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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

### Syria: Wildfires

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation n°</b>	<b>MDRSY005</b>	<b>Glide n°:</b>	<b><a href="#">FR-2020-000208-SYR</a></b>
<b>Date of issue:</b>	<b>23/10/2020</b>	<b>Expected timeframe:</b>	<b>4 months</b>
		<b>Expected end date:</b>	<b>28/02/2021</b>
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: <span style="color: orange;">Orange</span></b>			
<b>DREF allocated: CHF 510,650</b>			
<b>Total number of people affected:</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b>	<b>12,500</b>
<b>Provinces affected:</b>	<b>Latakia, Tartous, Homs</b>	<b>Provinces/Regions targeted:</b>	<b>Latakia, Tartous, Homs</b>
<b>Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> 544 volunteers, 3 branches of Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)			
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); German Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross			
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> UN Agencies, International non-governmental organizations (INGOs), Local non-governmental organizations (LNGOs)			

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

Between 8 and 12 October 2020, the eastern basin of the Mediterranean Sea has witnessed mass-destructive wildfires which is becoming a recurring annual event due to climate change. While possible causes of these wildfires vary, enabling elements including high temperatures, the warm eastern winds that are active during this time of year, dried herbs and bushes, and low humid trees come together to cause massive wildfires devouring acres of lands beyond rapid control of overwhelmed local capacities.

One of the hardest hit countries is war-torn Syria, where wildfires has killed 3 people and left around 80 injured with breathing complications and skin burns. Most of the rugged mountainous areas were obliterated in western countryside of Homs province, the eastern countryside of Tartus, and the northern countryside of Latakia. These fires caused



Figure 1. SARC volunteer assessing the damage caused by the wildfire 2020 and needs in one of the governorates. **Photo: SARC**

material and environmental damage, burning homes of residents, agricultural crops, large parts of vegetation, forests, and nature reserves.

Through the initial assessment of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) conducted from October 8 to date by local branches in Latakia, Tartus and Homs, the fires had significant damage reported in 179 villages and forestry points, affecting more than 40,000 families through injuries, temporary displacement, loss of houses and assets, and majorly loss of livelihoods (lands, crops, and livestock).

Rapid assessments conducted till mid-October reports following damages:

- 200,000 people (40,000 affected families)
- 160,000 dunums of forestland and agricultural land (approximately 40% agricultural)
- 40,000 citrus trees, 3,370,000 olive trees, and 259,000 of different trees
- 2 tons of tobacco
- 220 dunums planted with autumn vegetables
- 4,000 beehives
- 30,000 meters of drip irrigation systems.

SARC teams are currently working on detailed assessments of the situation in the affected areas.

## **Summary of the current response**

### **Overview of Host National Society Response Action**

SARC has responded from the beginning through mobilising their resources effectively, supporting at early stages fire-fighters brigades on the front lines through provision of food and water, mobile tanks, trucks equipped with tanks and pumps to increase mobility, and first aid services.

Local SARC branches in Latakia and Tartus were supported by personal protective equipment for volunteers. Preventive security and safety measures for branches and warehouses were raised to mitigate the fire hazard, in addition to necessary trainings sought from specialized trainers in field security and safety.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country**

SARC provides humanitarian response operations with the coordination of components and partners of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and is constantly planning and implementing taking into account the mandate of their respective work in covering all sectors (relief, health, livelihoods, psychological support, etc). SARC is responding to the affected people from fires in coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) through this DREF response operation. Other Partner National Societies (PNSs) such as the German and Norwegian Red Cross are supporting with other in-kinds.

Also, in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) providing emergency relief items including canned food parcels (ready-to-eat) and solar lamps, in addition to other WASH activities (water trucking) to those affected by the wildfires.

### **Overview of other actors' actions in country**

SARC coordinates with international NGOs and UN offices as the main partner in carrying out activities while maintaining their mandate without compromising the basic principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Furthermore, SARC is coordinating with the relevant authorities (government) through its relevant channels in order to join efforts in the response to fires.

UN agencies including World Food Program (WFP) and UNHCR have provided items such as hygiene kits and jerry cans, also some food items (dates) to the affected families and will continue the reach to other affected people.

All local associations working in the field are coordinating in the field for the humanitarian response.

## **Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment**

### **Needs analysis**

Rapid assessments indicate that there are more than 40,000 families affected by the fires and work is being carried out to identify families in need of shelter support. SARC is tracking the displacement of all affected people to identify the target groups and those most affected by the fires.

The affected areas are characterized by a difficult geographical nature and the 10 years of crisis contributed to the weakening of public systems and infrastructure (un-serviced agricultural roads, water networks, hospitals). In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic that has increased the burden on the communities under the impact of the economic crisis (rise in exchange rate and economic sanctions by several geopolitical actors). All of the above has greatly affected the capacity of the society, knowing that these communities have received many displaced families, taking also into consideration people with disabilities or injured by the war.

Based on the initial assessments preliminary information indicates that there is a need in the shelter sector in Latakia province in particular and is coordinated with the concerned authorities to identify temporary shelters and provide the affected people with relief items. SARC is still assessing shelter need in Homs and Tartous governorates. Assessments also indicated that there was a need to provide first responders with basic and logistical materials (like water, hygiene kits or solar lamps), as well as to enhance SARC capacities and resources in those areas on the long-term. Some of the findings from the initial assessment is given in the table below.

Initial assessment findings	Homs	Lattakia	Tartous
Number of volunteers in response	75	285	184
Percentage of affected land area (donum)	1,118	43,115	17,976
Number of affected population (family)	225	9,821	2,891
Number of affected villages	10	88	81

A detailed assessment of affected areas and agricultural areas is being carried out to identify affected people who have lost their livelihoods and actual need on the ground.

### Targeting

Based on the initial assessments carried out approximately 30% (12,000 families) affected are in need of support, out of which SARC is targeting to support **12,500 people (2,500 families)** through this DREF operation. Targeted groups will be identified based on based on findings of detailed assessments, with below set criteria in order to ensure access to the most vulnerable.

- Families directly affected by the wildfires.
- Families whose livelihoods have been affected.
- Economic status of the household.
- Families identified by the detailed assessments.
- Families who are not included in similar programmes.

### Scenario planning

#### Scenario 1: Most Likely

Fire suppression and access to all categories affected by the fire and continuity of assessments, with the continuation of periodic activities. This is in addition to supporting first lines or first responders to reduce this disaster and coordinate with partners to mitigate the risks.

#### Scenario 2: Less Likely

Continuity of fires and access to make the necessary assessment and increased land areas burned, resulting in further damage to livelihoods, displacement of more people and increased humanitarian needs.

### Operation Risk Assessment

The DREF operation, the needs assessment, and its operational strategy considers the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and is aligned with the IFRC global emergency appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The planned DREF activities will also follow the Ministry of Health (MOH) and World Health Organization (WHO) regulations on hygiene and social distancing especially during distribution of household items.

As of 22 October 2020, a total 5,267 cases of Covid-19 have been registered in country, with 260 deaths and 1,655 recoveries, according to MOH. To date, the following measures have been taken to curb the spread of the disease: mandatory mask wearing, closing of borders; set up of proximity screening sites, set up of treatment centers; risk communication and community engagement, providing updated information on the COVID-19 situation.

SARC responses to COVID-19 are supported through the IFRC [global appeal](#), which is facilitating and supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19. This DREF operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC MENA Regional Office, in coordination with global and regional partners. This means that the SARC will ensure COVID-19 prevention measures are adhered to in line with regional plan of action and its national COVID-19 country plan. IFRC continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crisis should adapt to this crisis and provide necessary guidance to its membership on the same. SARC will keep monitoring the situation closely and revise the plan accordingly if needed, taking into consideration the evolving COVID-19 situation and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to access to the affected population, availability of relief items, procurement issues, and movement of NS volunteers and staff as well as international staff. For more information please consult the [Covid-19 operation page](#) on the IFRC Go platform.

Below table indicates potential impact of the pandemic on this DREF operation and how SARC will respond to the situation in the event of COVID 19 mitigation measures are made more stringent.

COVID-19 measures	Standard epidemic control measures	Temporary lockdown of society (schools, shops, public functions)	Sustained lockdown and restriction of movement during implementation period
Likelihood	High	High	Low
Impact on operation	No impact on the operation. SARC will ensure to adhere to the epidemic control measures in place.	SARC is operating in close coordination with local Government and there is no indication that SARC will not be able to operate even in the event of temporary lockdown.	Lockdown measures have been made a bit more flexible since early June, so it is unlikely that sustained lockdown will be required, unless there is a drastic increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the country.
Mitigating measures	As the epidemic control measures were already in place before the civil unrest, the operation is designed to adhere to the measures.  Trainings will be conducted in small groups, with due respect to social distancing measures.  Distribution exercises will ensure to adhere to social distancing norms.	Same as under standard epidemic control measures. In addition, some delays might be experienced with procurements. If this happens, a timeframe extension may be requested.	Same as under standard epidemic control measures and temporary lockdowns of society.

## B. Operational strategy

### Overall Operational objective:

An emergency plan of action has been developed to collect data accurately as possible in a short period of time through the following processes:

- Data collection
- Analysis of data and conclusions
- View and support maps
- Draw up a response plan to meet emergency needs including DREF and partner
- Develop a detailed plan

The overall objective of this operation is to contribute to the provision of humanitarian assistance to 12,500 people affected as a result of wildfire disasters in worst affected governorates of Latakia, Tartous and Homs through Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). This proposal is based on unconditional and unrestricted cash transfer value on once-off through remittance companies to support the most vulnerable people affected by the wildfires to meet their basic needs.

In early 2020, the Cash Working Group members established a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), and more specifically, the last update calculated in August 2020. This estimated amount serves as a reference to inform program designs and also to harmonize implementation parameters across different humanitarian partners that might engage in similar interventions. This analysis includes the total cash household expenditures. It excludes the rent expenses due to the complexity of harmonizing a standard average price due to the diversity of factors that affect the rental market (location, quality finishing, equipment included, etc.).

This MEB has been updated in August 2020, and inflation factors taken into consideration since prices have increased significantly throughout 2019 to 2020. The economic sanctions on Syria and the bank crisis in the Lebanon negatively impacted financial transfers to Syria causing rise in the exchange rate. From the beginning of October 2019, Syrians have limited access to their funds in Lebanon banks, as result Syrians are unable to transfer US Dollar to the country for business and remittances via Lebanese banks<sup>1</sup>.

The total amount for a family of 5 members to cover their basic needs is approximately 115 CHF. This intended proposal has set the unconditional and unrestricted cash transfer of Syrian Pounds (SYP) once-off through the use of remittance companies.

Cash transfer value will consider the alignment of Cash Working Group and all humanitarian actors that are currently supporting CVA interventions in the country.

### Human resources

SARC has deployed its volunteers in different branches since the beginning of the response operations. As the rapid needs' assessment has been done identifying the imminent needs and interventions, will be geared with protective equipment's enabling them to continue running the operation. IFRC country office will support the follow up and reporting of the operation. A surge deployment will be provided for overall management of the operation (Operation Manager) if there is a need. Support could be provided remotely if not physical deployment.

### Logistics and supply chain

Logistic support to the intervention will be provided following IFRC procedures to ensure the efficient and timely provision to affected people. IFRC in the country and MENA region will support SARC when needed.

### Communications

Information on the operation will be disseminated in coordination with the IFRC and Movement partners in order to highlight the response to the humanitarian needs and the evolving and emerging humanitarian concerns. IFRC in the country and MENA region will provide support to SARC. Information will also be shared via the IFRC Go Platform.

### Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

CEA is integrated throughout the intervention to ensure maximum and meaningful participation of affected communities. SARC has been strengthening its capacity in CEA through community-based programme, and as a feedback mechanism (hotline) being established within SARC, this latter will ensure accountability of the operation by addressing potential complaints/feedback from the target households and non-target communities.

### Safety and Security

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mei.edu/publications/how-crisis-lebanon-impacting-syrias-economy>

To undertake the planned activities, SARC will coordinate with the Movement partners and evaluate the evolving security situation. The IFRC country office and regional security coordinator will provide support as needed. Personal protection equipment (PPEs) for volunteers' safety will be provided.

### **Monitoring, evaluation and learning**

SARC will be monitoring the intervention to ensure a detailed feedback on the usage of cash. As well as, at the end of the projects, there will be a collection of information about the indicators set for the interventions, changes in the living condition of the targeted households and it will be assessed the satisfaction level of the beneficiaries with the program. The monitoring and evaluation process will be as a following:

- Baseline survey whenever possible
- Post distribution monitoring questionnaire
- Hotlines: Provide contact details of the relevant program head where beneficiaries can ring and share the problems they have. will take the actions needed
- End line to measures changes in project impact and outcome indicators over the life of the project, in order to assess the extent to which project objectives have been achieved and determine how the intervention contributed to achieving the project goal
- Lesson learning exercise to gather operational learning and improve future response efforts

### **Administration and Finance**

SARC will be responsible for managing the funds in accordance with standards practices for IFRC on operational transfers. The IFRC through the country office and finance department in MENA regional office will provide necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the SARC on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 2,500 Families (approximately)

Male:

Female:

Requirements (CHF): 393,500

**Needs analysis:** Coverage of short-term needs are the priority for the affected people by the wildfires, especially those that remain displaced. The targeted affected 2,500 families will not be necessarily reached with shelter items; a family's inclusion in this sector will depend on the detailed assessments. These families who lost their belongings/livelihoods due to the wildfires, require cash to obtain supplies for their basic needs.

#### Population to be assisted:

The targeted families will receive a one-shot multipurpose cash disbursement. The value will consider the MEB and SARC will ensure harmonisation and coordination with the Cash Working group. The cash will be distributed once-off through the use of remittance companies considering the following criteria:

- Families directly affected by the wildfires.
- Families whose livelihoods have been affected.
- Economic status of the household.
- Families identified by the detailed assessments.
- Families who are not included in similar programs.

Five-member family: (approximately 2,500 families)

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** SARC will ensure alignment with local authority data base; SPHERE standards will be considered for the provision of assistance.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	# of vouchers / cash assistance Target: 2,500 families															
	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs	# of vouchers / cash assistance Target: 2,500 families															
	Activities planned Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP081	Unconditional/multipurpose cash distributions.			x	x												
AP008	Feasibility analysis including market and FSPs assessments for cash and voucher assistance (CVA).	x	x	x	x												

AP008	Beneficiary selection and registration	x	x														
AP008	Development and implementation of community engagement and accountability (CEA) strategy for cash distribution	x	x	x	x												
AP008	Base line survey	x	x														
AP008	Post-distribution monitoring including market monitoring and satisfaction survey			x	x												
AP008	End line survey				x												



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: TBD  
 Male:  
 Female:  
 Requirements (CHF): TBD

**Needs analysis:** SARC will raise community awareness of risks of fires and appropriate actions through dissemination of the Public Awareness and Public Education DRR key messages.

**Population to be assisted:** Affected communities by the wildfires will be addressed with awareness messages on appropriate actions to reduce the risk of wildfires.

**Program standards/benchmarks:** Proposed intervention will seek to meet Sphere Standards.

<b>P&amp;B Output Code</b>	<b>DRR Outcome 1: Communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster</b>	# of EPoA developed Target: 1															
	<b>DRR Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.</b>	# of community members who participated in awareness sessions Target: TBD															
	Activities planned Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP001	Raise community awareness of risks and appropriate actions through dissemination of the Public Awareness and Public Education DRR key messages	x	x	x	x												

## Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 106,500

P&B Output Code	<b>S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform</b>																
	<b>Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected</b>	# of volunteers that are debriefed and protected Target: TBD															
	Activities planned Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	<i>Provide complete briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face</i>	x	x	x	x												
AP040	<i>Ensure volunteers are properly trained in safety and security</i>	x	x	x	x												
AP040	<i>Ensure volunteers' safety and wellbeing. Providing PPEs for volunteers</i>	x	x	x	x												
P&B Output Code	<b>Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured</b>																
	<b>Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.</b>	# of surge deployments Target: 1															
	Activities planned Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP046	<i>Surge support provided to the operation</i>	x	x	x	x												
P&B Output Code	<b>Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.</b>																
	<b>Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</b>	# of communication products Target: TBD															
	Activities planned Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP053	<i>Communications work</i>	x	x	x	x												
P&B Output Code	<b>Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.</b>	# of produced reports (Target:1) Include LL WS report															
	Activities planned Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	AP055	<i>DREF Lessons Learned</i>				x											

## Funding Requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

*all amounts in  
Swiss Francs  
(CHF)*

### DREF OPERATION

MDRSY005 - SYRIA - WILD FIRE

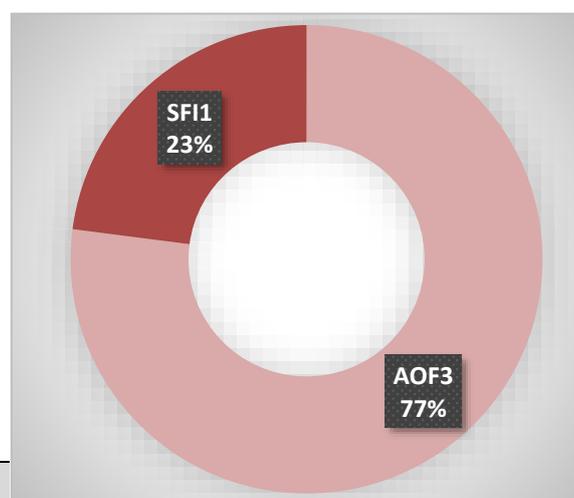
10/22/2020

#### Budget by Resource

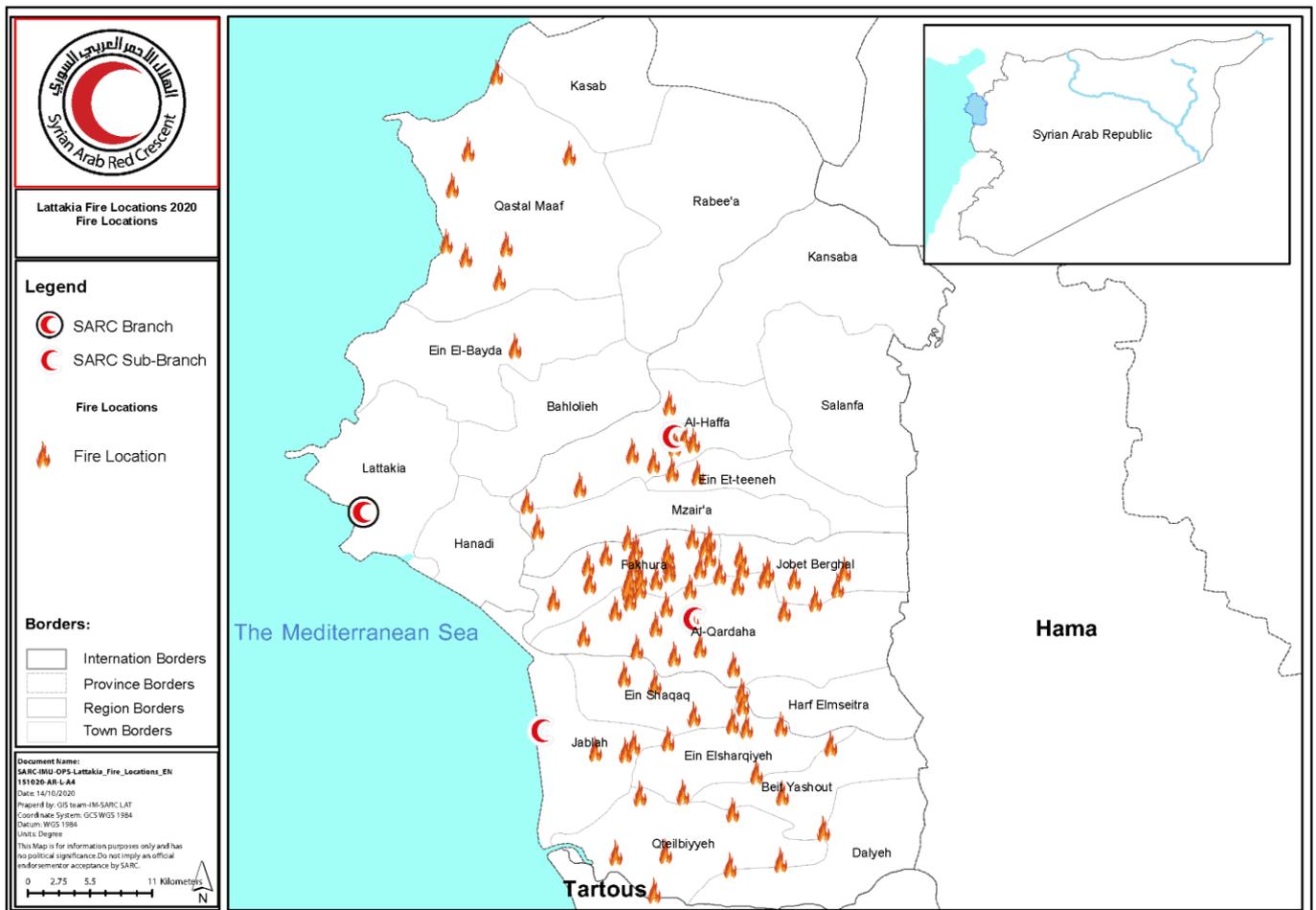
Budget Group	Budget
Cash Disbursement	369,484
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>369,484</b>
International Staff	10,000
Volunteers	75,000
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>85,000</b>
Workshops & Training	20,000
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>20,000</b>
Communications	5,000
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>5,000</b>
DIRECT COSTS	479,484
INDIRECT COSTS	31,166
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>510,650</b>

#### Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	393,500
AOF4	Health	
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	117,150
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	
SFI3	Influence others as leading strategic partners	
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>510,650</b>



### Map showing spread of wildfire in Syria



## Reference documents



Click here for:

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

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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.**