Over a decade on, millions of people across Syria continue to bear the brunt of a conflict compounded by several crises. 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 even more challenging to obtain. This situation was amplified further when a major earthquake and its aftershocks hit the north-western parts of the country on 6 February.

Throughout the period from January to June 2023, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) continued to provide vital services for millions of people. They have responded to the most pressing needs, distributed food to the most vulnerable, and supported healthcare services in communities and camps. They have also carried out repairs to critical water infrastructures and have supported hundreds of small income-generating businesses so people may start re-building their lives.

**MAIN HIGHLIGHTS**

- **14.7 MILLION** people got improved access to clean water.
- **205,287** had better access to various healthcare services.
- **52,000** households received food parcels.
- **230,000** improved their knowledge on safer behaviour in weapon-contaminated areas.
ENSURING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

More than **14.7 million** people benefited from different water and habitat interventions across the country, as follows:

- **14.7 million** people were supported by a disinfection programme to ensure safe drinking water in **13** governorates.
- **1.9 million** people continued to have water supply in Tartous and Lattakia after repairs done on Al-Sen dam, which was damaged by the 6 February earthquake.
- **177,000** people received water delivered by trucks in Aleppo, Idleb, and Hasakeh.
- Nearly **93,000** displaced people and returnees benefited from renovations and upgrading of housing, water, and sanitation in **59** collective shelters and neighbourhoods throughout the country.
- **25** water facilities across the country were rehabilitated and upgraded, and **five** hospitals, **four** health points had their infrastructure improved.
- Around **842,000** people benefited from the infrastructure support to **11** public bakeries: supply of production line, rehabilitation works, and power.
- Around **20,000** students benefited from the rehabilitation of water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in over **43** schools and exam centers in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Idleb, Raqqa, Hama, and Deir Ezzor governorates.
- Over **205,000** 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 **110,000** diabetes consultations and over **200,000** leishmaniasis consultations were provided in **32** Ministry of Health (MoH) facilities and Mobile Health Units across the country.
- Over **54,000** 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 in **12** governorates and through **33** first aid centres.
- Around **75** health care providers from the MoH’s Emergency Medical Services department attended the Basic Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies workshops (BAPE), held in Aleppo, Lattakia, and Hama as a post-earthquake response.
- Over **5,500** wounded and sick persons received treatment at the ICRC-SARC hospital in Al-Hol camp, north-east Syria.
- Nearly **2,000** people benefited from the ICRC’s physical rehabilitation programme in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, and Homs.
- Over **8,000** people received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, about **1000** front liners attended peer to peer support sessions, and over **60** SARC and MoH staff attended MHPSS trainings.
- Over **17** Hospitals benefitted from the ICRC donations mainly in the form of consumables, equipment, and maintenance. **11** Hospitals were supported to respond to the Earthquake (**nine** Hospitals under the MoH and **two** hospitals under the Ministry of Higher Education). **One** Hospital received Cholera contingency support.
- Around **57** doctors, nurses, and technicians at **five** hospitals were trained on the donated medical equipment. At Al Razi Hospital on the donated X-ray machine, at Ibn Annafees Hospital, Banias National Hospital, Lattakia National Hospital, and Daraa National Hospital on the donated operation theatre tables.
**DAILY ESSENTIALS AND RESTORING LIVELIHOODS**

- Over 52,000 households in six governorates received food.
- Over 25,000 households in seven governorates received essential household items, including winter clothes, blankets, mattresses, school kits, and hygiene materials.
- 3,160 people in seven governorates – including returnees, displaced families, women-headed households, and people with disabilities – benefited from grants to develop small businesses.
- Over 31,000 people in 11 governorates benefited from local livelihood initiatives, such as the distribution of sheep, poultry, fodder, means to produce hydroponic fodder, beekeeping, fertilizers, and agricultural tools.
- More than 118,300 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, of which over 17,000 during the Earthquake Response.
- Nearly 52,500 individuals received Risk Awareness Safer Behaviour material warning them about the risks of mines/explosive remnants of war, of which, more than 8,000 during the Earthquake Response. Additionally, 20 posters were placed in IDP centers during the Earthquake Response.
- Over 20,000 individuals were reached through various social media channels with advice on how to adopt safer behaviour in weapon-contaminated areas.
- More than 1,095,000 Risk Awareness Safer Behaviour SMS were sent to the affected at-risk population in Deir Ezzor, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, Idlib, Raqqa, Damascus, Hasakeh, and Quneitra, to warn about risks of mines/explosive remnants of war and encourage safer behaviour practices.
- Nearly 150 non-technical surveys were carried out in Homs, Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia, and Idlib governorates, of which six were in support of assistance projects during the Earthquake Response.
- Eight weapon-contamination casualties were referred to various physical rehabilitation centres for assistance, and around 200 were referred to receive in-kind assistance.

**REDDUCING THE IMPACT OF WEAPON CONTAMINATION**

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PROMOTING HUMAN DIGNITY AND RECONNECTING FAMILIES

- Over 65 oral greetings and Red Cross Messages were exchanged between separated families, and more than 645 cases were opened by families in Syria to trace persons unaccounted for.
- 30 visits to detention places were conducted by the ICRC, and detainees in nine central prisons benefited from ICRC donations of essential drugs, fortified date bars, mattresses, blankets, water, and medical equipment.
- Organized one workshop with the General Commission of Forensic Medicine in Aleppo with 45 Forensic Doctors in attendance to address Challenges and Lessons learnt from the Earthquake Response.
- Organized one workshop on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies for 20 SARC volunteers from Rural Damascus, Quneitra, Sweida and Daraa branches.
- Completed rehabilitation and opened Forensic Centers in Homs and Hasakeh, as well as the Forensic Human Identification Center in Damascus.
- Donated 2,000 body bags to the General Commission of Forensic Medicine, The Forensic Center in Aleppo, The National Hospital of Lattakia, and The National Hospital of Jableh as part of the earthquake response.
- Donated PPE and disinfection materials to SARC, the General Commission of Forensic Medicine, and The Forensic Center in Aleppo as part of the Earthquake Response.

PROMOTING AWARENESS ABOUT THE ICRC AND IHL

- Organized an Introduction to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) workshop for 25 officers from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), followed by an Advanced IHL workshop.
- Organized two Advanced IHL workshops for overall 50 officers from the Ministry of Interior (MoI).
- Organized an IHL Seminar for 89 students from Al-Sham Private University.
- Supported a Training of Trainers on IHL for 19 SARC participants and an Introduction to IHL workshop for 28 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, three officers from the Ministry of Defence, three officers from the Ministry of Information, one judge from the Ministry of Justice and one professor from the Ministry of Higher Education in courses at the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy.