OPERATIONAL PLAN

Syria Wildfires 2025

SARC Volunteer evacuating families stranded or endangered by the spreading fires. Source: SARC

Operation start date: **30/06/2025**	Operation end date: **31/ 1/ 2026**	To be assisted: **25000 million people**
Glide №: WF-**2025-000109**GLIDE Record	IFRC DREF allocated: **CHF 519,810**	Disaster Categorisation: **Orange**

Funding requirement: CHF 7.000.000

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TIMELINE

30 June 2025: Wildfires ignited in the northeastern part of Latakia Governorate, triggering a major fire emergency.

1 July 2025: The SARC began responding, deploying teams to support affected communities and assist in coordination with civil defense.

2–3 July 2025: The fires spread rapidly due to high temperatures, strong eastern winds, and extremely dry vegetation, severely hindering containment efforts.

4 July 2025: The Government of Syria officially requested international assistance. In response, firefighting teams and aerial support were deployed from Turkiye, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Qatar.

July 7, 2025: Heavy winds, ordnance explosions reignite blazes after initial control (90%), SARC teams scaled up it is response. A DREF request was initiated.

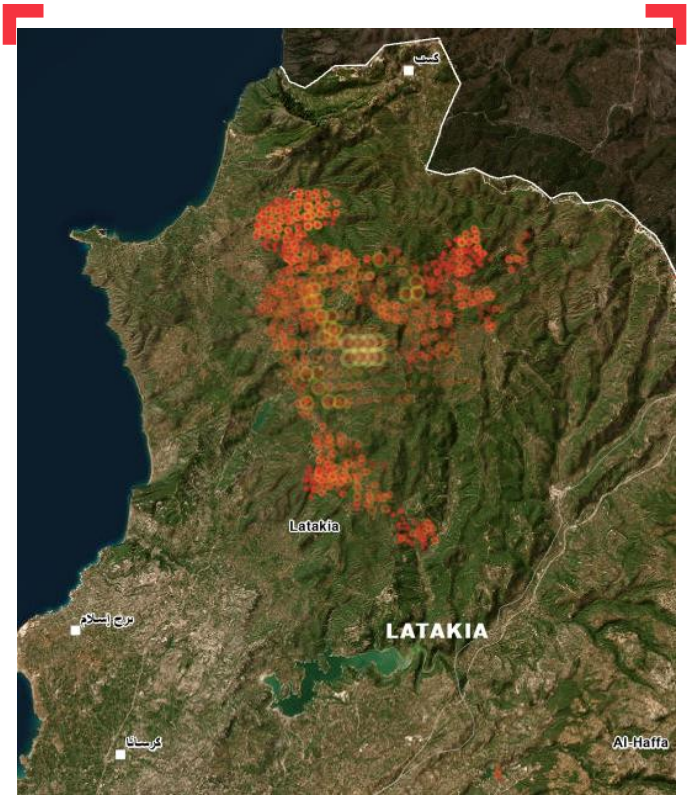
July 8, 2025: Civil defense reports 334 wildfire incidents since July began, Syrian authorities issue EU appeal

July 11 2025: A major flare-up occurred, driven by persistent winds and exacerbated by inaccessible terrain and contamination from unexploded ordnance and landmines.

July 13 2025: Firefighting teams with international support from Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, and Iraq contained the fires on all fronts by 13 July

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

A series of wildfires ignited on 30 June 2025 in northeastern rural Latakia Governorate, primarily affecting forested and mountainous zones including Turkman Mountain, Bassit Mountain, Kassab Mountain, Eagle Mountain, Frunlk Forests, and Burj Zahyeh. The situation escalated rapidly due to hot eastern winds, dense and dry vegetation, and the challenging terrain—including areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines—which has significantly hindered containment operations. On 4 July, the Government of Syria officially declared the situation and requested international support.



As of mid-July, wildfire outbreaks have been recorded in over 120 locations across rural Latakia, with ongoing flare-ups in surrounding areas. The fires have overwhelmed existing firefighting capacity and have led to widespread displacement, destruction of woodlands, agricultural groves, and critical infrastructure, as well as severe disruptions to livelihoods.

In parallel, wildfires emerged on 5 July 2025 in Tartous Governorate, with at least nine active fire zones identified, particularly in Al-Hmysiah Farm, Khrbit Kassih, Mashta al-Helow, Kadmous, and Sheikh Bader. Additional hotspots have been reported in northern rural Hama and western rural Idleb, indicating a broader geographic spread.

Infrastructure damage has further compounded the crisis. Key roads linking Latakia City to rural districts such as Kassab and Bassit were

temporarily closed due to advancing fire lines. The electricity network has sustained significant damage, including transmission towers, transformers, and distribution stations, while water pumping stations within the fire perimeter ceased operations following power outages—impacting communities even outside the direct burn zones.

Unlike in previous wildfire years, many of the affected zones had not suffered major fire damage in recent seasons, increasing their vulnerability to this year's events. In response to the rapid escalation, the Syrian government's international assistance request on 4 July was met with prompt mobilization of firefighting teams and aerial support. Additional international assets arrived, including:

Turkiye: firefighting personnel and equipment, including planes and helicopters

Jordan: firefighting personnel and equipment

Lebanon: aerial support (helicopters)

Cyprus: aerial support

Iraq: firefighting teams and vehicles

Qatar: ground and aerial assets, including helicopters

This coordinated international effort underscores the scale and complexity of the emergency, with operational coordination continuing across multiple sectors and partners on the ground.

Scope, Scale and Needs

As of early July 2025, an estimated 25,000 people have been affected by the wildfires across Latakia Governorate and more than 50,000 are exposed. The fires have forced the evacuation or relocation of over 2,000 individuals, many of whom are now being hosted by relatives or neighbors after losing access to their homes and farmland.

The wildfires have caused extensive destruction of olive groves, seasonal crops, livestock, and beehives, dealing a severe blow to local food production and household economies. This is exacerbating pre-existing economic vulnerability and social instability in the region.

More than 125 villages have been affected, with varying levels of damage to homes, farmland, electricity and water infrastructure, and access to essential services. The fires have disrupted community life, damaged critical assets, and triggered needs across multiple sectors.

Power outages have halted water pumping operations in Al-Zour, Ballouran, Al-Namleh, and Al-Basit junctions, disrupting water supply to dozens of surrounding villages. This has heightened the risk of waterborne diseases and hygiene-related health issues, particularly among displaced and host populations.

The ongoing crisis is straining exhausted communities that are already grappling with limited resources, degraded infrastructure, economic hardship, and security concerns. These compounding challenges are undermining resilience and complicating efforts to restore stability and meet urgent needs.

Priority humanitarian needs include:

Emergency shelter and non-food items for displaced families

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance

Livelihood and agricultural recovery support

Health and psychosocial services, especially for affected families

Fuel and logistics support to sustain response operations

Coordination

In response to the Lattakia wildfires, SARC as a convener is coordinating closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Movement partners and international humanitarian organisations. Coordination is led through SARC headquarters in close collaboration with affected branches and relevant authorities. SARC is actively engaging with the UN system and other humanitarian actors through the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and sector coordination mechanisms, SARC continues to represent the Movement in joint planning forums, facilitating and contributing to assessments, and operational coordination with Ministry of Emergency and Disaster management, civil defence, local government, and NGOs.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

1. National Society response capacity

The SARC was established in 1942 by Presidential Decree No. 540. Since then, its auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field has been recognised and reiterated in Legislative Decree No. 117/1966, which states its mandate and privileges and recognises the numerous legal facilities granted to it for its humanitarian work.

SARC has a strong track record of responding to both protracted conflicts and natural hazards emerging disasters, giving it the expertise necessary to address the complex needs of affected populations. Its previous sectoral expertise spans across areas such as medical and healthcare services, food and non-food item distribution, water and sanitation interventions, as well as providing psychosocial support and family reunification services. The deeply rooted expertise and understanding and analysing different contexts have been critical in responding quickly to the emergency and ensuring that essential services reach those in need.

The organization leverages its extensive network, which includes 14 local branches and 73 active sub-branches, all supported by a large cadre of trained volunteers. This robust network is crucial for maintaining strong community acceptance and ensuring that response efforts are well-targeted. Local volunteers are instrumental in providing on-the-ground assistance and delivering services in areas with limited access.

SARC's response is strategically structured into two main phases: Overall Humanitarian Assistance and Response with an emphasis on meeting immediate life-saving needs while also strengthening capacity at local branches and communities for long-term recovery efforts.

Since the onset of the wildfires, SARC immediately activated its Emergency Operations Centers and scaled up its response using its proven disaster response structure and prior experience with similar emergencies. Building on existing preparedness plans, pre-positioned stocks, and local volunteer networks, SARC was able to quickly mobilize resources and deliver a coordinated, needs-based response across affected regions. Around 200 volunteers, 50 staff and 40 vehicles have been deployed through SARC branches and headquarters, supporting key activities including field assessments, beneficiary registration, post-distribution monitoring, logistics, WASH, EMS, information management, and community awareness. The response is centrally coordinated by SARC's Disaster Management Unit, ensuring operational coherence and alignment with national structures. All SARC volunteers participating in this operation are covered under IFRC's global volunteer insurance scheme.

SARC's response has included a wide range of life-saving interventions for the ongoing wildfires across the responding branches. Key activities include:

- Evacuations.
- Health (EMS, MHU, MMT, CBHFA)
- Urgent Relief (Food, NFI, water ..etc)
- HMA (Humanitarian Mine Actions)
- WASH
- Supporting the authorities with fire extinguishing efforts
- Community Services and Protection. Rapid Assessment

In addition to its local capacity, SARC is working closely with the Syrian government via the Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management, local authorities, Movement partners and international humanitarian partners to coordinate the response efforts.

2. Capacity and response at national level

The Civil Defence and firefighter teams have been responding since the beginning, Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management established an operation room in Lattakia including all the actors and stakeholders to coordinate the response.
Additional support (international) was requested (Turkiye, Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Qatar, Iraq), allocating all the available resources from different governates to support Lattakia's teams.

International capacity and response

3. Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

In addition to the regular support provided by the IFRC, the Federation is currently working in close collaboration with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to assess emerging needs related to the recent wildfires. This includes offering targeted technical assistance to SARC's emergency response teams and jointly planning the upcoming phases of the response to ensure operational readiness for future requirements.

As a part of the coordinated efforts of the Movement support, RCRC partners continue to support SARC's role as the primary first responder on the ground, with operational assets and coordination mechanism. The ICRC has activated the contingency supplies, and the SARC has been supported to cover the initial operational costs accordingly.

Looking ahead, and in recognition of the likely protracted impact on the affected communities, several Movement partners have expressed their willingness to complement existing efforts and extend their support further, contingent upon the development of SARC's long-term strategy to address recovery and resilience needs beyond the immediate emergency phase.

2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response

UN has initiated coordination efforts by calling for an HCT meeting in Lattakia with the Governor and the established operations room, as well as a separate meeting in Damascus for all humanitarian actors. A joint assessment is being organized through UN agencies to identify immediate needs, response priorities, and operational gaps.

The HCT is coordinating the multisectoral response, including Shelter and NFIs, Food Security, Health, WASH, Protection, and Education, with sector leads expected to align with local authorities and operational partners on ground-level response actions.

So far, the international community contributed a great amount of solidarity to SARC together with a direct support to the local authorities.

GAPS IN THE RESPONSE

The humanitarian situation in Syria remains fragile. The wildfires in Lattakia have added pressure on already overstretched systems and vulnerable populations. The impact has been severe in forested and rural areas, with homes, agricultural assets, and basic services affected. Displacement and loss of livelihoods have compounded existing vulnerabilities in a region already burdened by economic hardship and limited infrastructure. Furthermore, it has also added additional layer of concerns on the environment and climate are set to be severely impacted that have been raised to become a reality more quickly and severely in these communities, which are already under great strain.

Current Challenges:

Access Constraints
Damage to local roads and ongoing risks from remaining hotspots limit safe access to some affected areas. SARC teams may face delays in assessments and response due to infrastructure damage and restricted mobility coupled with the high risk due to the presence of unexploded war remnants.
Power Shortages
The response is challenged by ongoing limited electricity provision due to damaged network lines. This affects water pumping, mobile clinics, communications, and supply delivery. Fire-affected areas face outages lasting several days, increasing the pressure on generators and fuel procurement and raising operational costs.

Additional Funding Requirements
The emergency response comes amid an already within a restricted funding humanitarian situation. Mobilizing immediate financial resources for emergency shelter, food, and WASH is a top priority. Without rapid support, response timelines and coverage will remain limited and will hinder recovery efforts.

Building on previous experience and learning from prior responses, SARC, supported by its partners, is prioritising rapid assessments, emergency assistance and early recovery planning. This joint operation will address urgent needs while working to restore essential

services and support community coping mechanisms in areas affected by fire. A coordinated response mechanism is essential to avoid deeper humanitarian impact and enable recovery.

Immediate and Mid-term Needs:

Support to Firefighting Operations:
Immediate Needs:
- Sustained Logistical Support: Continued provision of water, fuel, and essential equipment to frontline Civil Defense and firefighting teams operating under hazardous conditions.
- Enhanced Coordination: Strengthened coordination mechanisms with local authorities to ensure safe, efficient, and sustained firefighting operations, particularly in challenging terrains.

Mid Term Needs:
- Capacity Building: Long-term investment in training and equipping Civil Defense and SARC volunteers to enhance national firefighting capacity, addressing the overwhelming strain observed during the unprecedented intensity and scale of the wildfires.
- Specialized Equipment: Procurement of specialized firefighting equipment, including additional large-capacity water tankers and tools for navigating difficult terrain and areas affected by unexploded ordnance (UXO).
- UXO Clearance Support: Collaboration with relevant actors for the safe clearance of unexploded ordinance hindering access and operations in affected areas.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)
Immediate Needs:
- Emergency Shelter: Urgent provision of mattresses, and blankets for over 2,000 displaced individuals and families evacuated from high-risk villages, which most of them been hosted by relatives and Neighbours.
- Essential NFI Distribution: Immediate distribution of essential non-food items, including hygiene kits, cooking sets, and other household necessities, to affected populations.
- Rapid Needs Assessments: Continuation and expansion of house-to-house assessments to accurately identify specific household needs, inform tailored assistance, and prevent secondary displacement.

Potential Needs:
- Shelter Rehabilitation: Planning and implementation of early recovery programs focused on the rehabilitation of partially damaged homes and the reconstruction of destroyed residences (so far at least 40 confirmed burnt or partially damaged). Implementation of cash-based assistance programs, where operationally feasible, to support the rehabilitation of shelters for wildfire-affected households. The amount of cash provided will be determined through a damage assessment methodology, proportionate to the severity and percentage of structural damage sustained by each household.

Health and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
Immediate Needs:
- Expanded Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Scaling up of emergency medical services to address the significant increase in respiratory illnesses and trauma cases, particularly among vulnerable groups and frontline responders (26 smoke-related cases and 4 trauma cases treated by SARC).
- Mobile Health Unit Deployment: Continued deployment and expansion of mobile health units, staffed by doctors, nurses, and volunteers, to ensure access to primary healthcare in affected and underserved areas.
- Protective Equipment for Responders: Urgent provision of adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for all SARC volunteers and Civil Defense responders to mitigate health risks associated with smoke inhalation and hazardous conditions.
- Integrated MHPSS Services: Development and integration of comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support services into health interventions, addressing the trauma and stress caused by displacement, loss, and destruction.
- Health Facility Support: Rehabilitation and resupply of damaged health facilities to alleviate pressure on the healthcare system and ensure continuity of essential services.
- Public Health Campaigns: Implementation of public health awareness campaigns on respiratory health, hygiene, and stress management in post-disaster settings.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)
Immediate Needs:
- Safe Water Access: Urgent restoration of access to safe drinking water in dozens of villages where water infrastructure has been severely impacted or contaminated by ash and debris.
- Water Trucking and Distribution: Continued and expanded water trucking operations (SARC has transported 960 cubic meters) and distribution of bottled safe drinking water (4,050 bottles distributed) to meet immediate consumption needs.
- Hygiene Kit Distribution: Widespread distribution of hygiene kits to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases and promote good hygiene practices among affected populations.

Potential Needs:
- Infrastructure Repair and Rehabilitation: Comprehensive assessment and repair of damaged water pipelines, pumping stations (e.g., Al-Zour, Ballouan, Al-Namleh), and other critical WASH infrastructure.
- Water Source Protection: Implementation of measures to protect natural water sources from contamination and ensure their long-term sustainability.
- Sanitation Services: Establishment or rehabilitation of functioning sanitation services in temporary shelters and affected communities to reduce health risks.

Basic Needs and Livelihoods

Immediate Needs:

- Food Security: Urgent provision of ready-to-eat meals and dry food parcels to displaced and host families facing immediate food insecurity due to market disruptions and livelihood losses.
- Rapid Livelihood Assessments: Detailed assessments of agricultural losses (e.g., 100% loss of tools, 96% destruction of land/equipment in Latakia, loss of 202 beehives and 13 farm animals) to inform targeted livelihood support.
- Agricultural Rehabilitation: Provision of agricultural inputs (seeds, tools), animal feed, and veterinary support to assist small-scale farmers and livestock owners in restoring their livelihoods.
- Cash Assistance: Implementation of multi-purpose cash assistance programs where feasible, empowering affected households to meet their diverse basic needs and stimulate local economies.
- Market Restoration: Support for the restoration of local markets and supply chains to ensure long-term food availability and economic recovery.

Food Assistance

Immediate Needs:

- Continued Food Distributions: Sustained distribution of dry food rations and ready-to-eat meals to ensure short-term food security for populations affected by disrupted food systems.

Potential Needs:

- Food System Recovery: Support for the recovery of local food production and distribution systems to reduce reliance on external aid and enhance long-term food security.
- Nutritional Support: Integration of nutritional support programs, particularly for vulnerable groups such such as children and pregnant/lactating women.

Environmental Impact and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Immediate Needs:

- Environmental Impact Assessment: Rapid assessment of the immediate environmental damage, including air and water quality, to identify urgent mitigation measures.

Potential Needs:

- Ecosystem Restoration: Long-term environmental recovery efforts, including soil stabilization, firebreak construction, and reforestation planning for over 10,000 hectares of devastated forest and agricultural land.
- DRR Capacity Building : Implementation of disaster risk reduction activities to raise community awareness on wildfire prevention, early warning systems, and preparedness measures.
- Climate Change Adaptation : Integration of climate change adaptation strategies into long-term recovery and development plans to build resilience against future environmental shocks.

Vulnerability

- Women and Girls: Those displaced, or hosting others face increased burden and risk of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Access to hygiene products, protection services, and safe spaces remains limited.
- Children and Elderly: Children are facing trauma from evacuation. The elderly and chronically ill are more vulnerable due to heat exposure, mobility constraints, and disrupted healthcare access.
- Persons with Disabilities: Evacuation and access to emergency support is more difficult for people with disabilities. Tailored assistance is on humanitarian interventions could lead some disruptions.
- People with pre-existing health conditions: Individuals with chronic respiratory or cardiovascular diseases are at heightened risk due to poor air quality and limited access to medical care.

Protection Risks:

- The economic pressure post-disaster may force families to adopt negative coping mechanisms.
- Unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination presents an additional and persistent risk, restricting movement for both civilians and humanitarian responders. Landmines and UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) related incidents have resulted in civilian casualties, exacerbating access to critical areas and delaying aid delivery.

Coping Capacities:

Communities have mobilized volunteers and informal support systems, including SARC local branches. However, their capacity is stretched, and additional support is needed to sustain the response. SARC's response teams, including Disaster Management, Health, WASH, Psychosocial Support units, and all other departments have been actively engaged, but require logistical and financial support to scale up.

The wildfires in Lattakia present an acute emergency layered on top of an already fragile socio-economic context. This response must be immediate, localized, and inclusive focusing not only on urgent needs but also on early recovery and resilience building. SARC continue to run assessments and coordinate with relevant authorities and partners to adapt the response as needs evolve. The plan

will aim to cover the immediate response, early recovery, and long-term resilience placing affected communities at the centre of planning and implementation.

Operational Strategy

This operation aims to provide a timely, effective, and locally driven response to the wildfires in Lattakia by building on SARC's operational experience and local access. The response is structured around three strategic pillars:

1. Emergency Response

- Provide direct support to first responders, especially Civil Defence firefighting teams, through logistical and material assistance.
- Deploy mobile water tanks to reduce response time and improve access in hard-to-reach fire zones with limited water resources.
- Activate SARC's EMS services to support affected individuals and injured responders.
- Deliver life-saving assistance to families affected by the fires, including evacuation support, emergency shelter, health, basic assistance, WASH and protection.
- Rapid assessment to identify better the urgent needs and targeting most vulnerable families and communities.

2. Recovery and Resilience

- Conduct multisectoral assessments to inform the recovery phase, identify needs in livelihoods, health, WASH, shelter, and environmental rehabilitation.
- Develop early recovery interventions, including reforestation efforts, restoration of community assets, and support for affected farmers.
- Integrate community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) and fire prevention awareness as part of long-term resilience planning.
- Ensure a smooth transition from emergency to recovery with minimal gaps and reduced community dependency.

3. Strengthening SARC Capacity

- Leverage branch-level experience and local volunteer networks for rapid mobilization and tailored response.
- Enhance operational readiness by documenting lessons learned, updating contingency plans, and improving coordination mechanisms, support EOC centres
- Invest in preparedness measures, including training for wildfire response, early warning dissemination, and improved logistics capacity.
- Strengthen community engagement throughout the operation to ensure accountability and locally adapted solutions.
- Trainings and Sharing experiences, enhancing the NRT teams.

Targeting Strategy

SARC applies a needs-based and impartial approach to ensure assistance reaches those most affected by the wildfires in Latakia. This operation will target an estimated 50,000 individuals across the affected areas, based on verified field assessments and close coordination with local authorities and community structures.
The operation will prioritize two key groups:

1. **First Responders**
   This includes Civil Defense firefighting teams, SARC emergency health and disaster response volunteers, and other frontline personnel involved in fire suppression, evacuations, and life-saving activities. These responders have been operating under extreme conditions, often with limited access to food, water, rest, and protective support. Providing them with logistical and basic support is critical to sustaining operations and minimizing risk.
2. **Affected Households**
   This includes families and communities directly impacted by the wildfires, particularly those evacuated or displaced from high-risk areas, as well as host communities that have taken in displaced individuals and have themselves been affected by

the crisis. SARC has conducted a rapid household-level assessment covering approximately 3,500 families across affected villages. This assessment has established a detailed database capturing household-level needs and vulnerabilities, which will guide the targeting process and ensure that both displaced and host communities receive appropriate support. Priority will be given to:

- Households in villages with reported fire damage
- Families who lost their shelter, assets, or access to essential services
- Host communities
- Vulnerable groups, including:
    - Female-headed households
    - Families with persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses
    - Pregnant or lactating women
    - Households with young children or elderly members
    - Returnees and low-income host community households
    -

Targeting will be further refined through input from local SARC branches and community leaders. Lists of people to be assisted will be validated and continuously updated throughout the response. This database will also serve as a foundation for planning early recovery and resilience interventions in the next phase of the operation.

Total Targeted Population

Women	**9250**	Girls (under 18)	**4000**
Men	**7750**	Boys (under 18)	**4000**
People with disabilities (estimated)	**6250**		
Total targeted population	**25.000**		

Risk Management

Risk	Mitigation action
The current safety and security situation in Syria may reduce access to the operational areas and may have an impact on operational implementation.	The SARC security framework is and will be respected throughout the duration of this response. Regular monitoring will be carried out and the plans will be adjusted accordingly. All the stakeholders and communities will be kept informed information and regular coordination will be maintained.
Safety of staff and volunteers	The staff and volunteers are orientated on the health-related impact of such fires. The orientation to be continued. Risk averse approach will be strictly followed to ensure the well-being of all staff and volunteers. It's essential that deployed volunteers are covered under an insurance scheme and equipped with the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). Prioritize volunteer rest and hydration: Implement mandatory rest and hydration cycles to prevent fatigue and heat-related illnesses. Provide shaded rest zones: Establish designated areas where volunteers can take breaks in a cool, protected environment. Shift change: Implement a rotating shift system to manage workload, prevent burnout, and ensure sustained human resource capacity over prolonged periods of operation. This proactive measure will help maintain vigilance and performance, while significantly contributing to the overall physical and mental health of our dedicated volunteers.

Anticipated risk of a resurgence of wildfires in the surrounding regions due to various contributing factors.	Continuous monitoring and coordination with local authorities regarding alerts for weather-related hazards is essential. It is imperative to activate appropriate mitigating measures and allocate resources to the ongoing response efforts, tailored to the specific locations of the emerging fires. identify fixed points that offer greater security and safe access for both service providers and beneficiaries. These locations will serve as hubs for critical activities such as distribution operations and the deployment of mobile clinics. By selecting secure, accessible points, the aim is to ensure uninterrupted service delivery while minimizing risk to both staff and the communities being supported.
Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) & Landmines triggered by heat	Coordinate with authorities and firefighter teams; establish safe perimeters; check the NTS done by WeC teams and avoid known contaminated areas; and provide UXO awareness training to field teams and the local community.
Exposure to smoke and extreme heat could impact the health and safety of operational teams.	-Equip all response teams with appropriate PPE. -Implement flexible shift schedules to reduce exposure to heat and smoke. -Ensure availability of medical support close to field operations
Difficulties in transporting relief items or moving between affected areas due to challenging terrain or damaged infrastructure	-Utilize alternative transport methods when needed (light vehicles, local support). -Store contingency stocks at nearby branch warehouses. -Coordinate early with local actors to secure safe transport routes

PLANNED OPERATIONS

INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

Shelter, Housing and Settlements	
Objective:	1. Emergency phase: Communities in crisis-affected areas restore and strengthen their safety through emergency shelter and household items provision. 2. Resilience building: Meet the medium-term shelter needs and resilience in line with principles of dignity, protection, and an integrated approach.
Priority Actions:	Priority Actions: 1. Conduct emergency needs assessments and multi-sectoral needs assessments to inform response options and strategies. 2. Ensure continuous registration of affected households to ensure proper reach of support. 3. Prepare to provide winterization and relief household items based on priorities identified such as thermal blankets, kitchen sets, and heating stoves/heaters, bedding units/mattresses, clothing for

	both winter and summer conditions, with consideration to climate smart elements/items 4. Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys on the support provided when the situation allows. 5. Raise awareness and train volunteers, staff, and affected populations in the best use of CASH and/or in-kind assistance. 6. Procure, replenish and pre-position shelter and non-food items distributed from existing SARC stocks in order to maintain readiness to respond to crises and disasters. 7. Establish, maintain and prepare facilities to serve as shelters to host displaced population. 8. assistance for permanent housing repair in-form of CASH assistance or in-kind (shelter items).

Livelihoods	
Objective:	Communities in crisis-affected areas and the evacuated can cover their immediate food needs, and protect and build resilient livelihoods
Priority Actions:	1. Provide food assistance in the form of ready-to-eat meals and standard food parcels and/or voucher assistance 2. Replenish and pre-position standard and ready-to-eat food parcels distributed from existing SARC stocks in order to maintain response readiness 3. Support and/or establish community kitchens to provide hot ready meals to affected population if needed. 4. Provide assistance for agricultural and livestock activities using climate smart interventions and drought resistance seeds 5. Provide support to stimulate the growth of small businesses/Income Generating Activities. 6. Provide vocational training opportunities to promote skill development and job creation, with start-up kit 7. Provide essential on-farm and off-farm inputs/materials/tools for agricultural/food production. 8. Conduct monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning actions that ensure effectiveness and relevance of interventions such as baselines, post distribution monitoring and end lines.

Multi-purpose Cash	
Objective:	To provide unconditional multipurpose cash assistance to affected households, enabling them to address their basic needs in alignment with their priorities, while ensuring accountability and participation throughout the process.
Priority Actions:	1. Maintain and strengthen the external coordination and collaboration mechanism with the National Cash Working Group (on transfer value and number of installments), Authorities, and potential Financial

	Service Providers (FSP), in addition to internal coordination with relevant sectors and support service departments. 2. Conduct market price assessments in governorate marketplaces, where operational conditions are allowed. 3. Explore the Cash top up intervention as complementary assistance for sectoral interventions (Livelihoods, Food, NFI, Health, Shelter, etc..), as a fast response to meet the basic needs of the affected people, based on the MSA findings. 4. Distribute cash assistance (MPCA) to 5000 vulnerable households in affected areas to meet their basic needs. 5. Activation of cash work modality based on sectoral assessments and analysis of the ongoing engagements. 6. Monitor the CVA activities and ensure the quality of the distribution, targeting and impact, through integrating the community engagement, and feedback mechanisms with affected populations into CVA programming and facilitate referrals to other SARC services. 7. Strengthen the CVA organizational and operational readiness and the capacity of the CVA staff and volunteers in HQ and branch level.

HEALTH & CARE INCLUDING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

(MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT / COMMUNITY HEALTH)

Health & Care (*Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)*	
Objective:	To ensure equitable and sustained access to comprehensive health care services for affected populations, including emergency, primary, secondary, and public health care, while integrating mental health and psychosocial support, strengthening referral networks, enhancing medical logistics, and advancing digital health information systems.
Priority Actions:	1. **Strengthening Community Health Systems**: a. Expand Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) services in underserved areas through volunteer recruitment, regular training, and regular mobilization. b. Establish advisory community committees in underserved areas to facilitate health coordination and conduct needs assessments. c. Promote public health awareness through community sessions and distribution of health-related kits. d. Build and Integrate a Community-Based Surveillance System: Establish and integrate a robust community-based surveillance system to enable the early detection of diseases and ensure timely referrals to the primary healthcare system. This initiative aims to strengthen both the Early Warning System (EWS) and the Healthcare Referral System, enhancing the community's capacity

to respond promptly to health threats and improve overall healthcare access and outcomes.

e. Provide financial assistance through Cash for Health to fire-affected individuals in Syria, targeting households based on health-based criteria such as fire-related injuries, aggravated pre-existing conditions, mental health needs, and displacement. The objective is to improve access to healthcare, reduce mortality and morbidity, and address immediate and mid-term health needs through emergency treatment, outpatient care, mental health support, and medical supplies.

2. **Ensure Access to Primary Health Care Services**:
   a. Deploy outreach of healthcare teams and Mobile Health Units (MHUs) to underserved areas to provide primary healthcare services.
   b. Expand the capacity of primary healthcare centers, focusing on improving service quality and ensuring better reach to underserved populations.
3. **Enhance SARC Emergency Medical Services**:
   a. Improve the capacity of SARC Emergency Medical Services to deliver timely and effective care in affected communities by providing comprehensive training, advanced equipment, and necessary hardware and software upgrades.

4. **Rehabilitation for Individuals with Disabilities**:
   a. Provide therapeutic assessments, assistive devices, and expand physical rehabilitation center services to support mobility and reduce disability.
   b. Enhance the capacity of the healthcare workers on disability inclusion and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) principles to ensure equitable access and quality care for individuals with disabilities.

   c. Integrate disability-inclusive approaches into all health programs and referral systems to address specific needs and barriers faced by people with disabilities.

5. **Address Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs**:
   d. Provide specialized mental health services integrated within health care facilities and deploy mental health mobile teams to hard-to-reach areas

   e. Provide psychosocial support to communities to enhance their resilience and well-being including targeted interventions for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and survivors of violence.
   f. Ensure tailored psychosocial support for SARC operational staff and volunteers, recognizing their unique challenges and the need for specialized interventions
   g. Enhance the capacity of the SARC staff and volunteers, and community health promoters, on Psychological First Aid (PFA) including referral to further MHPSS care, to enhance their capacity to support individuals in distress.
   h. Ensure identification of MHPSS needs is integrated cross sectorial either with human resources or required training topics.

	6. **Enhance Advanced Specialized Health Services**: a. Strengthen referral networks to ensure access to advanced specialized care, including critical and surgical interventions. b. Address climate-sensitive health conditions by integrating climate risk considerations into specialized health services. c. Cover costs for specialized treatments at equipped healthcare facilities and affiliated hospitals. d. Provide cash voucher assistance to support access to specialized services for vulnerable populations.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	
Objective:	To ensure equitable access to safe water, improved sanitation, and hygiene services for affected populations while building community resilience and mitigating public health risks.
Priority Actions:	First: Immediate Response During the Disaster (Firefighting and Containment Phase) 1. Support for Civil Defense, Firefighting Teams, and Relevant Responding Authorities in Firefighting and Cooling Operations: Water Provision: • Utilize available water tankers (Red Crescent – rentals – etc.) and nearby filling points (wells, reservoirs, water stations). • Coordinate with the Water Authority, municipalities, and local entities to secure additional water sources if needed. • Use GIS systems to determine the shortest routes for water transportation. • Deploy mobile tankers (of various capacities) to support firefighting teams. • Establish strategic water distribution points at the fire perimeter (stationary tankers). • Provide drinking water transport services via tankers to areas suffering from water shortages or supply disruptions as a temporary measure. Logistics: • Supply firefighting hoses, portable gasoline and diesel pumps, and personal protective equipment (PPE). • Provide fuel for generators and operational vehicles in the area. • Distribute small water containers (e.g., jerrycans) to affected communities. • Distribute bottled drinking water to affected communities and field workers. • Distribute cash to cover local needs. 2. Provision of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Services and Health Awareness for Affected Communities through: • Distribute hygiene supplies (Hygiene Kits), menstrual hygiene materials (MHM), baby diapers, special needs diapers, lice shampoo, and soap. This is accompanied by community awareness campaigns conducted by the health promotion team, with a focus on the link between climate change and waterborne diseases.

	• Distribute public and household water tanks. • Provide water transportation via tankers to affected communities as needed, in parallel with the rehabilitation of permanent water sources. 3. Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure is based on the assessment conducted. Third: Enhancing Preparedness for Future Wildfires • Rehabilitate the requested facilities of watchtowers in fire-affected areas, including associated wells and water tanks. • Identify areas most at risk of wildfires using validated data in collaboration with international organizations and relevant authorities to enhance readiness and preparedness for potential scenarios in these areas. • Pre-position emergency supplies (such as mobile water tanks, spare parts, quick maintenance toolkits, pumps, etc.) in strategic warehouses. • Strengthen the water supply capacity by procuring a range of water tankers with various capacities, to be owned and sustainably managed by the SARC for enhanced and timely humanitarian response. • Organize workshops to exchange experiences and lessons learned among water teams and with other departments within the organization.

PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

(PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA), MIGRATION, RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RECOVERY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, EDUCATION)

Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
Objective:	To integrate Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) principles across all stages of SARC's emergency response and early recovery efforts, ensuring that vulnerable populations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups, have access to essential services in a safe, inclusive, and dignified manner and fostering safeguarding, PGI institutionalization, and community-based protection considerations
Priority Actions:	1. Disseminate key internal dissemination of PGI policies (PSEA, Child Safeguarding, Code of Conduct) to SARC staff and volunteers in the responding branches. 2. Ensure integration of vulnerable groups, such as child-headed households, unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities, and female-headed households, across the full project cycle of SARC interventions including needs assessments, referrals, and follow-up support. 3. Strengthen child protection services, including Protection of Family Links, reunification programs, and legal support for unaccompanied or separated children. 4. Provide referral services for people with disabilities, ensuring they can access protection and assistance in an inclusive and respectful manner.

	5. Support the sectors to address the specific protection risks faced by vulnerable groups during emergencies and early recovery, including persons with disabilities, elderly, and women/girls. 6. Expand community-based protection services by activating community centers in coordination with Mobile PSS teams to remote or underserved areas. 7. Assist mine victims through specialized support and rehabilitation services 8. Enhance gender and age and disability data disaggregation for accurate PGI analysis, thereby addressing specific needs and vulnerabilities for better access to life-saving services

Community Engagement and Accountability		
Objective:	To integrate Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) across all phases of SARC's emergency response and early recovery operations, ensuring that affected populations are meaningfully engaged, their voices are heard, and their feedback is systematically incorporated into program design, implementation, and evaluation, thereby improving the effectiveness, inclusivity, and responsiveness of humanitarian interventions.	
Priority Actions:	1. Embedded CEA as a cross-cutting approach across all SARC emergency response and early recovery activities to ensure that community participation, feedback, and accountability are integrated into all stages of humanitarian programming. 2. Ensure the implementation of standardized CEA activities during the emergency response through close collaboration with the MEAL unit. Identify any gaps or deviations so the CEA team can provide the necessary technical support 3. Ensure SARC volunteers are well-informed about the response objectives, targeted beneficiaries, services provided, items being distributed, and the confidential channels available for sharing feedback. This supports SARC's accountability towards the communities by enabling volunteers to share accurate information and effectively address any questions or concerns. 4. Follow SARC's feedback mechanism, SOPs to ensure the systematic analysis of feedback through multiple communication channels—such as suggestion boxes, telephone lines, and face-to-face interactions. Based on this analysis, detailed, accurate, and up-to-date reports will be shared with the relevant departments to adjust the response, accordingly 5. Support the affected communities by providing and disseminating information as aid using the best approaches to reach different groups, following close collaboration and coordination with the relevant departments.	

Risk Reduction, Cclimate Aadaptation and Recovery			
Objective:	To strengthen resilience and capacities of affected communities through climate-smart community-based risk reduction actions informed by enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments and advanced planning.		
Priority Actions:	1. Identify and select target communities for DRR implementation. 2. Develop public awareness raising campaigns and sessions on wildfires 3. Liaise with local authorities and stakeholders to ensure alignment and support 4. Enhance SARC Capacity to develop relevant scenarios and high-risk areas mapping to inform response/resilience planning and procedures, risk management, business continuity, and preparedness plans/agreements. 5. Implement awareness campaigns on DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) 6. Implement DRR hazard, risk, and vulnerability assessments to inform response operations (with health, Shelter, PGI, and Ops) 7. develop plans for disaster management and preparedness by enhancing early warning systems and early action mechanisms. 8. Carry out hazard risk context analysis and identify high-risk areas. 9. Implement small-scale climate and disaster mitigation measures and evacuation routes according to community action plan. 10. Establish, train and equip local community DRR committees to maintain these mitigation measures and respond to early warning systems. 11. Develop intervention scenarios and contingency planning with local communities and test these plans. 12. Conduct eVCA workshops with communities to identify priority hazards and gather data on vulnerabilities, capacities, exposure, and past impacts. Use these findings to develop community contingency and preparedness plans that inform both DRR initiatives and anticipatory actions. 13. Support the development of community based early warning systems in coordination with the authorities 14. Conduct annual simulation exercises to test community response capabilities, involving local stakeholders. 15. Identify appropriate forecasts needed for effective anticipatory actions in coordination with technical institutes. 16. Coordinate with other humanitarian actors involved in anticipatory action. 17. Publish research and visibility materials for national and regional stakeholders to foster collaboration.		

National Society Strengthening			
Objective:	1. To reinforce SARC HQ and branch capacities to respond to the operation and enhance volunteer and staff competencies in preparedness and response and continued service delivery in an inclusive manner. 2. SARC responds effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and its auxiliary role in all sectors, including disaster risk management, is well-defined and recognized.		
Priority Actions:	Strengthen SARC disaster management and operational capacity to respond to emergencies: • Strengthen human resources (staff and volunteers) in terms of finance, information management and logistics at sub-branch and branches to ensure a timely and effective response. • Information management will support by Collecting daily updates from operational and support sectors, Designing infographics in Arabic and English showing SARC interventions and share it with partners, updating fire Points maps with intervention points, Developing ODK form for beneficiary registration, Creating a dashboard to track the registered, Collaborating with Disaster Management to update the Situation Report. • Strengthen and support SARC's disaster management and response capacities and take critical actions to enable immediate service delivery, including establishment/support for an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and coordination. • Provide meals, accommodation, and necessary services for Red Crescent field teams. • Enable SARC to implement branch Plan of Actions based on Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessments, adjusted as needed to meet ongoing priorities of the emergency operation. • Strengthen preparedness and branch-level activities in coordination with local urban authorities (evacuation, site selection & site planning, EWEA) • Restock resources for critical needs across the NS (HQ and Branch level) including systems, procedures, equipment, and HR based on self-identified priorities and lessons learned from previous operations. • Contribute to equipping responding branches. Ensure staff and volunteer well-being and duty of care: 1. SARC staff and volunteers receive targeted MHPSS services to reduce the risk of negative social and mental health impacts of the work they carry out. 2. Strenghten personnel wellbeing approaches to provide ongoing support to frontline personnel and other responders.		

Monitoring and evaluation:

SARC's standard monitoring procedures are consistently applied across all operations, including post-distribution monitoring (PDM), process monitoring, and community feedback mechanisms. These tools are fully integrated into the wildfire response to promote accountability, enable data-driven decision-making, and foster community engagement.

During the recovery phase, specific tools such as Post-Distribution Monitoring and satisfaction surveys are utilized to assess the effectiveness of the response and guide improvements. Key activities include:

- Conducting beneficiary surveys to gather feedback on the distribution process and the adequacy of received items.
- Analysing collected data to identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.
- Sharing findings with relevant stakeholders to ensure transparency and collective learning.
- Carrying out regular site visits to observe distribution and implementation processes firsthand.
- Collecting qualitative data through interviews and focus group discussions to capture in-depth community perspectives.
- Establishing multiple feedback channels, such as suggestion boxes, community meetings, and phone hotlines to ensure accessibility and inclusivity.
- Developing a shared monitoring framework to standardize data collection and reporting across partner organizations.
- Regularly reviewing and updating assessment tools based on community feedback and evolving needs.
- Documenting successes, challenges, and lessons learned to inform future emergency responses.

A tailored monitoring plan, including an After-Action Review (AAR), will be strengthened specifically for this wildfire response to ensure continuous learning and improvement

Communications

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) takes a strategic approach to communication to ensure the effective dissemination of information, reinforce transparency and raise the profile of its humanitarian operations. Communication teams are engaged across various media platforms, including social media, digital publications, and traditional press, to keep the public, communities, and stakeholders consistently informed of SARC's lifesaving efforts. They also provide substantial support in producing timely, accurate and partner-oriented reports, thereby strengthening accountability with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and external partners.

SARC's communication strategy also holds a critical role in raising awareness of risks and hazards, disseminating early warning messages and safety guidance to at-risk communities, often in coordination with technical units. Internally, SARC facilitates robust communication between headquarters and branches to address the needs from the field while ensuring consistent operational messaging. In times of crisis, SARC responds rapidly and in a coordinated manner to manage risks, eliminate misinformation about humanitarian aid, and uphold its neutral and impartial image.

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