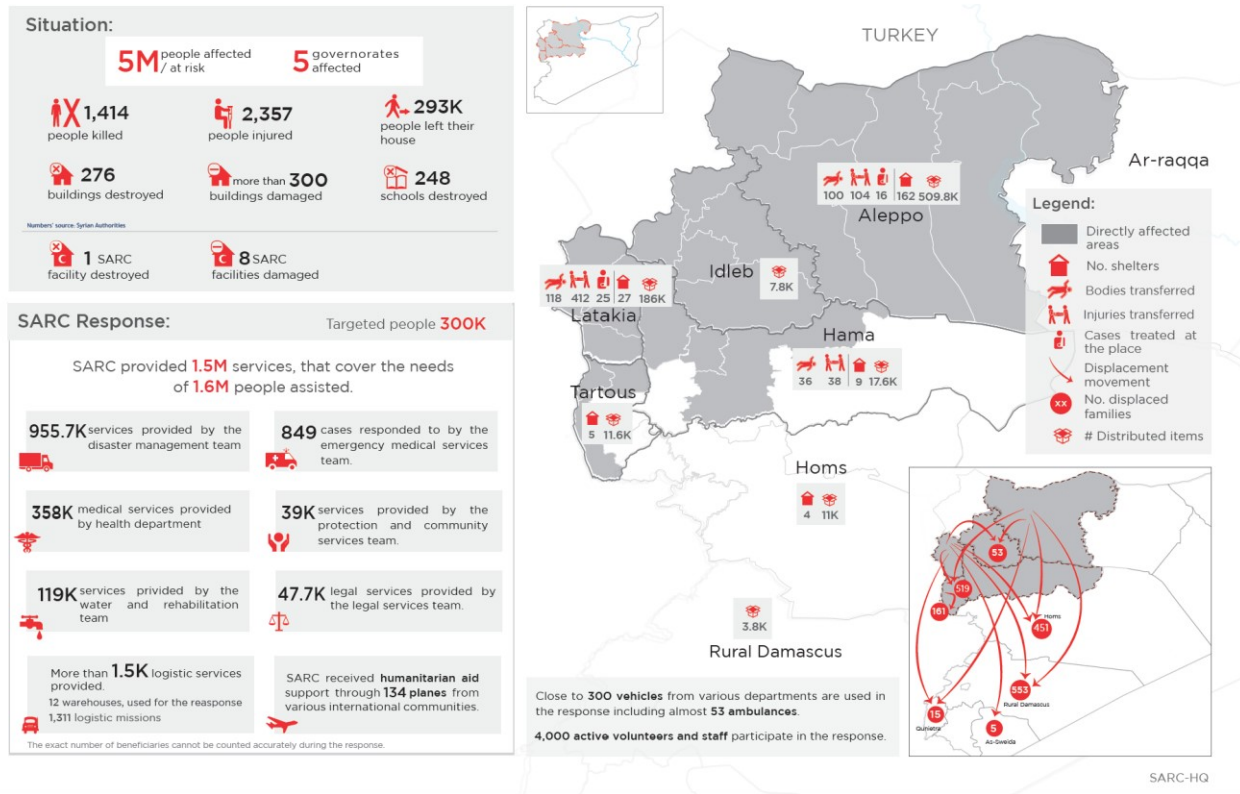


<b>SitRep n°</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Sit-Rep date</b>	21 February 2023	<b>Reporting period</b>	6 to 19 February 2023
<b>Operations Manager</b>	<b>Chrian Livera</b>	<b>Estimated number of people affected</b>	6.5 million people		
<b>IFRC Operation n°</b>	MDRSY009	<b>Category allocated to the disaster or crisis</b>	Red		
<b>Total people targeted</b>	<b>2.5 million</b>	<b>Start date of the operation</b>	6 February 2023		
<b>Total number of people reached (cumulative)</b>	<b>1.6M</b>	<b>Expected end date</b>	31 December 2023		
<b># of Rapid Response personnel and/or ERUs deployed (cumulative)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6 confirmed role profile deployments</li> <li>- 1 Health ERU Assessment Cell deployed</li> </ul>				
<b>Host National Society presence</b>	Number of staff: 5,818 Number of volunteers: 12,239 Number of branches 14				
<b>Geographical priority areas affected</b>	Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Tartous, South Idlib				
<b>Has international assistance has been requested by the host government?</b>	Yes				
<b>Movement actors: Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners with in-country long-term presence</b>	<i>The British, Canadian, Danish, German, Norwegian, Swedish, Swiss Red Cross Societies, and ICRC</i>				
<b>Other actors: Is there an assigned lead agency? Has UNDAC been deployed? Which orgs have been assigned as clusters leads?</b>	The High Relief Committee (HRC) and the newly assigned national committee headed by the Prime Minister are established to coordinate the ongoing response, within which SARC is part of. Syrian Arab Red Crescent takes part of interagency cluster meetings and working groups, including health, shelter and household items, livelihoods, and information management.				



## General key highlights and main orientations of the action

- ❖ Following to the high devastation of the earthquake and the gradual reveal of its impact, the Syria Council of Ministers has announced the affected areas of Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Idlib as “disaster areas” following the earthquake on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- ❖ Since the impact of the earthquake, IFRC mobilized coordination support to SARC to deliver humanitarian services. Specifically, IFRC is focusing on establishing a common coordination structure for in-country movement members, aligned to SARC priorities, and adding technical support to strengthen SARC response.
  - **Federation Wide Coordination:** The IFRC is coordinating with members in the country to ensure a comprehensive federation wide approach to supporting SARC, including planning, communication, resource mobilization, technical expertise, quality assurance and accountability through a single platform. The co-creation of the response plan with SARC is a result of this. Operational and tactical coordination meetings to align sectoral ambitions, resource organization happens daily, and the strategic coordination to ensure a single response operation is already underway.
  - **Surge deployment and technical support:** The IFRC along with several participating National Societies has activated the surge mechanism to ensure capacity to support SARC managing the operations as close as possible to the disaster. An initial rapid response team of 4 key function staff deployed, two in pipeline and three MENA regional office staff were deployed.
  - **Federation Wide Appeal Launched and Operational Strategy:** IFRC has Launched and revised the Emergency appeal and is working on launching the Operational Strategy within the coming 24 hours

- ❖ *IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal in the response to the affected population of the Syria Earthquake, revised and scaled up based on the revealed massive impact beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> day (s) from **80 million to 200 million CHF as Federation-wide Funding requirements**, initiated by a 2 million CHF from DREF.*
- ❖ ***International community sending aid-support:** Kuwait, Iran, Algeria, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tunis, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Spain, China - Hong Kong - Taiwan - Macau, Bulgaria, Sweden, New Zealand, Switzerland, Japan, Austria, Italy, Croatia, Iceland, Turkmenistan, Philippines, Canada, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Serbia, Lithuania. These include governments, Red Cross and Red Crescent National societies, and aid agencies.*
- ❖ *The U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued Syria General License (GL) 23, which authorizes for 180 days all transactions related to earthquake relief that would be otherwise prohibited by the Syrian Sanctions Regulations (SySR). OFAC's GL 23 provides the broad authorization necessary to support immediate disaster relief efforts in Syria.*
- ❖ *The Central Bank of Syria said, in a statement, that the external remittances transferred for the purposes of emergency response to the earthquake are excluded from the provisions of Resolution "145/LE.", therefore announcing on February 9 to apply the exchange rate of the remittance and exchange bulletin, which is close to the black-market exchange rate (\$1 for 6900 SYP), on the transfers of UN, international and humanitarian organizations received for the purpose of emergency response to the earthquakes.*
- ❖ *The UK has issued two general licenses, building on existing humanitarian provisions, to further facilitate humanitarian relief efforts in Syria following the earthquakes. In turn, these licenses will strengthen the timely and effective delivery of relief efforts by removing the need for individual license applications.*
- ❖ *1 earthquake and several aftershocks hit the already affected areas.*

## Operational constraints and risks

After Yesterday's strong earthquake that hit the devastated areas yesterday, the risk of additional aftershocks to occur is increasing the challenges imposed on the responders. Over the last days, temperatures continued to be low and freezing in the earthquake affected areas. Severe fuel shortages and lack of electricity continue to affect relief operations and affected populations, and all of the engineering assessments of damage buildings needs to be checked again based on the last assessment result which prioritize the damage. For humanitarian assistance, the easing on financial transfers for earthquake related assistance is welcomed, there continues to be sanctions impacts on relief items and banking.

## Scope and scale, humanitarian conditions and evolution of disaster

Nearly two weeks after the earthquake, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent personnel continue to respond. The multiple impacts of 12 years of ongoing crisis on the population, in addition to the new impacts from the earthquake continues to affect resilience. As of February 12<sup>th</sup>, according to the Syrian MoH's recent figures, 1,414 people killed, 2,357 injured.

**Shelter:** Till Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 276 buildings have collapsed and drastically more severely or damaged to an uninhabitable extent, which forced more than 293,000 people to leave their homes because of the deadly earthquake. Most of those people have been residing in host community and emergency shelters.

**Food security and livelihoods:** In a context of a decade of protracted crisis, economic collapse and the impact of the recent earthquake on food security and livelihoods expected to highly increase, affecting the number of people on need. With the current will struggle to access food, meet their basic needs, and restore their livelihoods.

**Health:** The number of casualties following the earthquake is expected to increase as the search and rescue operations continue. The high number of injured people have added a burden to the already suffering health system. Hospitals are already at full working capacity in hotspot areas in the light of dwindling medicines and medical supplies. In addition to the direct effects of the earthquake, the northern region of Syria, already suffering from a devastating Cholera outbreak is now left even more vulnerable to increasing risks related to water and sanitation hygiene.

**WASH:** Access to WASH services by people in need was already undermined by a prolonged deterioration of existing systems due to years of crises, wear from long-term functioning at high capacity with limited or no maintenance as well as continuous drain of technical staff, poor natural and system management. The diminution of power supply due to the earthquake, further affects the functionality of water systems and the distribution of water to households.

**Cash:** The proposed model is a continuation and expansion of the current model of partnership and support on CVA in SARC. The expanded model to respond to the earthquake maintains the same structure while expands the technical assistance (and ad-hoc technical support) based on the requests of the SARC.

## National Society strategy & actions


A dedicated strategic response plan to the affected population by the earthquake is now in place and presented in the Emergency Appeal. Activities are aligned with the SARC Strategy. SARC, as the leading humanitarian actor in country, proactively responds to humanitarian challenges and sets development goals to steer organizational transitioning and preparedness to prevent and mitigate harm from future crises. However, the effects of natural disasters and emergencies such as the recent Cholera outbreak and the current devastating earthquake, along with the consequences of protracted crisis, and geopolitical and economic upheavals associated with the country's volatile environment, are compounding factors for a continuous and unceasing complex humanitarian crisis, thus priority actions are defined as follows:

- Life-saving assistance to affected people to respond timely and effectively through in-kind or/and cash and voucher assistance, provision of services and rehabilitation (health, WASH, livelihoods, food and Nutrition community services & protection, etc.)
- Respond to affected people, including the increasing internally displaced persons, refugees, and returnees, with relevant initiatives to strengthen their coping mechanisms and provision of needed relief and services, including legal support.
- Implementation of CEA and ensure mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion in different responses to enhance engagement, accountability, and inclusion.
- Supporting SARC branches in capacity strengthening (with follow-up on PER assessments), volunteer management, and ensuring safety and security by setting solidarity mechanisms for volunteers
- Ensuring business continuity and synergy of different functions of SARC, including support services.
- Supporting restoring family links by providing affordable services to meet changing needs and complying with personal data protection regulations.

For additional information, you can access the EA Launched and published through this [link](#).


# Sectors of intervention/cross cutting key highlights

SARC response began on the dawn of 06-02-2023, where all operational teams were mobilized to and continue to respond till date, including more than 4000 volunteers and staff, 303 vehicles from various sectors including 53 ambulances from the following governorates (Aleppo - Latakia - Tartous - Hama - Idlib - Homs – Head Quarters)




## Syria Earthquake: Syrian Arab Red Crescent Response

From 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 to 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023




During the earthquake response, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent mobilized all operational teams from all departments within the sectors concerned in the response, and the following services were provided:


**Emergency Medical Services:**  
849 cases responded to by the EMS team.



**254**  
bodies transferred











**554**  
injuries transferred



**41**  
cases treated at the place

**Medical Services:**  
The total medical services reached **358,014** services for **230,376** beneficiaries, as follows:

Program	Beneficiaries	Services
 Mobile Health Units	25,028	50,056 consultations and medicines
 Community-Based Health and First Aid	140,121 <small>(beneficiaries from governorates including Tartous earthquake response)</small>	149,528 including distributing 8,657 items, and 4,911 referrals.
 Physical Rehabilitation Program	22,505	63,094 including 191 mobility aids, distributing 6,491 hygiene items.
 Mental Health	2,723	2,839 psychotropic medications and psychological first aid
 Medical MobileTeam	18,520	47,151
 Clinics	18,476	38,570
 Nutrition	734	1,394 including distributing food supplements and vitamins
 Maternal, Newborn and Child Health	2,269	5,382 including the following services:
178 hospitalizations	3 intensive care unit.	144 normal deliveries
722 emergency cases	49 incubator care.	91 emergency surgical operations.
2,081 diagnostic services (lab test, Echo, X-Ray, medicine, bandages, and others).	33 cesarean sections.	

**Protection and Community Services:**  
Protection and Community Services provided services for **39,052** beneficiaries in the affected governorate as follows:

- Provide awareness sessions and distribute posters for 16,256 beneficiaries about safety and security measures in earthquakes, panic, dealing with children, grief & loss, and sessions about sex and gender-based violence, in addition, to running 43 focus group discussion sessions.
- Provide psychological first aid services for 18,269 beneficiaries especially for children, in addition to providing services in shelters such as activities for 747 kids.
- Case management services and referral to medical, legal, and mental health services for all age groups to 3,737 beneficiaries.

**Disaster Management Services:**

- Evacuating families from their cracked homes toward shelters.
- Implement need assessments for **23,349** beneficiaries, in addition to an assessment for 190 buildings that benefited **4,678** beneficiaries in all affected governorates.
- Organizing the movement of **1,757** families (8,785 people) from their places of residence to other places (451 families in Homs, 680 families in Tartous (161 families of them internally displaced), 553 families in Rural Damascus, 5 families in As-sweida, 53 families in Idlib, and 15 families in Qunietra).
- **32** shelter kits services, including maintenance of windows, doors, water tanks, electrical panels, and cables, with all the necessary supplies for installation.
- Received **44** cases for facilitated restoring family links by the body management and restoring family links team, **28** of them closed successfully, and the others are still in the process.
- **207** shelters equipped for the response, **199** of them received families and are fully served by SARC's teams, as services were provided to **52,287** beneficiaries within the shelters.
- **748,637** distributed items that cover the needs of **930,180** beneficiaries.
  - Non-Food Items & shelters: 202,494 items
  - WASH: 125,570 items
  - Food & Agriculture: 222,154 items
  - Nutrition: 198,419 items

**Legal Services:**  
The legal services provided to **47,732** beneficiaries as following:

- 30 beneficiaries from legal referral services.
- 2,444 beneficiaries from legal awareness sessions.
- 29,994 beneficiaries from legal needs assessments.
- 300 beneficiaries from legal communication & cooperation services.
- 9,899 beneficiaries from legal visits and monitoring.
- 5,047 beneficiaries from legal consultations.
- 18 beneficiaries from interventions before administrative bodies.

**Water and Rehabilitation:**

- Implement rapid assessment for water and sanitation infrastructure, and electricity networks across all affected governorates, **200** houses were also assessed, in addition to assessment for **13** SARC facilities.
- Assessment of **195** shelters including schools, and **6** shelters rehabilitation in Aleppo.
- Provide **3** electricity generating sets for bakeries in Lattakia.
- Installing water tanks in shelters, side by side supplying (**2,450 m<sup>3</sup>**) of water through cisterns.
- Assessment of the damages of **55** central water tanks.
- Distribute **50,358** water bottles and **4,291** jerry-cans and **246** bread portions in shelters, in addition to distributing **63,620** items.

SARC-HQ

## Corporate services key highlights

### Secretary General and Regional Director Visit

IFRC SG Jagan Chapagain visited Aleppo to have a first-hand impression about the earthquake damages and to meet with the SARC Aleppo branch. The trip included visits at SARC Aleppo branch and SARC Aleppo logistics hub as well as temporary shelter and collapsed building in central Aleppo city. The link to the video released during the visit can be accessed [here](#).

### Response Plan

The PMER Unit from MENA RO supported SARC in developing the response plan for all sectors to the earthquake. The plan is approved by the senior management, and hereafter movement partners will be using the plan as a base for all activities.

### Health Assessment ERU Cell

The ERU Cell terminated their mission which served in assessing the needs and to determine what type of capacity could be needed to support the SARC emergency health sector in both Aleppo and Lattakia. The recommendation report is still in development and will be shared after the approval.



## **Administration**

Welcome package has been developed for Lebanon-Syria and shared to movement partners arriving to provide support to the EQ operation. Visas and fleet management between Lebanese and Jordanian sides are set in place and being shared with deployed personnel.

## **Logistics**

Close coordination is taking place between IFRC, SARC, and sending NSs to coordinate the reception of in-kind donations. Defining resources under a Mobilization Table is a work in progress.

## **Partnership and resources development**

IFRC is committed to developing partnerships and resources to support SARC's work in responding to the emergency in Syria. The IFRC is working with a wide range of partners, including Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, governments, the private sector, and other humanitarian organizations, to bring together resources and expertise under the launched Emergency appeal. As of 10.02.2023, IFRC secured from different partners (CHF 10.5 million) as soft pledges of the current appeal budget. Very high possibility, the appeal will increase based on ongoing assessment findings of the significantly greater needs. By working together with its partners and developing its own resources, the IFRC can provide effective and efficient support to those in need and able to mitigate the impact of the devastating earthquake in Syria.

## **Membership Coordination**

IFRC plays a crucial role in coordinating the efforts of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in response to the earthquake emergency in Syria that includes Partner NSs in-country (British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross) in addition to the Austrian and Japanese NS bilateral support to SARC. It is bringing together the resources and expertise of the movement from around the world to support SARC's response. Activities entail:

- Leading on information sharing and sectorial updates
- Mapping of PNS intervention
- Mapping of bilateral contributions

An integrated approach is considered to the wide-federation plan represented through the Operational Strategy that is under development that incorporates the essence of SARC response, that will be adopted by all participating national societies in-country as a *unified one plan*.

*The link to the detailed support provided by PNSs can be reached through this [link](#).*

## **Humanitarian Diplomacy and Press Communication**

IFRC is playing a crucial role in humanitarian diplomacy in response to the earthquake emergency in Syria. Engaging with a range of actors, including governments, other humanitarian organizations, and the media, to ensure that the needs of those affected by the emergency are well addressed and met. IFRC is working closely with SARC to assess the situation and to identify the most pressing needs of those affected. Based on this assessment, the IFRC uses its humanitarian diplomacy efforts to engage with relevant actors to secure support for the response efforts and stress on SARC's neutral, impartial, and independent position. Additionally, IFRC is working closely with the SARC to advocate for access, and to ensure that the delivery of assistance is not hindered by political or security considerations.

## **Information Technology & Telecommunication**

Global and regional IM teams are working in close coordination with SARC IM to develop products and infographic that will reflect operational data in interval reporting and other media platforms and reports, in addition to sharing of high-resolution maps developed showing scale and impact of disaster per geographical areas.

Role Profile	Status	Deploying Entity
HEOps	<i>Deployed</i>	<i>Canadian RC</i>
Health Coordinator	<i>Deployed</i>	<i>IFRC</i>
Communication Coordinator	<i>Deployed</i>	<i>Finnish RC</i>
Shelter Coordinator	<i>In Pipeline</i>	<i>Swiss RC</i>
PMER Coordinator	<i>Deployed</i>	<i>IFRC</i>
ERU Health Assessment Cell (5 members)	<i>Deployed</i>	<i>Finnish, Norwegian, and Canadian RC</i>
Supply Chain Coordinator	<i>In Pipeline</i>	-

## References & Links

The OFAC official release can be found on the following link: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1261>

*Links to relevant web pages such as IFRC GO can be added in first SitRep by GVA and/or IM specialist.*