

SYRIA

FACTS AND FIGURES

JANUARY-JUNE 2024

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During the first semester of 2024, humanitarian needs in Syria have continued to increase in diversity and scope and reached unprecedented levels, affecting most of the population. This is the result of years of compounded conflicts and crisis, a dramatic earthquake in February 2023, and a continuously deteriorating socio-economic situation, exacerbated by rising regional tensions. More than ever, the situation requires a robust and well-coordinated response of all Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners to urgently address severe and acute assistance and protection needs, while working on paving the way towards early recovery solutions.

In Syria, the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) includes a wide range of interventions to assist the most vulnerable communities and improve their access to essential services, (such as healthcare and water), support their livelihoods or raise their awareness about the dangers of explosive remnants of war. These initiatives, based on the fundamental principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence, are carried out in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), and are part of a broader strategy to restore a sense of normalcy and hope amidst the devastation. They are led in parallel with large-scale multi-year programmes aiming at supporting critical infrastructures for the provision of water and electricity, as well as other essential services.

In line with its specific mandate and mission, set out in the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC is also committed to protect the life and dignity of people affected by conflicts, through its activities, aiming at reestablishing links between separated family members, searching for people gone missing, and visiting places of detention. Meanwhile, the ICRC engages all relevant institutions to promote respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Throughout the period from January to June 2024, and while access remains a challenge in some parts of the country, the ICRC and the SARC continued to respond to some of the most pressing needs, helping millions of people across the country.



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PROTECTION ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Protecting family links

- Over **1,701** Red Cross Messages (RCMs) and Salamat (oral greetings) were exchanged between separated families, and over **683** new cases were opened by families to trace persons unaccounted for, including **86** requests in relation to Syrian migrants missing abroad, out of which **62** by SARC.
- **17** migrants deceased in the Mediterranean Sea were identified and their families were informed accordingly.
- **31** visits to **12** places of detention were carried out by the ICRC, and **246** RCMs and Salamat were collected in detention.

Activities in places of detention

- Nearly **40,000** detainees benefited from ICRC-donated items, including mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, sport equipment and winter clothes, as well as essential drugs, fortified date bars, water, and medical equipment.
- **Eight** central prisons received donations of medical supplies for the medical care of detainees, which helped ensure that over **125,000** medical consultations were carried out.
- **24** health staff and **10** prison directors had improved knowledge on Health in Detention through a training facilitated by the ICRC.
- **16** participants, including doctors from central prisons and the Ministry of Health attended the Workshop on Mental Health Services in Detention facilitated by the ICRC.
- **20** detainees, along with **12** detainee doctors and **four** health staff from the Ministry of Interior, participated in **two** workshops as part of a pilot project on non-communicable diseases, launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Health at a large central prison.
- Preventive and support measures continued across various central prisons and the Medical Services Department at the Ministry of Interior, including through donation of medical equipment, hospital beds and mattresses.

Supporting dignified treatment of the dead

- The rehabilitation of Al-Qamishli National Hospital morgue was completed.
- Donations of furniture, forensic equipment were organized for the Forensic Centres in Hama and in Hassakeh.
- **One** dental camera and **one** digital sensor were distributed to the General Commission of Forensic Medicine and the Forensic Identification Centre in Damascus to support forensic human identification.
- **2,000** body bags and sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were donated to SARC and to General Commission of Forensic Medicine.
- ICRC-supported efforts led to the proper registration and inhumation of **28** deceased persons in the Al Hol and Al Roj camps, and the provision of death certificates to their families. Donations of forensic and burial equipment to Al Hol Camp administration were also organized.
- In cooperation with the SARC, the ICRC supported the authorities in Aleppo city to recover, transport and bury **178** bodies in the New Islamic Cemetery.
- **20** volunteers from the SARC branches of Aleppo, Idlib and Hama governorates participated in a workshop on Management of the Dead in Emergencies held in Aleppo.
- **14** employees of the Hassakeh Directorate of Health participated in a two-day training on Management of the Dead.



PROMOTING AWARENESS ABOUT THE ICRC AND IHL

- The ICRC renewed the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding for Scientific Cooperation between the Ministry of Higher Education of the Syrian Arab Republic and the International Committee of the Red Cross, until the end of 2025.
- The 2024 plan of action with the Syrian National Commission for IHL was agreed in June 2024.



ENSURING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

- **5,5 MILLION** people had improved access to clean water across the country.
- **14** water facilities were rehabilitated and upgraded, benefiting **4,175,000** people in Hassakeh, Latakia, Daraa, Aleppo, Homs, and Hama governorates.
- **100,000** people received water delivered daily by the ICRC communal water tanks across Hassakeh city.
- **16,625** displaced people and returnees benefited from renovations and upgrading of housing, water networks, and sanitation in Hassakeh.
- **Two** Health Centers in Damascus and Hama governorates, providing **85** medical consultations per day, were supported with solar systems.
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in **four** schools in Tartous were rehabilitated, benefiting **12,650** students.





SUPPORTING LIFE-SAVING AND OTHER HEALTHCARE SERVICES

- **119,448** people accessed healthcare services through **eight** SARC polyclinics and **six** mobile health units, supported by the ICRC.
- More than **98,277** diabetes consultations and over **130,429** leishmaniasis consultations were provided in **22** Ministry of Health (MoH) facilities and Mobile Health Units across the country.
- Nearly **47,871** wounded and sick people, affected directly or indirectly by the conflict, benefited from emergency and pre-hospital care services provided by ICRC-supported SARC ambulances through **23** Emergency Medical Services (EMS) centers, including over **28,245** emergency cases and more than **1,287** cases related to weapon wounds, fires, and traffic accidents.
- **23** SARC Emergency Medical Centers received quarterly donations of medical consumables and direct support for volunteer allowances and operational costs in **13** governorates.
- Around **192** SARC volunteers successfully completed Advanced First Aid Training.
- Over **1,656** people with disabilities received treatment at the ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Centre (PRC) in Aleppo and through ICRC-supported PRCs of the SARC in Damascus, the Directorate of Health in Homs, the SARC-ICRC Hospital in Al Hol Camp in Hassakeh and the MoH's Qamishli National Hospital Prosthetic Clinic.
- Over **5,582** people received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) . **180** supervision sessions were provided to SARC and MoH psychologists for technical support and capacity building. **115** staff received MHPSS training, and more than **35** SARC and MoH psychologists participated in a first-time training on cognitive behavioral therapy, in collaboration with the Swedish Red Cross.
- In response to events of military escalation and emergencies, **three** hospitals (in Deir Ezzor, Rural Aleppo and Sweida governorates) received Weapon-Wounded (WW) kits. Additionally, **one** hospital in Aleppo received surgical consumables to replenish its contingency stock. A C-Arm X-ray machine was donated to Hama National Hospital, and **four** hospitals (in Damascus, Sweida and Aleppo governorates) received War Surgery Manuals. Life-saving surgical procedures for **two** victims of unexploded ordnance (UXO) were financially supported.
- In Al Hol Camp, the ICRC and SARC continued to jointly operate a hospital serving the camp's residents, providing emergency, surgical, physiotherapy, MHPSS, and maternity services. **6,796** beneficiaries accessed the hospital services, with **182** requiring inpatient admission.



SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN MEETING BASIC DAILY NEEDS AND SUSTAINING LIVELIHOODS

- Over **6,000** households in several governorates received cash grants to meet their most pressing needs, including food, medical care, and education for their children.
- More than **8,600** households in Deir Ezzor, Aleppo, Homs, Rural Damascus and Damascus governorates were assisted with food and essential household items, such as diapers, hygiene kits, blankets, tarpaulins, and solar lights. Additionally, around **240,000** hot-meals were provided to **2,000** nutritionally vulnerable persons in Al Hol camp Hassakeh governorate.
- Nutritional products were supplied to **474** newly identified cases of malnutrition in Hassakeh governorate. Additionally, nuts were distributed to children admitted to Al Hol Hospital for the treatment of malnutrition.
- Over **1,450** households in Deir Ezzor, Latakia, Homs, Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Raqqa governorates received livelihood inputs and support, such as drip irrigation kits, fertilizers, as well as veterinary services and medicines, to enhance food production.
- Over **130,000** agro-pastoralist households across **14** Syrian governorates were supported through the vaccination of their animals against foot and mouth disease.
- **30** households in Hassakeh received support to start small businesses, enabling them to enhance their purchasing power and cover necessary household expenses.
- **27** participants from the ICRC and SARC were trained on cash and voucher essentials to strengthen their capacity in cash response modalities.
- Students from remote areas were provided with transportation to sit for their National Exams in Rural Damascus, Raqqa, Deir Ezzor and Idlib in May/June 2024, as well as during the supplementary sessions in July/August 2024.



REDUCING THE IMPACT OF WEAPON CONTAMINATION

- More than **163,000** people in **13** governorates attended sessions on the risks related to mines and explosive remnants of war, as well as safer behavior practices in weapon-contaminated areas, conducted by the SARC's risk education teams, who were trained and supported by the ICRC.
- Over **51,000** individuals received Risk Awareness and Safer Behaviour (RASB) materials, warning them about the dangers of mines and explosive remnants of war.
- More than **248,000** people were reached through various social media channels with advice on safer behavior in weapon-contaminated areas.
- More than **1,949,000** RASB SMSs were sent to at-risk populations in the governorates of Deir Ezzor, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, Raqqa, Damascus, Hassakeh, Rural Damascus, Sweida, Daraa, and Quneitra; warning them about the risks posed by mines and explosive remnants.
- **32** non-technical surveys were conducted in weapon-contaminated areas across Homs, Aleppo, Hama, Latakia, Rural Damascus, Deir Ezzor and Damascus governorates.
- **11** weapon-contamination casualties were referred to various physical rehabilitation centers for assistance, and ten were referred to receive medical assistance.
- More than **980,000** square meters were visually searched during clearance tasks, resulting in the destruction of **216** items of explosive ordnance in Aleppo and Rural Damascus.





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ABOUT THE ICRC IN SYRIA:

Present in Syria since 1967, the ICRC is a neutral, impartial, and independent organisation with an exclusively humanitarian mission. It works to restore links between families who have been separated by conflicts and crises, visits places of detention 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 500 staff working through its offices in Damascus, Aleppo, Deir Ezzor, Hassakeh and Homs governorates.

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