

SYRIA

FACTS AND FIGURES

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2023


Houssam Idris/ICRC

Millions of people across Syria continue to bear the brunt of conflicts. Not only have lives been lost, families shattered, and homes destroyed, but people's livelihoods have been exhausted, and vital infrastructure has either been damaged or destroyed, making daily essentials often taken for granted ever more challenging to obtain. In 2023, this situation was amplified further when major earthquakes hit parts of the country in February.

Throughout the period from January to December 2023, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) continued to respond to the most pressing needs, helping millions of people across the country.

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

17 MILLION people got improved access to clean water.

408,100 had better access to various healthcare services.

52,000 households received food parcels.

270,000 improved their knowledge on safer behaviour in weapon-contaminated areas.



ENSURING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

Around **17 MILLION** people benefited from different water and habitat interventions across the country, as follows:

- **14.5 MILLION** people were supported through a water disinfection programme to ensure access to safe drinking water in **13** governorates.
- **1.9 MILLION** people received water supply in Tartous and Lattakia after repairs were done on Al-Sen dam, which was damaged following the 6 February earthquake.
- **177,000** people received water delivered by trucks in Aleppo, Idleb, and Hassakeh.
- Nearly **166,000** displaced people and returnees benefited from renovations and upgrading of housing, water, and sanitation in about **60** collective shelters and neighbourhoods throughout the country.
- **49** water facilities across the country were rehabilitated and upgraded, and five hospitals and **14** health points had their infrastructure improved.
- Around **1,250,000** people benefited from infrastructure support to **15** public bakeries – supply of production line, rehabilitation works, and power.
- Around **31,000** students benefited from the rehabilitation of water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in over **60** schools and exam centres in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Idleb, Raqqa, Hama, and Deir Ezzor governorates.



HEALTHCARE FOR CIVILIANS AND THE WOUNDED AND SICK

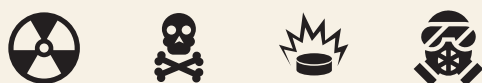
- Over **408,000** people had access to healthcare services through **11** Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) polyclinics and **12** mobile health units supported by the ICRC.
- More than **300,300** diabetes consultations and over **300,000** leishmaniases consultations were provided in **32** Ministry of Health (MoH) facilities and Mobile Health Units across the country.
- Nearly **135,000** wounded and sick people, affected directly or indirectly by the conflict, used emergency and pre-hospital care services provided by ICRC-supported SARC ambulances through **34** first aid centres, including over **12,700** treated at the SARC-ICRC hospital in Al-Hol camp.
- Supported SARC Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in **13** governorates benefiting some **5,700** as part of the earthquake response, **191** patients affected by a cholera outbreak, and over **1,500** patients in response to COVID-19.
- Around **150** health care providers from the MoH's EMS Department attended the Basic Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies Training and Basic First Aid Training in **six** governorates.
- **Nearly 900** SARC EMS volunteers and trainers in **13** SARC branches received various ICRC trainings on first aid and basic awareness and preparedness for emergency facilities. Additionally, **two** new SARC EMS Centres were officially opened by ICRC First Aid and Pre-hospital Emergency Care (FAPHEC) in Sabkha, Jableh, Rural Raqqa and Rural Lattakia respectively, to provide emergency and pre-hospital services for the affected population of conflict and earthquake.
- Over **3,000** people with disability received treatment at the ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Centre (PRC) in Aleppo, and through ICRC-supported PRCs of the SARC in Damascus (Shabaa), the Directorate of Health in Homs, the SARC-ICRC Hospital in Al-Hol, and the MoH's Qamishli National Hospital prosthetic clinic.
- Over **16,800** people received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services. Additionally, about **1,000** front-line workers participated in peer-to-peer support sessions, and **313** SARC and MoH staff received MHPSS training. Moreover, more than **30** SARC and MoH psychologists participated in a first-time training on Narrative Exposure Therapy.
- Over **34** hospitals benefitted from ICRC donations of surgical consumables, equipment, and maintenance support. Additionally, **11** hospitals received support to respond to the earthquake, while **16** others received cholera contingency supplies. And **20** facilities received personal protective equipment (PPE) and **three** received War Wounded Kits (WWK) to respond to the escalation of violence in Qamishli, Deir Ezzor, and Hassakeh.
- Around **76** doctors, nurses, and technicians at **five** hospitals received operation and maintenance training on donated medical equipment. This included training on the X-ray machine at Al Razi Hospital and the operating theatre tables at Ibn Annafees Hospital, Baniyas National Hospital, Lattakia National Hospital, and Daraa National Hospital.





DAILY ESSENTIALS AND RESTORING LIVELIHOODS

- **More than 84,000** households, and some **16,400** households affected by the earthquake received a cash grant to meet their most pressing needs, including food, medical care, education for their children, home rent and home repairs.
- **Over 9,000** households were assisted with food parcels and hygiene kits, both in Deir Ezzor governorate in the east and in Fafin camp in the north of Aleppo governorate.
- **Over 2,000** nutritionally deficient persons in the Al-Hol Camp in Hassakeh governorate were provided with regular hot meals.
- **6,600** households were supported to restart their wheat cultivation, a critical component of the subsidized bread supply chain.
- About **5,400** households were supported to restart their farming activities in their villages, such as sheep herding, cumin growing, and fruit tree cultivation.
- **Nearly 400,000** animal herders were supported through the vaccination of their animals against various diseases, and contributing for one to the elimination of lumpy skin disease in Syria.
- **Over 1,500** households were supported to start small businesses, and **237** earthquake-affected small businesses received cash grants to ensure business continuity, and the availability of goods and services in their areas.



REDUCING THE IMPACT OF WEAPON CONTAMINATION

- **More than 270,000** people in **13** governorates attended sessions on risks related to mines/explosive remnants of war and safer behaviour practices in weapon-contaminated areas, held by the SARC's risk education teams who were trained and supported by the ICRC.
- **Nearly 127,500** individuals received Risk Awareness Safer Behaviour (RASB) material warning them about the risks of mines/explosive remnants of war, of which more than **8,000** during the earthquake response.
- Over **20,000** individuals were reached through various social media channels with advice on safer behaviour in weapon-contaminated areas.
- **More than 1,300,000** RASB SMSs were sent to at-risk population in Deir Ezzor, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, Idlib, Raqqa, Damascus, Hassakeh, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Quneitra to warn about risks of mines/explosive remnants.
- **Nearly 240** non-technical surveys were carried out in weapon contaminated areas of Homs, Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia, Idlib, and Damascus governorates, of which **six** were in support of ICRC operations during the earthquake response.
- **25** weapon-contamination casualties were referred to various physical rehabilitation centres for assistance, and about **320** were referred to receive in-kind assistance.
- **Five** safe play area projects were completed and handed over to mitigate child risk exposure in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, and Daraa.

PROMOTING HUMAN DIGNITY AND RECONNECTING FAMILIES

- **Over 570** oral greetings and Red Cross Messages (RCMs) were exchanged between separated families, and **over 1,200** new cases were opened by families in Syria to trace persons unaccounted for, including **73** requests were collected in relation to Syrian migrants missing abroad.
- **75** visits to **14** detention places were carried out by the ICRC, and **over 4,000** RCMs and Salamat (oral greetings) were collected.
- Detainees benefited from approximately **80,000** ICRC-donated items, including mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, stationery, and winter clothes, as well as essential drugs, fortified date bars, water, and medical equipment.
- **Eight** central prisons received donations of medical supplies improving access to medical care for detainees, which helped ensure that over **125,000** consultations were carried out.
- **24** health staff and **two** prison directors had improved knowledge on health in detention through a training facilitated by ICRC.
- Organized **two** workshops with the General Commission of Forensic Medicine in Aleppo with **90** Forensic practitioners in attendance to address Challenges and Lessons learnt from the earthquake response.
- Organized **four** workshops on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies and restoring family links in Emergency for **over 75** SARC volunteers in Damascus, Aleppo and Raqqa. And one 7-day Training-of-Trainers (ToT) workshop on the Management of the Dead for **20** SARC volunteers in Damascus.
- Completed the rehabilitation of **three** Forensic Centres in Homs, Hassakeh and Damascus as well as **one** morgue of Qamishli National Hospital and **two** cemeteries in Al-Hol and Al-Roj Camps.
- Facilitated the participation of **two** Forensic Doctors and **one** SARC member in the 6th International Course on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies (ICMDE) held in Pakistan.
- Donated medical and forensic equipment to the General Commission of Forensic Medicine.
- Donated **3,000** body bags to the General Commission of Forensic Medicine, The Forensic Centre in Aleppo, The National Hospital of Lattakia, and The National Hospital of Jableh and **1,000** body bags to SARC as part of the earthquake response.
- Supported SARC with **four** refrigerator vehicles.

PROMOTING AWARENESS ABOUT THE ICRC AND IHL

- Organized an Introduction to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) workshop for **23** officers from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), followed by an Advanced IHL workshop for **26** officers and an In-Depth workshop for **22** officers.
- Organized **two** Advanced IHL workshops for overall **50** officers from the Ministry of Interior (MoI), followed by a first-ever ToT for **11** MoI officers.
- Organized an IHL workshop for **28** participants from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).
- **172** students from Al-Sham Private University and the National Institute of Administration attended IHL seminars organized by ICRC.
- Supported a ToT on IHL for **20** SARC participants, an Introduction to IHL workshop for **28** SARC participants, a refresher workshop for **33** SARC participants, and an advanced workshop for **27** SARC participants.
- Facilitated the participation of **one** officer from the MoD and **one** official from the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment in the online State Expert Meeting on IHL: "Protecting the Environment in Armed Conflicts", organized by the Swiss government and the ICRC.
- Facilitated the participation of **one** diplomat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, **four** officers from the MoD, **four** officers from the MoI, one judge from the MoJ and **one** professor from the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) in courses at the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy.
- Facilitated the participation of **one** MoHE participant in the 15th Advanced Seminar on IHL for Academics and Policymakers in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Facilitated the participation of **two** members of the Syrian National Commission for IHL (NCIHL) in the 12th Regional Meeting for Arab NCIHLs in Doha, Qatar.
- Facilitated the participation of **two** MoD officers in the 16th Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Facilitated the participation of **two** SARC members in IHL course and an international human rights law course in Sanremo, Italy.





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ABOUT THE ICRC IN SYRIA:

Present in Syria since 1967, the ICRC is a neutral, impartial, and independent organization with an exclusively humanitarian mission. It works to restore links between families who have been separated by conflict and migration, visits a number of prisons, and promotes respect for international humanitarian law. The ICRC works closely with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to meet food, water, and health needs of people affected by conflicts, and to help them start re-building their lives. They also work together to raise awareness about the risks posed by mines and other explosive remnants. The ICRC's operation in Syria is one of its largest in the world, with over 700 staff working through its offices in Damascus, Aleppo, Hassakeh and Homs.

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