branches, one in each of the country's administrative districts, as well as 73 active sub-branches. The National Society is renowned for taking a neutral and principled role during Syria's conflict, enabling it to provide life-saving assistance to millions of Syrians throughout that time.

In its role as auxiliary to the public authorities, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent acts as Syria's national coordinator for humanitarian aid, as mandated by the Syrian Government in 2008. It is also a key member of the National Humanitarian and Disaster Response Committees at both national and provincial levels, and an essential partner to several international organizations. The National Society works closely alongside several key government departments, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, and Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2020–2022 has been created to maintain its position as a key and relevant player within Syria's humanitarian landscape, addressing the needs of those most affected by the ongoing crisis and fostering a healthy, safe and resilient population. To achieve this, the National Society is

focusing on five strategic priorities: delivering an integrated response, early recovery, resilience, protection, and strengthening its foundation.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent is responding to a significant decline in funding for the Syrian crisis and the decision by many organizations to reshape their responses from relief to resilience-building approaches. This has required the National Society to develop greater insight, agility and flexibility. The Strategic Plan 2020–2022 has successfully guided this transformation, delivering more agile management and operational structures, and more responsive methods by which to reach those in the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach parts of the country.

Currently in development, the Strategic Plan 2023–2026 should be finalized by the end of 2022. It will take the successes and shortfalls of the previous strategy into account, through a comprehensive consultative internal review, and consider the local and global planning landscape and the broader country context. Its key focus will be on the "do no harm" principle, climate sensitive planning, resilience building, and protection, gender and inclusion. In addition, there will be an increased focus on impact through increased efficiency and effectiveness, innovation, transparency, compliance and accountability.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

With the Syrian crisis now in its 11th year, nearly seven million people are internally displaced and at least six million have fled the country. This has created the largest refugee crisis in the world, with up to a quarter of all refugees globally coming from Syria.

The Syrian crisis is today more critical than ever. A decade of protracted crisis and economic collapse has left an estimated 15 million people requiring some form of humanitarian assistance.

The humanitarian needs within the country far exceed the capacity of both local and international organizations. An uncertain environment, limited access and insufficient resources contribute to a worsening economic crisis and a devastated public infrastructure.

Crucial civilian infrastructure such as schools, water supply systems, health facilities and housing have all sustained extensive damage, with limited qualified health professionals in post.

People in Syria also continue to suffer from localized hostilities. These incidents not only claim further lives but uproot entire families from their homes, damage the basic infrastructure that remains and limit access to basic services. Even in areas where hostilities have subsided, families struggle to access basic services such as drinking water, food, health care and livelihood opportunities.

Accelerated by ongoing hostilities, international sanctions, deteriorating remittances and COVID-19, the current economic crisis is the worst in the country's history. It is estimated that 97 per cent of the population

lives below the poverty line. A sharp decline in the value of the Syrian pound has also led to record price increases of essential goods, with substantial fuel and gas shortages throughout the country.

According to Syrian households, their top most urgent needs are food and nutrition, livelihood support and electricity. This makes vocational training activities essential, with an ongoing need to develop innovative ways to create sources of income and longer-term job creation, alongside the private sector. This can foster

socio-economic resilience and accelerate the path to rebuilding the Syrian economy.

The delivery of impartial and needs-based humanitarian aid has become increasingly difficult in Syria, because of its highly fluid security and political context. With no common political agreement between international actors and the Syrian Government, resources and support for humanitarian work is diminishing. This leaves millions of Syrians extremely vulnerable

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Climate change and extreme weather events have the capacity to compound existing crises faced by people in Syria. Against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent considers climate change a medium priority. While many of the National Society's projects and activities already take into account climate change adaptation and mitigation, it is now building climate change into all of its disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management policies and plans.¹

Syria's landscape is a combination of arid and semi-arid environments, dominated by desert, with natural forest spanning two per cent and water less than one per cent. Average temperatures have risen by 2°C in the last 100 years. Most crops are rainfed in Syria, and most wheat crops come from the country's most drought-prone areas. Syria ranks 150 out of 182 countries in the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) index, indicating high vulnerability and low readiness to adapt to climate change.

A drought in the north and north-east of the country is exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. Water levels of the Euphrates River reached critically low levels in May 2021, with water levels in the administrative district of Tabqa Dam in Ar-Raqqa depleted by nearly 80 per cent. There are also poorly functioning water networks in most of Syria's populated cities.

This water shortage crisis is extremely concerning, given that nearly 4.5 million people in Syria rely on the Euphrates River and its subsidiaries for drinking water, as well as for feeding crops and livestock. Most of Syria's rainfed wheat crops are grown in these most drought-prone areas.

Low water flow has also affected the water-powered generators of the Tishreen Dam, affecting the electricity supply of more than three million people, as well as limiting access to pumped water, health care and sanitation, agricultural production, food security and livelihoods across affected areas. With Syrian households forced to turn to unsafe drinking water and limit the use of water for hygiene and sanitation, the shortage is also affecting public health

Main actions and areas of support

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent is part of the IFRC's [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally-led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

This plan will support climate change adaptation of the most affected communities and vulnerable groups in Syria. There is also strong interest in the region to scale up anticipatory action. Human capital in the form of expertise and knowledge will be increased among National Society staff and volunteers to lead and encourage local climate action. The IFRC and network partners will support the National Society to:

¹ Analysis in this section supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: <https://www.climatecentre.org/>

- Pilot a community risk reduction and resilience initiative to address climate change risks in high-priority areas, based on an enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment ([VCA](#))
- Conduct community-based education activities on adapting to and reducing climate-related risks and their impact on natural resources in the targeted communities
- Ensure that livelihoods, early recovery interventions and logistics operations adapt greener solutions
- Conduct a study entitled Climate Change and Conflicts: Impacts on Health, together with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, to further inform climate mainstreaming and planning
- Train 30 trainers on climate change, climate actions and climate-smart programming
- Undertake a feasibility study on weather forecasting and early warning tools to support the design of protocols for anticipatory action
- Develop protocols, procedures and standard operating procedures for anticipatory action
- Disseminate greening practices and preparedness tools and guidelines as part of the IFRC Global Green Response
- Implement campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction and clean-ups

Note: the figure on people to be reached for this priority area refers to capacity building efforts for National Society staff and volunteers. People to be reached by services addressing climate change are included under the other strategic priorities through multi-sectoral programming.

Statistics

Average temperatures in Syria are **2°C hotter today than 100 years ago**

Disasters and crises

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

The Syrian crisis today is more critical than ever. Nearly 15 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 12 million facing acute food insecurity. It was estimated that 14 million Syrians would require some form of income and livelihoods support in 2022, a staggering increase from 10 million in 2020.

Damaged infrastructure remains unrestored or in disrepair in most of the governorates. In areas where hostilities have subsided, families are struggling to access basic services such as drinking water, food, health care services, and livelihood opportunities. Communities in the north and north-east of the country are experiencing drought, and water shortages affect large parts of the country. An increasing number of children (at least 2.4 million in 2021) do not go to school because their families need support with additional income.

Macroeconomic conditions have continued to deteriorate. The combined effects of currency depreciation, soaring prices, reduced fiscal revenue, increasing domestic debt and widespread losses in livelihoods have plunged additional segments of the population into humanitarian need, most notably in areas historically less affected by hostilities and displacement. Furthermore, ongoing hostilities, international sanctions and COVID-19 are continuing to accelerate the economic crises, pushing an increasing number of people into poverty. In the mid to long term, these developments are expected to have a serious and cumulative impact on health, food insecurity and malnutrition rates, as well as the protection environment, with potentially irreversible consequences.

In 2023 and beyond, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent will continue to respond to the needs of the affected population. It remains the largest provider of humanitarian assistance in Syria and, in partnership with UN agencies, INGOs and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, reaches more than six million people each year. Its strategic priorities are community resilience, continued relief operations and building response capacity, drawing on its experience in relief, livelihoods and cash programming.

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC and network partners will support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent with the following activities:

- Meeting basic needs through cash and voucher assistance
- Increasing the proportion of assistance that is delivered through cash and voucher assistance including livelihoods and food security interventions where feasible, based on market assessments

- Prepositioning and distributing food and non-food relief items to 10,000 households, including family hygiene kits, solar batteries for domestic use, and winter kits for children for rapid response to disasters and crises and when markets are disrupted
- Distributing agriculture related inputs (seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, livestock), and/or grants for food security, food production and agriculture restoration to 16,000 households
- Providing livestock, agricultural and fishing inputs, cash and toolkits to target groups for income generating activities
- Supporting microeconomic initiatives, and investing in income-generating activities for women-headed households
- Supporting communities and families in strengthening and restoring livelihoods through community-based and localized solutions, offering a holistic training package to target groups on employability and life and technical skills, and rehabilitation of community infrastructures, such as communal bakeries
- Training facilitators in assessing vulnerability in emergency settings and gathering data to inform early action plans
- Implementing risk reduction and community-based disaster risk reduction programmes in disaster-prone locations, including long-term interventions to empower communities, promoting social cohesion, and building long-term resilience

Statistics

14 million Syrians require some form of income and livelihoods support

Health and wellbeing

The health system in Syria is incredibly fragile as a result of the ongoing conflict. It faces concurrent emergencies and challenges that affect the availability and quality of health services, and the physical and mental well-being of the population.

Access to health care services is impeded by both the destruction of health facilities and a limited number of qualified practitioners. Just half of primary care centres remain fully functional, fuelling a rapid increase in both communicable and non-communicable diseases. More than half a million children are chronically malnourished and nearly half have acute malnutrition. Addressing

these issues, along with other long-term needs such as psychosocial health, is critical.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a threat in Syria. Less than 11% of the population have been vaccinated, because of a shortage of doses, a slow vaccination rollout and widespread vaccine hesitancy. Furthermore, Syria has an acute shortage of intensive care facilities.

In addition, special health care needs have increased, such as physical rehabilitation services due to the conflict. Exposure to violence, extreme stress and the impact of displacement has led to a deterioration in people's mental health and psychosocial well-being. This impact is likely to be long-term.

In the absence of a well-functioning countrywide health system, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent helps to ensure the availability of essential, inclusive, life-saving and life-sustaining health services, particularly where access is difficult. Its large-scale response to the COVID-19 pandemic has also generated extensive specialist expertise.

Water, sanitation and hygiene systems in Syria have also suffered damage during the conflict. By the middle of 2022, an estimated 14.5 million Syrians required assistance in this area. The National Society has a well-established water rehabilitation capacity and ongoing programmes, and is recognized as a significant water, sanitation and hygiene service provider, especially in urban settings.

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC and network partners will support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent with the following activities:

- Prioritize underserved areas under the National Society's flagship community-based health and first aid programme, implementing health awareness and behavioural change campaigns, including menstrual hygiene
- Expanding the reach of its health services and geographical coverage of primary health clinics, emergency health points and first aid and ambulance services
- Improving the National Society's pre-hospital ambulance care, including automatic external defibrillators, and training first aid staff and volunteers in their use and maintenance

- Rehabilitating its health centres with operational and equipment costs for facilities such as mobile health units, primary health clinics, specialized treatment units and Damascus Hospital
- Protecting health staff working in Syria, through the Health Care in Danger initiative, and ensuring that health care workers and patients are applying infection prevention control measures
- Expanding nutrition and maternal and child health services, including the reproductive and child health programme in Aleppo
- Providing physiotherapy services, and assisting people living with disabilities and mine injuries
- Running specialized mental health services focusing on improved referral services for advanced treatment and care
- Continuing to provide psychosocial support services through community centres and mobile teams
- Carrying out risk communication and community engagement activities, including epidemic preparedness training
- Contributing to the national immunization programme, including COVID-19, advocating for communities to participate in routine immunization programmes
- Developing health information systems, and rolling them out at health facilities
- Strengthening sustainable access to safe drinking water, improving hygiene practices and reducing water-borne diseases and outbreaks
- Increasing technical capacity in inclusive hygiene promotion, pre-positioning and distributing hygiene kits and dignity kits

Statistics

Only **49 per cent of the hospitals and 48 per cent of primary health care centres** are considered fully functional. **14.5 million Syrians** are estimated to need water, sanitation and hygiene assistance

Migration and displacement

Nearly seven million people in Syria remain internally displaced and six million have fled the country. The number of internally displaced in Syria is the highest figure in the world. In 2021 alone, military offensives led

to 456,000 new displacements in the north-east and north-west of the country.²

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), there were 12,100,000 new displacements due to violence and conflict between 2015-2021. During the same period, IDMC estimates that there were 149,754 new displacements due to disasters.

Although parts of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic are now exempt from active fighting, migrant workers are almost non-existent due to instability and economic hardships in the country. The Syrian Arab Republic however hosts refugees and asylum seekers from neighbouring countries, mostly from Iraq. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also reports about 160,000 stateless persons in the Syrian Arab Republic at the end of 2021. The country has historically been home to large stateless populations, particularly members of the Kurdish minority population. The nationality law contains gaps that lead to statelessness, including discrimination against women in transferring their nationality to their children.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent provides shelter, food and non-food items, health care, water and sanitation, psychosocial support, livelihoods as well as restoring family links services to internally displaced people. In 2021, out of 6.1 million affected persons registered by the National Society, 63% were internally displaced persons or returnees. This includes people in formal camps such as Al Hol and Al-Arisha, informal camps, in host communities, and displaced people who have returned to their areas of origin.

The National Society also supports people who are forced to migrate due to environmental degradation, climate change and economic factors that are rendering traditional forms of life and livelihoods unsustainable.

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

² Analysis in this section supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab: <https://www.redcross.org.au/globalmigrationlab/>



© Syrian Arab Red Crescent

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC and network partners will support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent with the following activities:

- Reconstructing and rehabilitating shelters, specialist centres for internally displaced persons and other essential infrastructure
- Communicating with internally displaced persons and returnees to highlight any risks and gaps in current responses both within Syria and externally
- Developing the capacity to analyse data, trends and profiles of people on the move
- Providing technical support in addressing assistance and protection needs of internally displaced persons and returnees
- Improve coordination on these issues with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other relevant local and international organizations such as UN agencies
- Coordinating operations and sharing information with National Societies in the Middle East and North Africa region, in order to strengthen support along migratory routes and deliver a collective approach in advocating for people on the move

Statistics

Close to **seven million people remain internally displaced**, and **six million people have fled the country**

Values, power and inclusion

Ongoing conflict has exacerbated inequalities in Syria. Protection issues disproportionately affect women, children, adolescent boys and girls, older persons, the 4.2 million people living with disabilities and other vulnerable, marginalized or socially excluded people and groups. These groups also face additional barriers to accessing the limited services that remain available. In fact, approximately 74 per cent of people in need of humanitarian assistance are women and children. Where gender, age and disability intersect, these protection risks are compounded.

Growing poverty across Syria has put a strain on families and households, and has led to an increase in harmful coping mechanisms, including substance abuse, forced abortions, domestic violence and exposure to crime. It has also reduced the capacity for families and communities to protect children, with an increase in child marriage and child labour. Women and girls are being forced into harmful and discriminatory gender norms and gender-based violence, while men and boys face elevated risks linked to arbitrary detention, forced conscription and explosives.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent community service and protection programme includes community centres and psychosocial support mobile teams reaching remote areas where public services are barely available. The community centres implement structured and advanced activities for small groups of children or adults, and some centres and mobile teams, as well

as selected health facilities, have trained staff and volunteers for case management. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent intends to expand the referral pathways and service provision in selected facilities.

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

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC and network partners will support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent with the following activities:

- Conducting protection, gender and inclusion baseline assessment in selected facilities and implementing activities to address the gaps
- Providing specialized services, such as case management, for survivors of violence, discrimination and exclusion, especially in relation to gender-based violence and child protection
- Developing monitoring mechanisms to track, refer or respond to protection violations identified by staff and volunteers and through complaints mechanisms
- Establishing peer support groups for people living with mobility disabilities, and assist people with mine injuries
- Increasing participation in national and sub-national coordination forums such as the protection cluster

- Sharing learnings with universities, and international and local organizations, and continue the partnership with the Abilis Foundation for people living with disabilities
- Conducting protection, gender and inclusion organizational assessments, including disability inclusion and child safeguarding risk assessments
- Developing and implementing policies and standard operating procedures on protection, gender and inclusion, child safeguarding, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
- Providing mandatory briefings for staff and volunteers on protection, gender and inclusion, including sexual and gender-based violence and disability inclusion
- Ensuring that all staff have undergone mandatory training in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud and corruption, and security, and that they have signed and understood the code of conduct
- Conducting an awareness campaign about risk and safer behaviour, also covering staff safety and operational continuity
- Establishing a community-based complaint and feedback mechanism and guidelines, including logbooks, focus group discussions, face-to-face interviews and community meetings

Statistics

4.2 million Syrians are living with a disability

Enabling local actors

To support its strategic shift from emergency relief to longer-term resilience building within Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has embarked on a National Society development process. This is led by its performance and partnership support department, alongside the disaster management department. The key focus of this process has been on creating a more agile, manageable and sustainable organization, with a clear focus on:

- Integrity, quality, accountability, inclusiveness and transparency
- Developing a more holistic approach to addressing and managing both organizational and reputational risks against a backdrop of constantly changing territorial and political dynamics
- Clarifying the role and responsibility of the National Society's headquarters and individual branches, balancing a desire to give greater responsibility and autonomy to branches, while at the same time ensuring that the organization is working towards a common vision

- Ensuring financial sustainability despite a decline in funds being directed towards Syria, developing the National Society's own resources and diversifying funding sources
- Strengthening the auxiliary role of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent with local authorities by reinforcing its impartiality and independence

National Society development activities were supported by the IFRC Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessment undertaken at branch levels. The decision to use this assessment tool followed discussions with the IFRC in 2019. It was selected for the way in which it emphasizes interconnectivity between the National Society's headquarters and branches.

Engaged

As a leading humanitarian organization within Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent is committed to acting in a timely and effective manner within a rapidly changing environment. The IFRC and participating National Societies support it by assisting with the use of more innovative services, tools and approaches. This includes better integrating digital and emerging technologies, skills and culture into their activities in order to leverage better data, expand their reach and attract more resources.

Main actions and areas of support

Facilitating internal communication and coordination within the National Society, as well as strengthening external networks

- Organizing thematic partnership meetings with IFRC network partners at least twice a year and participating in thematic events at regional and global levels
- Positioning the National Society as a leading humanitarian actor through public advocacy and communications work – including raising the organization's profile across international political policy and decision-makers
- Engaging with relevant stakeholders, potential donors and partners to forge longer-term partnerships and promote the National Society as a partner of choice
- Developing an external communications plan to build the National Society's profile, developing marketing materials and literature to enhance its visibility and positioning as a neutral, transparent and key humanitarian actor in Syria
- Strengthening public and private partnerships for more effective resource mobilization

- Using multi-level relationships to push for collective change and response to humanitarian needs, all underpinned by an evidence-led approach
- Supporting the development of National Society leadership by encouraging the application of new approaches to emerging challenges and opportunities, building up a greater level of informed risk
- Developing and maintaining a secure, sustainable and robust data centre at the National Society's headquarters, and supporting it in establishing more unified information management systems to track humanitarian assistance and harmonize responses
- Progressing the digital transformation of the National Society – including basic information technology (IT) systems to promote accountability and facilitate operational decision-making, investment in hardware and software, and maintenance of information management across the organization (including Wi-Fi and use of telephones), improvements to IT governance and controls, and rolling out data protection and cybersecurity policies

Accountable

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent attaches great importance to accountability. It not only prioritizes robust leadership and talent management but aims for a broad familiarity of procedures at all levels of the organization, as well as clear policies around risk management and the mobilization of resources.

Main actions and areas of support

Strengthening the National Society's financial management systems to ensure compliance with recognized standards on transparency and reporting – including the development of clear and coordinated protocols on fund transfers and procurement across the membership, supported by a due diligence exercise

- Working alongside relevant departments at headquarters to improve and regularly update approaches to risk management, business continuity and security, including mitigation measures
- Developing a unified reporting system to enhance the accountability of the National Society to its communities, donors, partners and other stakeholders
- Training staff and volunteers on monitoring, evaluation, assessment, learning and reporting

- Creating a digital dashboard that clearly maps out the contribution of IFRC and network members
- Developing an overall resource mobilization strategy to diversify funding sources – analysing trends, identifying gaps in engagement, and exploring innovative and digital fundraising activities, such as possible integration with the iRaiser platform
- Identifying new private and institutional funding instruments, ensuring coordinated funding efforts with partners within Syria (such as joint applications) and developing pilot fundraising initiatives in two branches
- Sharing and implementing the tools, guidelines and training with key documentation, including the newly adopted core cost policy and volunteering policy
- Maximizing the ability of the National Society to reach those most at risk by supporting the operational structures of its branches and sub-branches
- Establishing a volunteer management system and youth engagement strategy, developing tools and guidelines for programme departments and branches in recruitment, retention and recognition
- Providing insurance to volunteers under the IFRC global Insurance Accident Scheme

Trusted

With the Syrian Arab Red Crescent branches among the first responders to humanitarian challenges within Syria, delivering services to affected communities and working to maintain or restore stability at a local level, strengthening trust is a core priority for the National Society. It underpins many of the goals outlined in its Strategic Plan 2023–2026 and, with the support of the IFRC network, will be continually assessed and improved as part of PER assessments in targeted branches, in line with the principles of the [IFRC National Society development compact](#).

Main actions and areas of support

- Rolling out the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's Strategic Plan 2023–2026 in coordination with partners, identifying key methods, milestones and resource requirements

- Conducting exchange workshops for newly recruited branch leaders, volunteers and youth on legal matters, policies and strategies for programmes and services, resource mobilization, effective communications and advocacy
- Developing a 3W (who, what, where) interactive tool to support information sharing, coordination and joint planning among partners, and creating a depository of country context analysis, key advocacy messages and humanitarian analysis
- Implementing the Movement Security Framework, in line with IFRC minimum security requirements

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

Since the mid-1990s, **the IFRC** has supported the efforts of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, and has played a key role in strengthening the operational and structural capacity of the National Society. The IFRC support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC has assisted with longer-term sustainability such as capacity building and organizational development for the National Society's headquarters and regional branches. It also supports the National Society's role as the lead agency within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Syria.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to complex emergency, population movement, droughts, wildfires, floods, and disease outbreaks. One DREF operation for a cholera outbreak launched in late 2022 will cross over to 2023. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Appeal, has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response. The [Syria Complex Emergency Appeal](#) was launched in 2012 and closed at the end of 2021, and the continued needs are now covered as part of this country plan. The recommendations of the Appeal's final evaluation, undertaken in 2022, will inform the response strategies of future operations.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Australian Red Cross				●					
British Red Cross			●			●	●	●	●
Canadian Red Cross			●	●					●
Danish Red Cross	CHF 8.50M		●	●		●			●
Finnish Red Cross	CHF 0.03M			●		●		●	
German Red Cross	CHF 3.50M		●	●			●	●	
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.36M		●	●	●				
Japanese Red Cross				●					
Norwegian Red Cross			●	●			●		
Swedish Red Cross	CHF 3.00M		●	●			●		●
Swiss Red Cross			●	●					●

Total

15.38M

The IFRC also provides technical support on a wide range of National Society services in Syria, including emergency relief, livelihoods, health, water and sanitation, community services, and community engagement and accountability. The IFRC's humanitarian services and supply chain management provides international procurement services on demand through its established supply chain.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in

need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

In 2022, seven participating National Societies were present in Syria: the British, Canadian, Danish, German, Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies. The Australian, Finnish, Italian, Japanese and Netherlands Red Cross Societies engage through the IFRC, or remotely from regional representations in Beirut and their headquarters.

British Red Cross The British Red Cross focuses on the pillars of disaster management, cash and voucher assistance, and National Society development. It aims to strengthen the Syrian Arab Red Crescent response by enhancing disaster management capacity and cash and voucher assistance preparedness, building the National Society's core administrative functions to meet the needs of vulnerable people. The British Red

Cross supports the National Society's work in supporting vulnerable people to withstand and recover from crises, with a special focus on early recovery actions such as livelihoods and food security. The British Red Cross policy team aims to build the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's profile as a strong humanitarian actor, through increased engagement with donors, key stakeholders, positioning papers and a targeted communication plan.

Danish Red Cross The partnership between the Danish Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has primarily included community-based development and emergency programmes. The Danish Red Cross provides support with administrative capacity development and organizational development. It also supports a range of health interventions and resilience building in crisis-affected communities, enabling them to manage their health needs and access quality health services, including mental health and psychosocial support. The Danish Red Cross has also improved access to sustainable and protected livelihoods.

Finnish Red Cross The Finnish Red Cross focuses on humanitarian assistance in Syria, including health facilities, community-based health and first aid, and relief. Its partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent includes a strong focus on protection and disability, and gender inclusion initiatives. This includes supporting high-quality physiotherapy and rehabilitation services, including mental health support and the longstanding partnership with the Abilis Foundation for disability inclusion in Syria.

German Red Cross The German Red Cross focuses on providing operational support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, with a recent focus on planning and analysis, including information management. During 2023, it will also provide support on logistics, enhancing the capacity of the National Society's local teams to deliver services and respond to emergencies and crises. Activities will involve community engagement, to enhance people's readiness, resilience and coping capacities. The German Red Cross will also provide support with reproductive and child health services in the city of Aleppo.

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

Swiss Red Cross The Swiss Red Cross works with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in the areas of health, disaster risk management, and National Society development. It supports the localization of first aid, and recognizes the importance of empowering the National Society, giving it space and support to continue its work as the lead humanitarian agency in Syria. The Swiss Red Cross incorporates comprehensive technical and managerial support in its programming, in support of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

Movement coordination

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent is the lead agency for Syria among the partners of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, according to a 2012 Letter of Understanding. With support from Movement partners, the National Society reached 4.4 million people in 2021 with its crisis response and early recovery programmes, and provided long-term services and development programmes to 3.1 million.

The Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) initiative is applied by all Movement partners in Syria, with the objective to enhance coordination and cooperation, especially in response to large-scale emergencies. The IFRC Syria

delegation has signed a Movement Security Framework Agreement, together with the National Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This agreement clarifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of each Movement partner when it comes to security. While the Syrian Arab Red Crescent is the lead agency, which includes leading on security support, the ICRC continues to provide strong security support to all Movement partners. The Movement Security Framework Agreement also enhances the interoperability of security systems to ensure agile support. This is carried out in line with the SMCC principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC works closely with the National Society and supports it in meeting the food, water and health needs of people affected by the ongoing conflict and helping them start to rebuild their lives.

The ICRC's operation in Syria is its largest in the world, with more than 850 staff working across its main delegation in Damascus (covering Rural Damascus and the southern administrative districts), Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Hassakeh and Tartous.

Coordination with other actors

As one of Syria's strongest and most capable humanitarian organizations, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent collaborates with a wide range of local and international partners. It works with UN agencies such as UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and INGOs including Action Against Hunger, ADRA, AVSI, COOPI, Danish Refugee Council, Lutheran World Relief, MEDAIR, Oxfam, Premiere Urgence, Secours Islamique France, Terre des Hommes, Intersos and Triangle.

In addition, the IFRC supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in its interventions through partnerships with DG-ECHO, USAID-BHA, Irish Aid, the Austrian Development Agency, the Government of Japan, Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, and private and corporate donors. The IFRC also participates alongside the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in interagency cluster meetings and working groups, including health, shelter and household items, livelihoods and information management.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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