



ICRC in Syria

Annual review

(January – December 2025)



Syria. January 2025, ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric visits to Damascus, Aleppo and Idlib.

Stephen Ryan/ICRC

“

As Syria moves through a period of transition, the ICRC remains committed to ensuring that its humanitarian action continues to deliver meaningful and lasting support to vulnerable and conflict-affected communities across the country

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– Stephan Sakalian
ICRC’s head of delegation for Syria

The year 2025 has marked a turning point for the people of Syria following the colossal contextual changes of December 2024. While political, security and conflict-related dynamics have continued to evolve rapidly, with different humanitarian implications across the different regions of the country, cautious optimism has started to emerge regarding prospects of improved humanitarian conditions, early recovery and reconstruction. Announcements of new investments in infrastructure, progressive lifting of international sanctions, and increasing numbers of families returning home after years of exile or displacements have contributed to this sense of hope. Yet, optimism remains tempered by the scale of humanitarian needs generated by over a decade of war, by persistent risks of renewed surges of armed conflicts and violence, and by a fragile and uncertain regional scenario.



Dramatic episodes of violence in the coastal areas in March, followed by surges of hostilities in southern Syria in July, as well as in north and northeast Syria at the turn of the year were stark reminders of the difficult way towards peace and reconciliation. These developments triggered – yet again – tragic humanitarian consequences for many communities, including death and injuries, destruction of civilian assets and critical infrastructure, or disruption of essential services.

Despite persistent efforts to address the chronic consequences of years of conflicts and encouraging early signs of recovery, humanitarian needs in Syria remain vast in scale, severity, and complexity. Around 16 million people, out of an estimated population of 23.4 million, continue to depend on humanitarian assistance. As of December 2025, Syria still hosted approximately 7.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and at least 6 million Syrians were still abroad, mainly in Türkiye, Lebanon, and Jordan. Returns remain difficult due to various factors, including unstable security conditions, devastated infrastructure and public services, and widespread weapon contamination across the country. Nevertheless, humanitarian access has significantly improved, allowing more communities in need to be reached, and more than three million refugees and IDPs to return home between December 2024 and December 2025, many of whom requiring support to rebuild their lives.

Important positive humanitarian developments have also occurred during the year. The establishment of the National Commission for the Missing Persons in Syria (NCMP) in May brought hope to tens of thousands of families across Syria seeking to determine the fate and whereabouts of their relatives gone missing during the conflict. The authorities' initiative to launch a National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) represented a meaningful step toward addressing the dangers posed by explosive remnants of war and securing the return of displaced communities to their places of origin. The increased access granted to the ICRC to places of detention across Syria was a promising development towards improving the treatment of detainees and their conditions of detention, in line with international standards of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Laws.

In this fast-evolving context, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with its long-standing partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), has continued to respond to the most urgent needs of affected communities, in particular in areas impacted by armed conflict and other situations of violence, while beefing up its longer-term interventions to support critical infrastructure and the provision of essential services by the national authorities.

Tens of thousands of families were assisted through ICRC and SARC's emergency responses following the escalation of violence in the coastal areas in March, as well as during the hostilities of July in Sweida, and later in north and northeast Syria. Critical needs of communities were also addressed in the newly occupied territories of southern Syria. Each time, the ICRC supported life-saving medical responses, assisted SARC in evacuating the wounded and deceased, searched for the detained and the missing, engaged with all parties to remind them of their obligations under IHL, and acted as neutral intermediary to restore critical services such as water and electricity.

At the same time, in order to bridge the gap between emergency response, early recovery, and ultimately reconstruction and development, the ICRC and SARC renewed their efforts to repair and maintain critical infrastructure, to support national authorities in delivering water, electricity and healthcare, and to reinforce people's and communities' self-sufficiency. Numerous interventions took place in coordination with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, the Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management and other institutions to support new national strategies to address the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable. Livelihood programmes were also expanded, with cash grants provided to small businesses in several governorates to enable families to restart income-generating activities and strengthen their resilience.

Because weapon contamination remains a grave and persistent threat, and due to the growing number of incidents reported in 2025, the ICRC continued to support SARC in raising risk awareness among communities living near contaminated areas. The SARC, trained and supported by the ICRC, conducted Non-Technical Surveys to identify and map hazardous areas, enabling more effective clearance planning. During the year, ICRC clearance teams surveyed more than 3 million square meters of land and safely disposed removed over 550 items of explosive ordnance for future disposal. Meanwhile, more than 4,000 people – mostly victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war – accessed physical rehabilitation services.

In 2025, the ICRC has also reinforced its commitment and investments to help families obtain answers about missing loved ones, in close cooperation with the National Commission for the Missing Persons in Syria. Further access to places of detention has been sought with all parties during the year, and in April, the ICRC started visits and humanitarian activities in places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior.

Finally, the ICRC has engaged constructively with Syrian authorities to promote knowledge and integration of International Humanitarian Law and to encourage respect for civilians, essential infrastructure, and humanitarian workers during military and law enforcement operations in line with international rules and standards.

As humanitarian funding becomes increasingly constrained, the ICRC will continue to review and adapt its strategies and priorities in Syria. In the current historical period of transition, while remaining agile and prepared to face any potential emergency, the ICRC is more determined than ever to support Syrians in their journey towards early recovery, peace and reconstruction.

STEPHAN SAKALIAN
ICRC's head of delegation for Syria.

Addressing the needs of the separated, missing, deceased and their families

Clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons remains a complex and long-term humanitarian challenge. The ICRC currently holds 32,000 active cases of missing people in Syria, though the real number is undoubtedly higher. In 2025, the ICRC facilitated contact between separated relatives, particularly in situations of detention and displacement. In parallel, nine equipped caravans were donated to juvenile centres in northeast Syria to enable video calls between children and their families in Al Hol and Al Roj camps.

The ICRC has developed regular contacts and cooperation with the National Commission for the Missing Persons (NCMP) in Syria since its establishment in May. It offered ICRC's expertise and supported the Commission through capacity-building and technical assistance in safeguarding gravesites and in preserving records, protecting personal data, and upholding forensic practices in line with international standards. In December, the ICRC facilitated a study visit for the NCMP and key ministries associated to the families of the missing to Cyprus to exchange with the humanitarian Cyprus Missing Persons Mechanism. Participants on the study visit observed the importance of having a holistic approach to identification, maintaining families at the centre of the response and supporting them through the identification process.

The ICRC continued to provide financial and technical support to SARC in its Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities related to migration and disasters, and supporting their emergency management of human remains activities with material, advisory and capacity building support.

The ICRC also engaged with the Syrian authorities, including forensic practitioners, sharing its expertise and support to ensure the dignified management and identification of the deceased. For almost a decade, the ICRC has been supporting the General Commission on Forensic Medicine (GCFM) and the Forensic Identification Centres (FIC) in Damascus and Aleppo, by providing technical support, training and capacity building activities. For the centres, specifically, the ICRC has been supporting the identification of remains of the missing which paves the way for providing families with answers and the opportunity to find closure in their search for their loved ones.

KEY FIGURES

- **More than 3,000** new missing cases registered.
- **More than 3,000** follow ups with families previously registered.
- **27** families of the missing referred for mental health or psychosocial support (MHPSS) assistance.
- **115** families participated in a Family Needs Assessment in Rural Damascus.
- **Five hands-on training sessions** in forensic anthropology conducted for the FICs.
- **Donation** of forensic examination and autopsy equipment and furniture to the FIC in Damascus (5 stainless steel examination tables, 3 autopsy cold chambers, 3 sets of lifting trolleys, 1 autopsy table).
- **Donation** of material for management of the deceased in emergencies, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (850 overalls, 4,800 masks, 14,000 gloves, and 85L of disinfectant gel, 950 body bags, and 700 body tags).
- **Support** for the proper management of remains in and maintenance of Al Hol and Al Roj camps cemeteries.
- **Support** to establish 10 burial sites in Al Roj camp.
- **Construction** of a Forensic Clinic in Hama.



Acting for people deprived of their freedom

As per its mandate, the ICRC has been visiting places of detention in Syria for over a decade. Since the early days of the armed conflict, the organization has pursued concerted and continuous efforts to gain access to all people deprived of their liberty in the country.

Since December 2024, the ICRC engaged with the Syrian authorities to offer its services to visit detainees. This engagement led to the first ICRC visit to a place of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior in April 2025, followed by additional ones later during the year. Meanwhile the ICRC also visited detainees under the responsibility of armed groups in northeast and southern Syria. The purpose of ICRC visits is purely humanitarian and aims at accompanying the detaining authorities to align the treatment of detainees and the conditions of detention to international standards and best practices.

In December 2024, the ICRC launched an emergency programme to support former detainees who had just been released from detention places. The programme aimed at supporting persons severely affected by years of detention, often with serious humanitarian needs. Close to 1,000 former detainees reached out to the ICRC for help in reconnecting with family members, addressing mental health and medical issues, and meeting other essential needs. Within seven months, ICRC's Health in Detention Programme has helped over 400 individuals access critical medical treatment. Furthermore, 262 former detainees received MHPSS support from psychologists working in polyclinics, mental health clinics, and physical rehabilitation centres. The registration of former detainees to the programme concluded in June 2025.

In northeast Syria, the ICRC provided assistance and family links services in Al Hol and Al Roj camps, conducted regular visits in Orkish and Houry juvenile centres, and carried out nutritional and medical activities in one place of detention, as well as capacity building for the prison health staff. It also continued its advocacy with various states for the repatriations of their citizens stranded in camps, juvenile centres and places of detention in northeast Syria.

KEY FIGURES

- **629** former detainees assisted with healthcare support (including MHPSS and physical rehabilitation) and/or cash assistance according to their needs.
- **37** detention visits and four tours of new detention facilities, during which **1,119** "safe and well" news was exchanged between detainees and their loved ones.
- **More than 500** hygiene kits provided for individual detainees, as well as cleaning material and jerrycans to store water.
- **1,000** blankets provided for detainees.
- **315** sets of winter clothes for men and children provided in place of detention.
- **158** foreigners requested the ICRC to inform their respective diplomatic representations of their presence in northeast Syria.





Damascus, August 2025

A mother holds a photo of her missing son.

Contributing to early recovery through support to essential services and critical infrastructure

Ensuring access to clean water and electricity

Reliable access to clean water and electricity in Syria remains a major concern after more than a decade of conflict, particularly for vulnerable communities. Maintaining essential water infrastructure requires sustained efforts. Over the past 14 years, the ICRC, together with the SARC and in coordination with water authorities and partners, has carried out numerous engineering interventions across water and power facilities to help prevent further deterioration of these critical systems.

To meet urgent needs, the ICRC and SARC have distributed water in Hassakeh city for six years, supporting nearly 150,000 people. Since the Alouk water station supplying water to Hassakeh stopped operating in October 2023 due to the conflict, distributions have continued uninterrupted, providing more than 300 million liters of water to communities, health centres, and a bakery. Solar power systems have also been rehabilitated or installed in health facilities to help maintain access to essential services.

Additionally, a joint ICRC/UNICEF mission to Alouk water pumping station was carried out in June as a follow up to the one carried out in September 2024, which resulted in updating the proposal for the rehabilitation of the station, its re-operation and its connection to the power grid infrastructure functional.

KEY FIGURES

- **14.2 million** people benefited from the ICRC water and habitat interventions across the country.
- **11.5 million** people benefited from safer drinking water through a disinfection programme across **12** governorates: Deir Ezzor, Hassakeh, Raqqa, Aleppo, Idlib, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Sweida.
- **12.5 million** people benefited from improved access to water through rehabilitation of **55** water stations and facilities.
- **150,000** people received water delivered by trucks in Hassakeh.
- **72,000** displaced people benefited from water services assistance in Hassakeh and Dara'a.
- **17** hospitals, and health centres were supported with rehabilitation of infrastructure and installation of solar systems.



Hassakeh, February 2025

Children collect water from an ICRC and SARC water tank.

Sustaining and restoring livelihoods

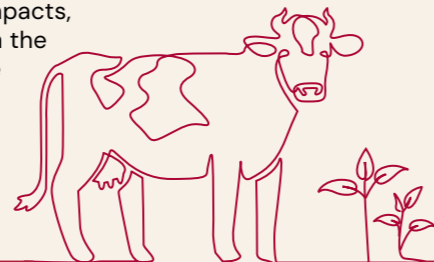
Protracted conflict, displacement, and climate stress continued to weaken livelihoods and limit market participation among vulnerable households across Syria. In response, the ICRC jointly with the SARC supported efforts to restore productive capacity, diversify income sources, and strengthen economic resilience among residents, internally displaced people, and returnees. Through Local Livelihood Initiatives (LLI), 13 livestock projects across seven governorates supported 2,364 agro-pastoral households with livestock, feed, fodder seeds, and cash for veterinary services. Agricultural support in Raqqa and Hassakeh benefited 329 households with seeds, tools, fertilizers, irrigation kits, and greenhouse packages, while additional cash assistance helped families cover agricultural services, veterinary care, and restart small trading activities.

Urban and peri-urban livelihoods were supported through Micro-Economic Initiatives (MEI), enabling hundreds of households across eight governorates to start or expand small businesses through grants and business training. A pilot Small and Medium Business programme in Rural Damascus and Aleppo provided larger grants to six high-potential businesses to expand operations and create jobs, while Cash for Resilience assistance helped thousands of households meet essential needs. At the institutional level, support to agricultural and livestock systems included installing a liquid nitrogen production unit at the national semen bank to sustain artificial insemination services benefiting hundreds of thousands of farming households, rehabilitating irrigation infrastructure in Aleppo serving around 250,000 people, and supporting a nationwide Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccination campaign, reaching thousands of households and vaccinating 17,900 sheep and 800,000 cattle, helping protect livestock and safeguard rural livelihoods.

Overall, the integrated livelihood response enabled households to restore productive assets, re-establish income streams, strengthen market engagement, and build economic resilience amid persistent conflict and climate-related shocks, achieving the intended outcome of sustainable livelihood recovery.

KEY FIGURES

- **250,000** people, primarily farmers in the Maskana-Anayzah area of Aleppo, benefited from the repair of equipment used to clean irrigation canals, which improved their access to agricultural services.
- **30,000** hectares of agricultural lands were re-irrigated following the removal of obstacles and earthen dams from the canal in Rasm al-Harmal, Abu Hanaya, and Tal Teten by the ICRC, in cooperation with SARC and the General Organization for Land Reclamation.
- **107,091** smallholder livestock breeders benefited from veterinary services aimed at safeguarding cattle from animal diseases.
- **4,540** people benefited from cash grants to restart and strengthen small income-generating activities, or to restore trading activities.
- **4,252** households received multipurpose cash assistance to meet their urgent needs across 8 governorates.
- **Over 120,000** farming households benefitted from the project of setting artificial insemination services nationwide.
- It supports the reproductive management of approximately **300,000** dairy cows each year, with services delivered at least three times annually.
- **1,650** people were supported through agro-based local livelihood initiatives, including the distribution of plastic tunnels, sprinkler irrigation systems, quality vegetable seeds, solar panels, and cash support for agricultural services to restore and generate their livelihoods and income. **2,364** households representing **over 11,820** people benefited from livestock-related livelihood inputs across seven governorates through livestock restocking, protection of existing livestock assets, mitigation of climate change impacts, and promotion of income-generating opportunities, with the overall aim of enhancing the sustainability and resilience of livestock-dependent livelihoods among affected populations. This was achieved by distributing pregnant sheep, cattle fodder, and barley seeds for cultivation.



Raqqa, August 2025

Ahmed standing in his farm supported by ICRC and SARC agriculture grant project at Al-Zouyeh village.



Supporting and restoring health care services

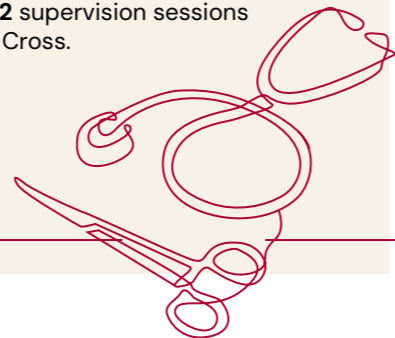
Syria's health system continues to face immense strain amid governance changes, protracted conflict, and recurring emergencies. Escalations of violence in coastal areas, Sweida, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, and the north-east have placed additional pressure on an already fragile system, leaving hospitals overstretched and many communities with limited access to care. In response, the ICRC, working closely with the SARC and the Ministry of Health (MoH), has focused on maintaining essential health services while ensuring readiness to respond to emergencies—combining life-saving assistance with sustained support to strengthen the health system over the long term.

Primary health care remained a cornerstone of this effort, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, through support to polyclinics and Mobile Health Units providing care for acute and chronic diseases, as well as maternal and child health services. Specialized programmes for diabetes and leishmaniasis continued through MoH centres supported by the ICRC, complemented by preventive measures, health education, and the distribution of mosquito nets. At the same time, emergency donations of medicines, medical consumables, and equipment maintenance helped hospitals cope with critical shortages, especially those near frontlines. MHPSS services were expanded through SARC and MoH facilities, focusing on capacity building and community outreach, while physical rehabilitation programmes enabled people with disabilities to regain mobility, independence, and greater social inclusion.

Enhanced dialogue with detention authorities has supported better access to healthcare for persons deprived of their liberty.

KEY FIGURES

- **225,329** consultations provided through **12** ICRC-supported Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities.
- **184,300** diabetic patients treated across **11** referral centers; **14,410** patients improved their clinical state.
- **8,900** pregnancy-related consultations conducted.
- **More than 60,000** leishmaniasis patients received treatment; **75,000** households received mosquito nets.
- **566,802** children reached with school-based health education.
- **Six** SARC Mobile Health Units provided **41,913** consultations for patients in hard-to-reach areas.
- **21** hospitals supported, including **15** on an emergency basis, and with regular support.
- **60** SARC ambulances supported, allowing the medical transfer of **90,000** beneficiaries.
- **89,765** wounded and acutely sick individuals assisted across 13 governorates; **1,775** war injuries treated and referred.
- **365** personnel from the Ministry of Health, SARC, and the Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management were trained through the following trainings: two Mass Casualty Management, six Technical Referral workshops and one Basic Emergency Care training.
- **514** admissions and **14,800** consultations at Al-Hol Hospital, including **2,000** MHPSS consultations.
- **194** released detainees supported with post-release health care.
- **30** participants from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) attended the first Healthcare in Detention seminar in Damascus.
- **4,100** people accessed physical rehabilitation services; **11,300** physiotherapy sessions delivered.
- **16,461** people benefited from MHPSS services throughout **4,828** sessions provided by **25** trained MHPSS practitioners. The ICRC MHPSS team provided **372** supervision sessions to psychologists, supported by SARC, MoH and the Swedish Red Cross.
- **30,000** vials of insulin were donated to the MoH for the treatment of insulin-dependent diabetic patients alongside the delivery of **75,000** insulin pens, specifically for centres serving about **6,000** registered children with diabetes.



Al-Hol camp, April 2025

Six-month-old baby, receives urgent medical care at ICRC and SARC hospital.



Reducing the impact of weapon contamination

After more than a decade of conflict, Syria remains one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world. Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) are scattered across urban centres, rural villages, and critical infrastructure, turning homes, roads, schools, and farmlands into dangerous zones. In 2025, the country witnessed a widespread abandonment and destruction of military vehicles, equipment, and facilities following the change of government in December 2024, as well as episodes of violence and armed conflict. These Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) not only continue to claim lives but also prevent communities from rebuilding and restrict humanitarian operations.

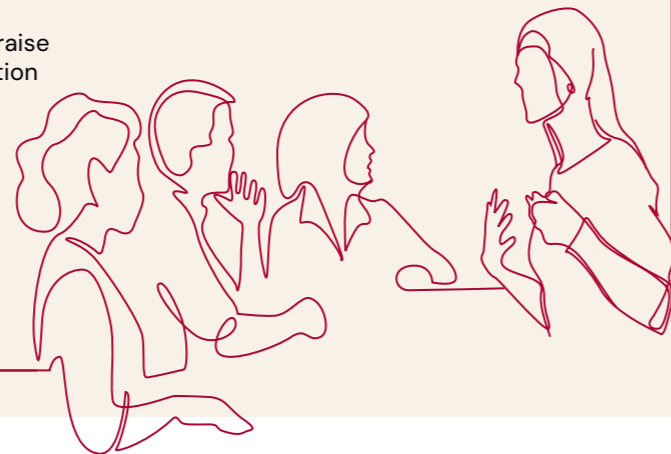
During the year 2025, Syria has witnessed a tragic rise in casualties from explosive ordnance. Between January and December, there were more than 730 reported accidents, resulting in more than 1,600 casualties. Between 2019 and December-2025, more than 7,500 civilians were reported killed or injured by landmines, UXO, and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Unfortunately, children are one of the groups most at risk from explosive ordnance contamination.

The ICRC works in partnership with the SARC, particularly on activities that promote risk awareness and safer behaviour in communities close to contaminated areas. To enable this lifesaving action, the ICRC has trained and supported SARC risk education teams. Our partnership with the SARC also extends to non-technical surveys in weapon-contaminated areas. More than 500 million square meters have been surveyed and mapped so far, through ICRC-supported SARC non-technical surveys, identifying more than 2,550 explosive ordnance, and more than 130 hazardous areas. Areas surveyed include Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Deir Ezzor, Hama, Homs, and Lattakia governorates.

To ensure the complementarity of ICRC-SARC response, in 2025, the ICRC clearance teams continued explosive ordnance disposal activities. Areas identified as hazardous by the SARC's non-technical surveys are referred to the ICRC clearance teams for further technical interventions. In 2025 alone, the ICRC clearance teams have surveyed more than 1,591,800 square meters of land and successfully removed 101 items of explosive ordnance.

KEY FIGURES

- **371,293** people across **14** governorates participated in the SARC-delivered risk education sessions.
- **130,103** risk awareness and safer behaviour materials were distributed.
- **4,905,064** SMS sent to at risk populations warning of dangers of mines/explosive ordnance.
- **11** casualties of weapon contamination accidents were referred to targeted assistance programmes.
- **Six** public information campaigns to raise awareness about weapon contamination were done, including murals.
- **1,591,853** m² of surface area was searched.
- **101** explosive ordnance items were moved to designated storage locations for planned future disposals.



Aleppo, September 2025

ICRC weapon contamination teams conduct clearance operations in Barlahin.

Responding to emergencies and addressing urgent needs

Protection and Prevention

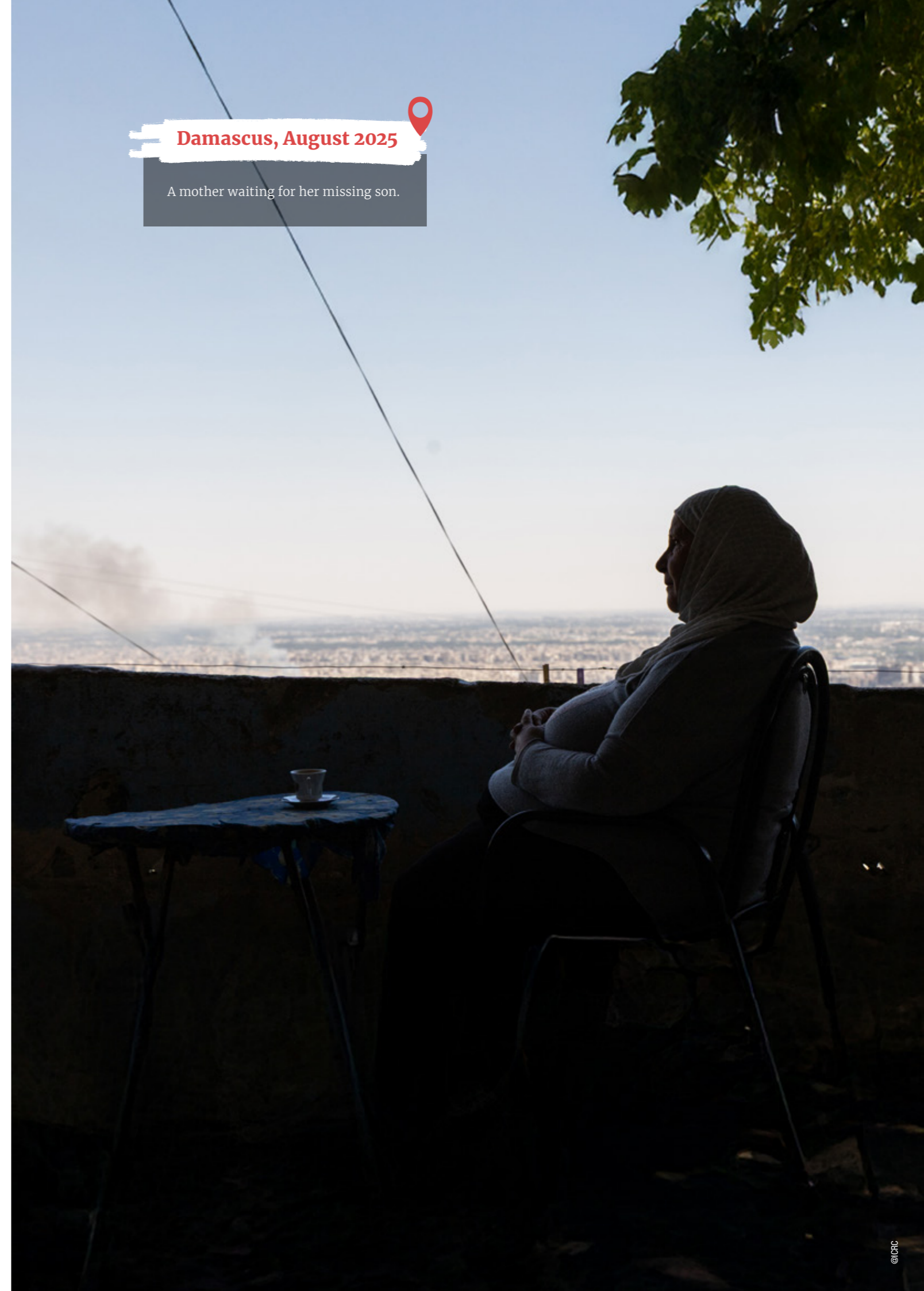
During several escalations of violence and armed conflict across Syria in 2025, the ICRC has consistently urged all actors on the ground to protect people, preserve human dignity and ensure that humanitarian aid workers can reach affected populations safely, consistently and without obstruction. The ICRC continues to stress that access to essential services, medical care and lifesaving assistance must be maintained at all times.

Many families have been forced to flee due to the violence, leading to separation and loss of contact with loved ones. The ICRC, through its Protection of Family Links (PFL) programme, has been speaking with affected families and registering cases of missing relatives. In these tragic circumstances, efforts continue to reconnect people and help restore hope by tracing those who have gone missing. At the same time, in line with its mandate, the ICRC has approached all sides to offer its services to visit persons deprived of freedom and to facilitate, as a neutral intermediary, their release following agreement by all parties.

The ICRC has provided body bags and essential materials to hospitals and relevant institutions to support their capacity in managing a high number of deceased individuals. In addition, 2,500 body bags, 2,500 body tags, 36,000 gloves, 2,000 masks, 900 gowns, 1,000 overalls and one autopsy electrical saw and kit have been donated to support responders involved in recovery and identification efforts. Volunteers have received technical support to ensure proper documentation during the recovery and management of dead bodies, which is vital for preventing further disappearances and enabling future identification and the return of remains to families.

Damascus, August 2025

A mother waiting for her missing son.



Addressing health needs in fragile and conflict affected areas

During 2025, several episodes of violence and conflicts and wildfires happened, demanding immediate and coordinated responses to meet emerging health needs. War-wounded (WW) kits, essential drugs, and surgical consumables were distributed within days of the emergencies, enabling hospitals to treat hundreds of wounded. Rehabilitation works in hospitals, including emergency repairs in Aleppo, restored surgical capacity and improved safety conditions for patients and staff. Prehospital emergency care and referral systems were strengthened through training and coordination with the SARC and the MoH, ensuring continuity of care.

Emergency preparedness and response have been central to the ICRC First Aid and Pre-Hospital Emergency Care (FAPHEC) programme, with a focus on addressing the needs of diverse populations, including within conflict-affected communities. In 2025, the ICRC supported SARC and the government agencies in responding to violence or conflict in the coastal region, Homs, Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Sweida and northeast Syria, as well as to natural disasters such as the wildfires during the summer. The ICRC provided 34 FAPHEC contingency kits to the SARC and the MoH, enabling emergency medical teams to deliver timely life-saving assistance. The SARC Emergency Medical Services (EMS) teams, supported by the ICRC, acted as primary responders during these crises, ensuring the provision of first aid, on-site medical care, and patient referrals to health facilities.

Collaboration with government entities was a key aspect of these efforts. The ICRC facilitated multi-agency coordination through two Mass Casualty Incident Management (MCIM) workshops and simulation drills, involving 161 participants from the SARC, the MoH, the Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management, and other national actors. These activities emphasized the importance of a unified national emergency response plan, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders. Despite financial and logistical challenges, the ICRC also conducted further emergency preparedness and response activities, including basic emergency care and patient referral sessions, targeting the MoH and the SARC personnel. These efforts enhanced the skills of 365 participants, including 98 women, and improved referral pathways, emergency care and coordination among emergency responders.

KEY FIGURES

Emergency response through the provision of lifesaving and life-sustaining medical supplies took place in many key hospitals, including:

- **29** weapon wounded kits have been delivered to nine hospitals in Lattakia, Tartous, Idlib, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida, Dara'a, Aleppo and Hassakeh.
- **Eight** primary health care kits and diagnostic equipment were donated to seven governorates to support the continuity of primary health care services in emergencies through mobile health units and primary healthcare centres of both the SARC and the Directorate of Health.
- **14** first aid and pre-hospital emergency care kits were handed over to five governorates to ensure the SARC and the Directorate of Health first aid responding capacity to emergencies and escalations of violence.
- **Eight** Helping the Helpers cycles were delivered by the MHPSS team to first responders in the coastal areas and Sweida, strengthening their coping and stress management capacity.



Sweida, August 2025

ICRC team delivers medical items and food to Shahba and Sweida national hospitals.

Ensuring access to clean water during emergencies

The continuity of essential services and preservation of critical infrastructure is at the heart of the ICRC's water and habitat response in Syria. The ICRC, together with the SARC, to ensure that services for patients in need of health care continued uninterrupted, carried out emergency rehabilitation of health infrastructure in Aleppo, following the events of December 2024.

Several emergency interventions were carried out by the ICRC with the SARC in March in response to the escalation of violence in the coastal areas to support power supply at health facilities, and water infrastructure to restore water supply for affected communities. The ICRC, together with the SARC, provided Water and Hygiene assistance at Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) centres in Hassakeh. Safe access was also facilitated by the ICRC, acting as neutral intermediary between all parties, for operators and for contractors to Tishreen Dam, Khafseh Water Station, and Babiri Water Station to ensure the maintenance and operational continuity of these essential infrastructures which provide electricity and water to millions of people.

In July, in response to the surge of hostilities in Sweida, several rehabilitation works were undertaken by the ICRC with the SARC at five IDPs centres in Dara'a, ensuring at the same time the provision of essential cleaning materials in these 5 centres and in another two IDPs centres in Sweida and in Shahba hospital. Additionally, the ICRC supported water trucking services by supplying water tanks, rehabilitated three boreholes in Sweida city, and provided a generator for the main boreholes for Sweida.

Forty IDPs centres in Qamishli and Hassakeh, which accommodated people fleeing violence in Aleppo and northeastern Aleppo, were rehabilitated in line with water, sanitation and hygiene standards.

KEY FIGURES

- **4.3 million** people benefited from the ICRC's emergency interventions in Aleppo, Hassakeh, Tartous, Lattakia, Sweida, Dara'a, and Rural Damascus.
- Five hospitals supported by emergency rehabilitation and installation of an electrical generator in Aleppo and Tartous.
- **11** water infrastructures supported with civil and electro-mechanical rehabilitation in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous, and Sweida.
- **Six** hospitals and two bakeries in Aleppo provided with emergency water trucking services.
- **46,700** displaced people benefited from renovations and upgrading of housing, water, and sanitation in Hassakeh, Sweida, Dara'a, and Rural Damascus.
- **Five** IDPs centres in Dara'a rehabilitated in line with the sanitation and waste management standards.
- **Three** key hospitals in Sweida, **five** IDPs centres in Dara'a, and one IPDs centre in Sweida received cleaning materials.
- **46** water tanks –each with its own stand to keep them elevated– provided and installed in Sweida.
- **20** water tanks installed in hotels and shelters in Sayida Zainab in Rural Damascus where IDPs were accommodated.
- **60,000** water bottles of **1.5** litres were distributed to several hospitals in Sweida, IDPs centres in Dara'a, Sweida, and Rural Damascus; and to people displaced due to the wildfires in the coastal areas.
- **40** IDPs centres rehabilitated in Qamishli and Hassakeh.
- **2,000** hygiene kits for critical facilities distributed in Aleppo.



Tartous, May 2025

ICRC and SARC teams install a new electrical line to provide stable electrical power to a water station (5th water station), a hospital and a bakery in Qadmous.



Ensuring access to food and non-food items during emergencies

In 2025, the ICRC jointly with SARC delivered timely and targeted emergency assistance, enabling vulnerable households affected by conflict, displacement, other situations of violence, and natural hazards to meet basic needs and cover unavoidable expenses during sudden shocks. Emergency programming prioritized rapid coverage, contextual appropriateness, and protection of dignity, combining in-kind assistance and cash modalities to address immediate food, hygiene, winter, and health-related needs.

Emergency interventions responded to several escalations of hostilities, violence and displacement across southern, coastal, central, and northeastern Syria. In Sweida, Dara'a, and Rural Damascus, households affected by renewed hostilities and temporary displacement received food parcels, canned food, hygiene kits, essential household items, and winter assistance. Displaced families from Sweida hosted in Al-Sahwa and Sayida Zainab were supported with food and Non-Food Items (NFIs), while affected villages received layered assistance tailored to evolving security and access conditions. In Lattakia and Tartous, households affected by violence received food and hygiene assistance, and ad hoc distributions supported families affected by wildfires.

Emergency support also addressed acute needs in camps and collective centres. In Hassakeh governorate, cholera kits, kitchen sets, and essential household items were distributed in Washokani, Newroz and Qamishli IDPs centres, as well as Serikani and Al-Ho camp, mitigating public health risks and supporting basic household functioning during periods of heightened vulnerability.

Targeted assistance to critical service facilities supported continuity of care during disruptions. Hospitals in Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Sweida received food parcels, canned food, and essential non-food items for patients and medical staff, reducing immediate hardship and contributing to continued service provision.

Cash-based emergency assistance was delivered to 1,260 households from Rural Damascus, Sweida, Hassakeh, Aleppo, Dara'a, Deir Ezzor, Hama, Homs, and Lattakia. This cash assistance was delivered through a referral mechanism targeting the most vulnerable persons (former detainees, persons suffering from chronic disease, victims of mine or UXO-related incidents and people with protection concerns). Additionally, 1,604 households affected by conflict in Sweida and Quneitra were assisted with cash as part of an emergency response. Cash assistance was complemented by in-kind support, addressing urgent and diverse needs.

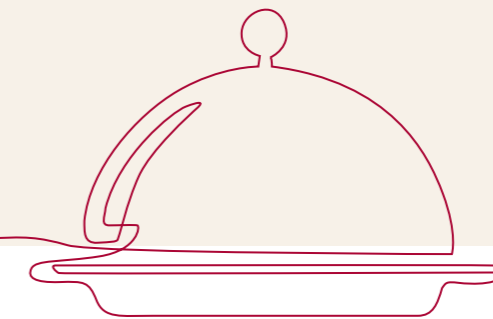
In northeastern Syria, relief activities centered on Al-Hol camp, where prolonged displacement and limited cooking capacity required continued food support. Hot meals were provided five times a week to nutritionally vulnerable individuals, including malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women, unaccompanied minors, elderly persons, and people with disabilities. This assistance helped maintain minimum caloric intake and reduced harmful coping practices.

In southern Syria, relief assistance addressed sustained needs in Quneitra, where movement restrictions and limited income opportunities constrained households' ability to meet basic needs independently. Multiple rounds of food and hygiene assistance reached IDPs and vulnerable households in Hamidieh, Qahtanieh, and Samdanieh, often representing the only available external support. Monitoring confirmed improved food consumption and hygiene, while community feedback guided adjustments and the gradual phase-out of in-kind relief as market access improved.

The ICRC further supported one health facility in Hassakeh for the treatment of malnutrition with specific nutritional items. Individuals were enrolled in the programme and treated against malnutrition. Through timely delivery, appropriate modality selection, and adaptation to access constraints, the ICRC emergency interventions enabled vulnerable households to cover essential needs and unavoidable expenses during sudden crises, stabilizing short-term food consumption, and reducing reliance on harmful coping strategies.

KEY FIGURES

- **More than 289,425** people assisted with food and non-food items.
- **453** individuals received support through enrolment in the nutrition program and were treated against malnutrition.
- **2,864** households received one-off cash assistance to meet their basic needs.
- **246** individuals received bulk food assistance and ad hoc assorted essential hygiene items as part of the ad hoc assistance to the hospitals.
- **34,000** cholera kits were provided to IDPs in Hassakeh, benefiting **21,336** households.
- **2,343** pregnant, lactating women and unaccompanied children supported with hot meals five times per week from the collective kitchen at Al-Hol camp.
- **2,050** households from Quneitra in movement-restricted areas were assisted through monthly food distribution to improve their food consumption.
- **2,000** hygiene kits for critical facilities distributed in Aleppo.



Idlib, June 2025

ICRC team distributes essential food items for returnees in eastern Idlib.



Promoting respect for international humanitarian law

With the objective of promoting knowledge of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), supporting its integration at the national level, and fostering a culture of compliance, the ICRC has had a constructive engagement with the Government of Syria throughout the year. In this context, the ICRC proposed a range of IHL activities with key ministries responsible for implementing IHL and incorporating its standards into national legislation and practice.

A series of meetings were held at both decision-making and technical levels with the Ministries of Defense (MoD), Interior (MoI), Justice (MoJ), Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHE), and Endowments (MoE) to discuss the needs and priorities as well as the executive programme for the activities proposed for each ministry, and agree on the implementation arrangements.

In May, the ICRC supported two Syrian officials from the MoFA and MoHE to attend the 54th Advanced Course on international humanitarian law at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy.

In June, the ICRC organized its first workshop in Syria on IHL and Islam with the Ministry of Endowment, highlighting common principles between IHL and Islamic law and presenting the ICRC's mandate and activities. In July, an introductory IHL workshop with the MoHE engaged students from the National Institute of Administration and the Faculty of Political Sciences through interactive discussions and case studies.

In September, the ICRC conducted a workshop with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour focusing on IHL principles and the protection of vulnerable groups, including children, women, and persons with disabilities. Two additional workshops were organized for diplomats from the MoFA, covering the fundamentals of IHL and national implementation mechanisms.

In October, an IHL workshop brought together senior judges and prosecutors from military and civilian courts to discuss the role of the judiciary in applying and enforcing IHL. Another workshop for MoI officers addressed international standards governing law enforcement operations, including relevant IHL and human rights law norms.

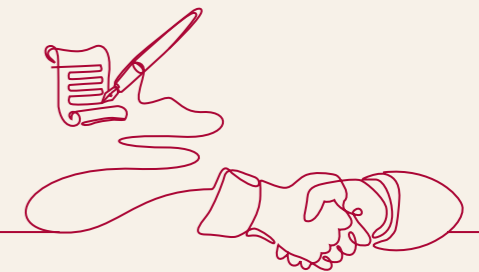
In November, senior officers from the MoD participated in international workshops on military operations and the military decision-making process, while a training in Aleppo gathered law enforcement officials from Idlib and Hama to discuss the use of force, civilian protection, and detention standards.

In December, the ICRC held a three-day IHL workshop for military officers in Damascus combining theoretical sessions with operational exercises. The year concluded with Syrian representatives from several ministries and the SARC participating in the Regional Arabic IHL Course in Luxor, Egypt, aimed at strengthening national capacity for IHL dissemination and implementation.

Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to support capacity-building for the SARC in IHL. Basic IHL courses were delivered for the SARC branches in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Deir Ezzor, Aleppo, Hama, Tartous, Quneitra, Lattakia, Raqqa, and Sweida. In addition, a basic IHL workshop was organized for headquarters staff, alongside an advanced training course to qualify IHL trainers. An IHL expert exchange workshop was also held, bringing together trainers from various branches to share achievements, discuss challenges, address frequently asked questions, and exchange experiences.

KEY FIGURES

- **23** officials from the MoE, MoFA, MoJ, MoD, and MoI participated in the first training workshop on IHL and Islam held in Damascus.
- **Two** officials from the MoFA and the MoHE benefited from an advanced IHL training course supported by the ICRC at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy.
- **39** students (**28** from the National Institute of Administration and **11** from the Faculty of Political Sciences at Damascus University) took part in an IHL workshop held at the National Institute of Administration.
- **54** diplomats from the MoFA participated in **two** IHL workshops at the Diplomatic Institute (**26** in the introductory workshop and **28** in the advanced workshop).
- **27** staff members from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour attended an introductory IHL workshop.
- **22** senior judges from the MoJ participated in an IHL workshop for the judiciary.
- **52** law enforcement officials took part in two workshops organized with the MoI (**30** in Damascus and **22** in Aleppo).
- **20** military officers from the MoD participated in the Law of Armed Conflict Workshop.
- **Two** Brigadier Generals attended the 18th Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (SWIRMO).
- **One** Brigadier General participated in the Military Decision-Making Process Workshop held in Jordan.
- **Four** representatives (**one** Brigadier General from the MoI, **one** senior judge, **one** representative from the MoHE, and **one** SARC member) participated in the Regional Arabic IHL Course held in Egypt.
- **414** SARC staff and volunteers and **28** employees at the headquarter took part in ICRC-supported basic IHL training activities held across 11 branches. While **18** participants from **nine** SARC branches completed an Advanced IHL course supported by the ICRC.
- **23** IHL trainers from **12** SARC branches took part in the SARC IHL expert exchange workshop.



At the same time, the ICRC, based on documented violations in armed conflicts and other situations of violence, continued its confidential bilateral dialogue with relevant parties to the conflict and other actors to ensure compliance with applicable laws protecting civilians and civilian infrastructures.

Accountability toward Affected People

During 2025, the Syria delegation made significant efforts to continue strengthening its accountability toward affected populations, adopting a multichannel approach that included face to face engagement, remote communication and coordination through the national society. Ensuring proximity to communities remained a core priority throughout the programme cycle — from assessment and design to post-distribution monitoring and evaluation.

Multiple surveys were conducted across different sectors, including output and outcome monitoring as well as beneficiary satisfaction surveys. These activities reached a broad segment of assisted population and played a crucial role in measuring the impact of ICRC interventions, capturing beneficiary perceptions, and informing evidence-based programmatic adaptation.

In parallel, the ICRC Delegation in Syria continued to expand and diversify its feedback mechanisms. Alongside existing channels such as front desk, social media platforms, and Protection Family Links (PFL) hotline, a community contact centre mailbox was launched in June. This channel provided an accessible, direct, confidential and transparent means for affected populations to share feedback with the ICRC. Between June and December, approximately 800 emails were received and addressed, reflecting growing trust and engagement from communities.



Aleppo, June 2025

ICRC team with a child at the ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Center.

Partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and Movement response

In line with the Collective Movement Response activated to address humanitarian needs in Syria, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement—comprising the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and Partner National Societies (PNSs) supporting Syria—remains united in its commitment to coordinated, complementary, and principled action. The SARC serves as the Movement’s backbone and primary counterpart of the ICRC, to address population needs, while operating under the Seven Fundamental Principles.

As Syria’s National Society, the SARC plays a central role in the country as it holds a unique and essential position serving in its auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. This distinctive status, rooted in international humanitarian law and national legislation, enables the SARC to deliver principled, neutral, and impartial humanitarian assistance while maintaining operational independence and the trust of all parties.

With a nationwide network of over 14,000 staff and volunteers across all 14 governorates, the SARC is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need, including in hard-to-reach areas, acting as a vital bridge between humanitarian actors and the population. Since 2011, the ICRC and SARC have maintained a close operational partnership, jointly delivering assistance across key sectors—including health, economic security, water and habitat, risk mitigation related to weapon contamination, Restoring Family Links, and emergency response—reaching millions affected by more than a decade of conflict and violence.

In 2025, the SARC achieved notable milestones, with the support and cooperation of the ICRC, including the re-opening of its branch in Idlib, which strengthened its presence and service delivery in this area, as well as the critical role played by the SARC in partnership with the ICRC in the emergency responses in the coastal areas, as well as southern and northern Syria, demonstrating its capacity to mobilize rapidly in times of crisis. Continued technical, material, logistical, and financial support to the SARC remains critical to sustaining its institutional resilience and operational capacity as an independent and effective humanitarian actor, enabling it to uphold its auxiliary role and maintain the confidence of both authorities and the communities it serves.

The SARC staff and volunteers operate in highly challenging environments, often facing significant risks. Ensuring the safety and security of SARC staff and volunteers remains a core objective of the ICRC, which continues to support the SARC in enhancing it and advocates with all parties to this end.

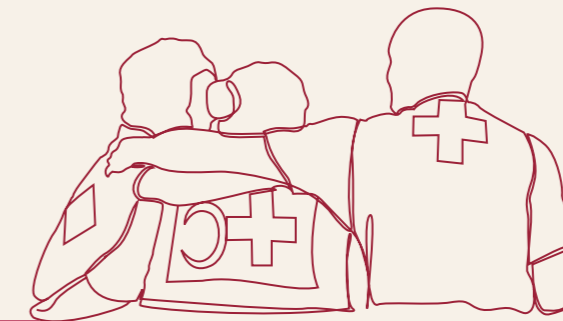
KEY FIGURES

Partnership

- In alignment with the three-year (2024–2026) Partnership Framework Agreement, **14** yearly Operational and Cooperation Agreements were signed with the SARC in 2025, strengthening the RCRC Movement cooperation in the fields of capacity building and operational response, economic security, water and habitat, weapon contamination, restoration of family links, management of the dead, communication, IHL and in health including Al Hol Hospital and emergency response services (ERS).
- Partners continue reinforcing and proactively address transparency, accountability and compliance governance, signing the yearly Financial and Administrative Rules and Procedures Agreement, and continue to adhere to the Partners Duties and Commitments documents signed in 2024.

Institutional and operational capacity strengthening

- **14** SARC Branches and Disaster Management Centres (DMCs) along with the headquarters were supported with financial contribution towards their staff and volunteers’ mobilization and running costs.
- **Seven** SARC Branches and DMCs were supported with solar power system, IT, electric appliances and office equipment, to reinforce their capacities in responding to people in need.
- **14** SARC Branches and DMCs along with the Headquarter (HQ) benefited from the provided telecommunication equipment and passive security support as part of the ICRC’s support to the SARC safety and security risk management systems.
- **The SARC branches and DMCs in respective areas along with the headquarters** were supported with financial contribution during emergencies (coastal and southern area response), towards their staff and volunteers’ mobilization, operational cost and enhancement of safety and security of the SARC members. This support aims at strengthening the SARC capacity to respond to emergencies, recognizing the importance of a well-functioning SARC disaster management system for immediate and efficient response to the needs of affected people, while maintaining the duty of care towards their staff and volunteers as first responders to emergencies.
- **14** SARC branches and the HQ benefited from financial support for training in different fields such as telecommunication, Community Engagement and Accountability, Data Management and Induction course. This support forms part of the regular engagement with the SARC to ensure the skills strengthening and knowledge sharing within the RCRC Movement.



Raqqa, June 2025

ICRC and SARC teams rehabilitate the city's main water station.




About the ICRC in Syria


Since 1863, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has worked to preserve human dignity and relieve suffering caused by war and armed violence.

In collaboration with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners around the world, we do everything we can to deliver life saving aid, reconnect families and locate missing people – helping those who need it most, regardless of who they are and what side of the front line they are on.

We engage with authorities and armed forces on all sides, often confidentially, pressing for access to detainees to improve their living conditions and urging compliance with international humanitarian law to protect non-combatants, including from digital threats.

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