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Emergency Appeal Syria Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRSY004	45,000 people to be assisted	Appeal launched: 15 April 2019
Glide n°: FL-2019-000031-SYR	500,000 Swiss francs DREF allocated	Appeal ends: 15 October 2019
	3.5 million Swiss francs funding requirement	

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of **3.5 million Swiss francs** to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the **Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)** to deliver assistance and support to some **45,000 people for up to 6 months**, with a focus on **health (including psychosocial support), food, household relief items and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH)**. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation and will be adjusted based on further developments and more detailed assessments. Additional information will be made available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) in the coming days.

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

31 March 2019: Exceptional heavy rains and flooding in Al Hasakeh Governorate

1 April 2019: Rapid assessment, evacuations and basic relief provided by the SARC Al Hasakeh Branch

April 2019: Ongoing relief distributions and assessments

12 April 2019: 500,000 Swiss francs allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) as an emergency operation start up

15 April 2019: The IFRC launches an Emergency Appeal for CHF 3.5 million



Relief distributions to flood affected people in Tal Hames, Al Hasakeh Photo credit: SARC

The operational strategy

Summary of Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

Since 31 March, heavy rainfall has caused exceptional floods in Al Hasakeh Governorate. In response, staff and volunteers of the Al Hasakeh SARC branch conducted rapid assessments and immediately began relief distributions from regional stocks for the affected population. Most areas can only be accessed by tractor due to the floods. There are more heavy rains forecast for Al Hasakeh in April, which could further impact the already serious humanitarian situation.

While some of the affected districts have seen flooding in the past, these current floods far exceed anything experienced in over a decade and come at a time when heavy and intense rains are very unusual, creating floods far higher than previously experienced. The timing of the floods comes in advance of crop harvests and lambing season, negatively impacting both food security and livelihoods. Communities and camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in the region are severely affected, putting further stress on the people that have recently relocated from the conflict in the north of Syria, with very limited coping abilities for this new disaster. Much of the attention from the humanitarian community has been focussed on the needs in the Al Hol IDP camp, hosting over 70,000 newly displaced from recent conflicts in the north and now impacted by floods. SARC is the only operational humanitarian organisation in the remaining affected areas, and reaching communities and other IDP camps.

This emergency appeal aims to address that imbalance in humanitarian response to ensure that 45,000 people affected by floods outside the Al Hol IDP camp receive support from SARC. While SARC has very considerable capacity to respond to new emergencies related to the ongoing conflict in Syria, this exceptional natural disaster in Al Hasakeh exceeds SARC's current capacity to respond without receiving international financial support.

Needs assessment and targeting

Current assessments indicate that approximately 118,000 people have been affected by the flooding, including two deaths. An estimated 5,000 shelters are water damaged; some are destroyed. This number may rise as assessments of the affected population are ongoing. To date, 2,500 people have been evacuated to five schools which are serving as temporary emergency shelters. A further 5,000 people are staying with host families. Large numbers of livestock have been killed and approximately 86 million square metres of land are flooded. Several camps for internally displaced people have been heavily affected across the region, including some 40,000 people in Al Hol camp who are already being assisted by SARC outside of this appeal, as well as United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organizations. The focus of this Emergency Appeal will be on other IDP camps and communities affected by flooding that are not receiving any humanitarian assistance.

The affected population have flooded, damaged or destroyed homes, damaged or destroyed household items,



Flood water inundation has destroyed shelter and household items in Al Hawel Camp, Al Hasekeh governorate. Photo credit: SARC

ruined food supplies, clothes, and bedding. Livelihoods have been severely affected through the large loss of livestock and flood-damaged agricultural land. An estimated 80% of the flooded agricultural land was planted with barley, the other 20% with wheat and lentils. Livestock losses include sheep, lambs, cows, goats and chickens, and the overall losses increases the risk of food insecurity in the coming weeks and months.

A WASH assessment has been undertaken by the SARC's Al Hasakeh branch to assess damage to water sources, infrastructure, water distribution points and latrines as well as assess water contamination. The needs assessment will be analysed in the coming days and SARC may scale up WASH activities beyond those planned in this Emergency Appeal (jerry cans, aqua tabs and hygiene kits). SARC will review the need for further water trucking options as well as the

need for hygiene promotion to prevent water-borne diseases.

SARC is focused on emergency relief support to the affected population. As access to flooded areas improves and a more detailed analysis of needs is undertaken, the operation will develop accordingly, with partners being advised through regular operations updates. Should the area of the floods expand due to new heavy rains expected in April, and more people become affected, this will be reflected in Emergency Appeal operations updates.

Community Engagement and Accountability will be mainstreamed through the response activities carried out by SARC. Given the complex, sensitive nature and security challenges of the operational environment, the response will not be as prominent, as a discrete approach is required

Coordination and partnerships

SARC is well recognised in all parts of Syria as an independent and neutral humanitarian organisation providing support in both government-held territories and cross-lines support in non-government held territories.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

There is regular engagement with the partners and to date, SARC has hosted two partnership meetings with IFRC and in-country partner national societies (PNS) including the Canadian, Finnish, Danish, Norwegian, German, Swiss and British Red Cross societies as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 8 and 9 April 2019 to discuss different options on how best to respond to the current crisis. IFRC and PNS are providing support to SARC in the preparation of the Al Hasakeh floods operation response.

ICRC is working closely with SARC in a Movement coordinated response to the dire situation beyond flooding in the North East of Syria. The ICRC is closely coordinating with SARC, IFRC and PNSs involved in the floods response to ensure the complementary support to the affected populations. SARC and ICRC and IFRC have already distributed food and EHI items to the communities in Al-Hol camp and other affected areas including Tel Hames and Tal Brak.

More information on the ICRC response in North East Syria, as well as other Red Cross Red Crescent Societies operational in Syria is available upon request.

Inter-Agency coordination and with Government

Outside Al Hol camp there is very limited UN or NGO presence and coordination for flood affected areas. SARC headquarters is in daily contact with government counterparts at the national level. SARC Al Hasakeh branch is holding coordination meetings with the Governor of Al Hasakeh to ensure alignment and coordination of the response with the public authorities. In addition, SARC Al Hesakeh branch is in regular contact with formal and informal community leaders, ensuring access and acceptance.

Security

SARC is the lead agency for the Movement in Syria in regard to security. The operation will be based in the remote Governorate of Al Hasakeh, however the operation will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the branch and headquarters for security issues and risk for staff and volunteers. SARC has significant experience in security and draws upon updates from a number of sources, while upholding the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles to gain access to affected communities. For the most part, staff and volunteers working on this operation will be used from the local branch, have been trained and prepared to respond in complex settings. International staff will not be deployed for this operation.

Proposed areas for intervention

The overall goal of the response is to meet the basic needs of up to 45,000 people (9,000 families) affected by the floods with basic household relief items, food parcels (ready to eat and food for cooking), WASH and health services in Al Hasakeh while further assessments are undertaken. This Emergency Appeal focuses on the needs of communities and IDP camps outside the Al Hol IDP camp, where needs are already being responded to by the ICRC, SARC, the UN and other NGOs.

Areas of Focus



Shelter

People targeted: up to 45,000
Requirements (CHF): 728,000

Currently SARC has registered 1,500 families displaced by floods (500 families displaced in five schools and 1,000 displaced by their relatives). SARC will initially target these 1,500 families with household item support. Once these needs have been met, SARC will distribute household items to vulnerable families who have lost household items in the floods, using SARC's vulnerability criteria. In total, SARC plans to distribute 5,000 tarpaulins, 15,000 mattresses and 30,000 blankets. In addition, SARC will also distribute one cleaning kit per family for 9,000 families, enabling them clean water and mud from damage shelter. This kit includes a bucket, brush and broom. In addition, the 500 families displaced in schools will receive shelter repair assistance, enabling them to return home as soon as possible. Longer term shelter needs will be assessed by SARC WASH and Reconstruction team.

Proposed interventions

- Provision of household items (tarpaulins, blankets and mattresses) to flood affected families based on need
- Target 500 displaced families with assistance for urgent shelter repairs in the schools where they are sheltered
- Distribute one cleaning kits to 9,000 flood affected families
- Further assessment on the impact to shelter in affected areas
- Undertake post distribution monitoring



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 45,000

Requirements (CHF): 1,116,000

Flood affected households have lost their food stocks and had livelihoods impact affecting their ability to meet basic needs. As indicated in the need assessment section, an estimated 80% of the flooded agricultural land was planted with barley, the other 20% with wheat and lentils. Livestock losses include sheep, lambs, cows, goats and chickens.

SARC plans to target 9,000 families with 5,000 food parcels to affected families and 4,000 ready-to-eat food parcels for those who have no access to cooking facilities. Food parcels and ready to eat food parcels will be distributed one parcel per month for three months. Moving forward, SARC will undertake further assessment on the damage to livelihoods, noting the loss of livestock and damage to agricultural land.

Proposed interventions

- Food parcels and canned food parcels will be provided each month for three months to 9,000 households that have lost all household goods including food supplies
- Further assess the impact of flooding to livelihoods in affected communities
- Undertake post distribution monitoring



Health

People targeted: Catchment area of 45,000 people

Requirements (CHF): 42,000

A mobile health unit will be deployed for three months, staffed by a driver, doctor and nurse and equipped with medicines and consumables. SARC will also deploy their mobile PSS unit, based in Al Hasakeh branch for three months to provide psychosocial support to affected communities, with a focus on children and those repeatedly displaced by conflict and now flooding. This unit is already operational.

Proposed interventions

- Deploy one mobile health unit to provide health services to the affected population for a duration of three months
- Deploy a mobile PSS team to provide psychosocial support to affected communities for a duration of three months



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 45,000 people

Requirements (CHF): 596,000

A WASH assessment has just been completed and the needs are being analysed, however needs related to water, sanitation and hygiene are already evident. As part of this response, SARC will ensure that families have access to safe water (including jerry cans – 1 x 20 litre and 1 x 10 litre per family plus aqua tabs). It is important to note that aqua tabs are regularly used by the target community. In addition, family hygiene kits (soap, detergent, shampoo, tooth brushes and paste, combs and brushes) will be distributed.

Proposed interventions

- Distribute jerry cans and aqua tabs to 9,000 flood affected families
- Distribute 9,000 hygiene kits to flood affected communities
- Analyse WASH assessment to identify further WASH needs



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 45,000

Requirements (CHF): 202,000

SARC volunteers continue to monitor for protection issues particularly for those displaced in schools. SARC and local authorities have constructed partitions in the schools to allow for privacy. No issues have been reported, however, SARC's PSS mobile team continue to monitor the situation.

To date, no family separations have been reported, however SARC and ICRC are collaborating on restoring family links as needed.

Under this response, SARC plans to distribute family dignity kits, which include t-shirts and underwear for women, men and children. SARC has distributed dignity kits in other emergency response, and the items are well received by the affected communities.

Proposed intervention

- Distribute 9,000 dignity kits to flood affected communities
- Undertake monitoring for protection issues

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 794,000

Under the **Strategy for Implementation 1: Strengthen National Societies**, the implementation of this flood response will be supported by 85 staff from the Al Hasakeh branch and headquarters and 120 volunteers supporting disaster management, WASH, PSS and health. The operations budget includes support for staff overtime, meals and accommodation and volunteer incentives, meals and accommodation. In addition, the Al

Hasakeh branch will be supported with hardware including 12 laptops and printers, internet and 3G, five generators, uniforms for volunteers, branch running costs and stationery.

Mobile medical units will be staffed by one doctor, one nurse and one driver. Al Hasakeh branch already has a trained and equipped mobile PSS team which will be deployed to support affected communities. Al Hasakeh branch will be responsible for undertaking distributions and logistics. Monitoring and reporting will be supervised by SARC headquarters.

Human resources existing within the IFRC country office and wider Movement partners have been drawn upon to complement SARC existing capacity as required. Ongoing discussions in the coming days and weeks ahead between SARC, IFRC and partners will be focused on identifying any additional human resource capacity that may be required to be scaled up in areas such as resource mobilization, reporting, monitoring and technical support to ensure operational effectiveness.

Under **Strategy for Implementation 2: Effective International Disaster Management**, it is important to note that Al Hasakeh is a remote, isolated region with complicated logistic chain challenges from Aleppo and the central SARC warehouse in Tartous. This has impacted on the cost related to logistics.

Logistics aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including mobilization, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites, in accordance with the operation needs and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. The operational supply chain will be planned according to the upcoming requirements and through SARC's field experts, in coordination with in-country IFRC team.

To support the floods response operation, it is required to expand the logistics capacity through the rental of 10 vehicles for three months to mobilise volunteer teams for further assessment, for PSS, for distributions and for monitoring. In addition, 10 trucks will be rented for an initial 3 months to assist with distribution of food and household items. Also budgeted are provisions for the procurement of fuel, vehicle maintenance, warehouse rental for three warehouses to accommodate the shelter, food and household items and the set up three distribution points.

Regional relief supplies have been used for the initial response, which will be supplemented by central stocks from the Tartous warehouse. Urgent restocking of the Tartous stocks will be required to ensure adequate stock is available for new and ongoing emergencies in Syria.

Donors are strongly encouraged to support local restocking activities under the Emergency Appeal, noting the considerable delays involved in the international procurement of relief goods due to the procedures introduced by the Government of Syria in 2016 related to the import of external goods. As a result, a donor restocking response is the only feasible way to ensure immediate humanitarian needs are met to ensure immediate humanitarian needs are responded to.

In addition, included under **Strategies for Implementation 3: Influencing Others as Leading Strategic Partners**, is ongoing monitoring costs of the operation carried out by SARC headquarters and a final review and lessons learned exercise.

Communication

IFRC regional and Secretariat staff will support SARC in social media and in drafting of key messages for the response. Pictures and videos of the current situation and SARC response can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1xDH-b71aTlxERse8tQTLMNRYzBk4WbwG>

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

A dedicated SARC "Emergency Floods Monitoring and Evaluation team" will go to Al Hasakeh once a month from National headquarters to monitor the planned intervention. The team will be composed of two monitoring and evaluation staff, one disaster management and one information management member. This team will be supported by the IFRC PMER delegate and planning, monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning delegate in Damascus, with back up support coming from IFRC MENA regional office. PMER delegate will support any further reviews, lesson learning and final operational evaluations as required, to capture the performance, including the successes and challenges of the operation to inform future operational strategies. A final workshop will be conducted in Al Hasakeh and in Damascus at the end of the response to gather lesson learnt and improve SARC emergency response capacities.

Funding Requirements

Area of Intervention	Needs in CHF
SHELTER	728,000
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	1,116,000
HEALTH	64,000
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	596,000
PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION	202,000
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES	465,000
EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT	311,000
INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS	18,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	3,500,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

SARC responded to the current floods, which started on 31 March, the following day therefore all contributions to the Emergency Appeal will be based on an operational response backdated to 1 April 2019.

Unearmarked multilateral financial pledges to this Emergency Appeal are strongly recommended as this situation may further develop with new heavy rains forecast in Al Hasakeh in the next week and while needs assessments are being undertaken in the affected districts. The floods response cannot be financed through the ongoing IFRC Emergency Appeal for Complex Emergency. The current needs are immediate and international pledges are requested to respond to this new emergency through the IFRC whose response capacity has been augmented by support from in-country PNS and ICRC capacity.

Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

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



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.

Syrian Arab Republic, Floods: Emergency Appeal

