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## Information bulletin Syria: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Date of disaster:</b> 31 March 2019	<b>Date of issue:</b> 10 April 2019
<b>Categorization of Disaster:</b> orange	<b>Point of contact:</b> Tammam Muhrez, SARC Head of Operations
<b>Host National Society:</b> Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)	
<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 45,000	

***This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Syrian Red Crescent Society (SARC), with support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is considering a request for a Disaster Emergency Relief Fund (DREF) allocation based on the assessment findings.***

### The situation

Starting from 31 March, the heavy rains and the subsequent flooding in the Hasakah Governate of Syria has affected an estimated 45,000 people, including people living in the internally displaced persons' camps<sup>1</sup>.

The Hasakah Branch of SARC responded immediately to the floods, using regional emergency stocks, by providing 3,000 of the affected population with basic supplies, first aid and health care to the affected population in Tal Hamis, the most seriously affected district.

SARC, supported by the Partner National Societies (PNSs) and ICRC, is planning further response that will focus on affected population that is not receiving humanitarian aid, noting the current focus from the international humanitarian community on the Al Hol Camp.



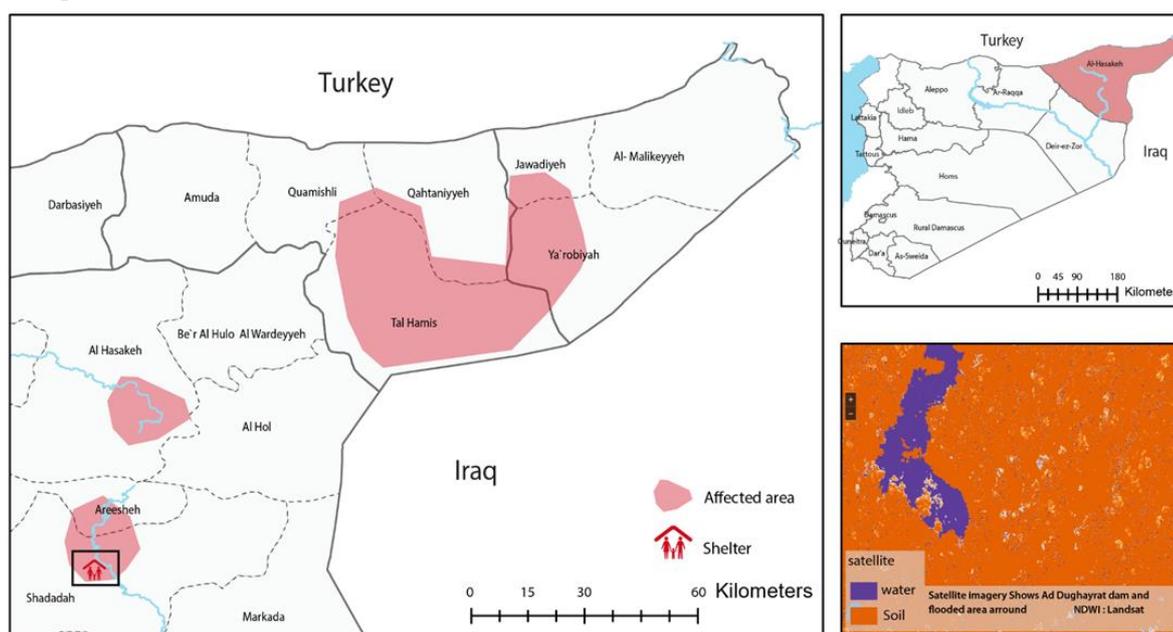
*Distribution of relief supplies in response to Hasakeh floods.  
Photo credit: SARC*

The larger response to the floods will require a scaled-up logistics response using supplies from the central warehouse in Tartous and will enable SARC to open 3 new emergency distribution points in the most affected areas in Al-Hasakah Governate. Recovery of livelihoods, especially in the agricultural sector, will be assessed and may be incorporated into the response plan following assessments and discussions with Movement partners, UN Agencies and I/NGOs.

According to weather forecast, heavy rains are expected to resume during 16-19 April. SARC and IFRC are currently working on an emergency plan of action and budget, which will be launched in the coming hours.

<sup>1</sup> This does not include an estimated 40,000 IDPs affected by floods – out of a camp population of 70,000 in the Al Hol camp which is being supported by United Nations Agencies and ICRC with SARC as the implementing partner

## Map and Details of Affected areas



Serious damage to homes and agricultural lands has been reported in Quamishli, Jawadiyeh, Ta'robiyah, Tal Hamis, Qahtaniyyeh, Al Hasakah and the IDP camp in Areesheh. Schools in Tal Hamis, one of the worst affected areas, are being used as temporary shelters for more than 2,500 displaced families. There is an urgent need to move the tented IDP settlement in Areesheh which lies on the north-western side of the Khabour river Ad Dughayrat dam. Damage to houses and agricultural land has been extensive, especially in the district of Tal Hamis where the floods submerged many houses.

While the flood waters are receding in some areas new rains are forecast with further flooding anticipated. From preliminary assessments undertaken by SARC over 5,000 houses have been flooded, 800 families have been displaced to three schools which are serving as temporary emergency shelters. To date, 2 people have been killed by the floods and very large numbers of livestock is destroyed. In most areas, access is only possible by tractors which have been used to manage evacuations. A WASH assessment is ongoing.

Area	Damaged agricultural lands/m2	Houses/Shelters
Tal Hamis	85,300,000	2,000
Ya`robiyah	8,000	1,500
Jawadiyeh	6,000	150
Eastern rural of Al Hasakah	13,000	743
Western rural of Al Hasakah	11,000	618
Tal Brak	3,000	53
Areesheh camp	N/A	2,500 families

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Within the first two days of the floods SARC had served 200 patients from the Mobile Health Unit in Hasakah, provided 3,000 parcels of canned food, distributed 500 tarpaulins, 3,000 blankets and 1,500 mattresses from regional stocks. The larger response to the floods will require a scaled-up logistics response using supplies from the central warehouse in Tartous and will enable SARC to open 3 new emergency distribution points in the most affected areas in Al-Hasakah Governate.

The IFRC and SARC held a meeting with all in-country PNSs to explore approaches on how best to respond to the floods. Meetings were held with ICRC to ensure complementarity between the IFRC/SARC response and ICRC/SARC cooperation in the region. Discussions within the RCRC Movement included how to respond to the floods at a time when there are new IDP emergencies in Northern Syria that also require humanitarian response by SARC supported by their partners.

Regular meetings are planned with Red Cross Red Crescent partners, providing information on the response to date, the humanitarian needs and response actions and plans. A planned visit to the affected area by SARC and IFRC personnel is imminent, waiting for approved travel permits for flights to Al Qamishli.

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### How we work

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

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

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

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