

Fact sheet



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SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) & DRC (Danish Red Cross) in Syria

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1. SITUATION STATUS IN SYRIA:

- Since the conflict started in Syria in March 2011 the number of Syrian refugees who have left their country has surpassed 1.7 million.
- The fact that more than 1.7 million people are officially registered means the actual number is much higher.

- Approx. 8000 Syrians are fleeing from the country every day.
- 5 million Syrians are now internally displaced in their own country.
- This is double the amount since December 2012, where approx. 2 million were internally displaced.
- The increasingly widening gap between the needs and resources available is a growing challenge according to the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).
- According to refugees the increased fighting and changing of control in towns, particularly in conflict areas, has resulted in a growing number of civilians deciding to leave.
- 8.3 million Syrians, or 38 per cent of the Syrian population, require humanitarian assistance. This includes the more than 1.7 million Syrian refugees in the neighboring countries.
- Almost 80.000 people have been killed since the conflict started in March 2011.*

*The numbers of refugees, internally displaced people and people who are being killed due to the conflict are in constant change.

Sources: The UNCHR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), The UN (United Nations) and the UN News Centre

2. WHO IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB RED CRESCENT (SARC):

- Full name: Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar.
- Current position: President of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) since 1998 and member of IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) Governing Board.
- Academic Background: Honorary Doctorate in Economics from Prague University in 1986.

Source: SARC (The Syrian Arab Red Crescent)

3. WHAT IS SARC (THE SYRIAN ARAB RED CRESCENT):

- SARC (The Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society) is the largest national humanitarian organization in Syria and the sole organization with access to many parts of the country through its 14 branches and 80 sub-branches across Syria.
- SARC provides relief and health support to displaced people remaining in areas targeted by violence. This is in cooperation with approx. 70 to 80 local NGO's and with support from IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), WFP (World Food Programme), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and other UN (United Nations) partners and international NGO's.

Sources: IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), BRC (British Red Cross)

4. SARC'S WORK IN SYRIA:

- SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) continues to be the main provider of humanitarian assistance in Syria reaching an average of 2 million people (or about 400.000 families) on a monthly basis.
- At least 3000 volunteers are actively involved in the present SARC aid operations. One should keep in mind that SARC has lost and still is losing a number of volunteers who are either leaving the country as refugees or became internally displaced.

- 19 SARC volunteers have been killed carrying out humanitarian services. Tens of others have been injured, have come under attack or have been held detained.

Source: IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent)

5. THIS IS WHAT SARC SUPPORTED BY DANISH RED CROSS (DRC) DOES IN SYRIA (WITH DANIDA, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HUMANITARIAN OFFICE (ECHO) AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK)

*All numbers in the following are only from the last year (May 2012 - May 2013)

Psychosocial Support (PS):

- Presently we are operating with 2 PS (Psychosocial Support) community centers and 2 mobile PS teams providing Psychosocial Support to the displaced Syrian living in the shelters.
- Due to the current situation and high demands from the SARC branches (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) we are also supporting 4 SARC branches with emergency Psychosocial Support activities for the internally displaced people by providing these branches financial support and psychosocial kits.
- We also support other SARC branches around Syria that do psychosocial work for the affected people as a result of the recent conflict.
- We provide defusing sessions to SARC staff and volunteers to most SARC branches.
- In our Psychosocial Support Programme the total target is 30.000 individuals. This year we supported around 8.000 individuals with the PS activities. We have also supported 34.500 children by providing them with 11.500 individual play kits in different SARC branches.

Sources: IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), DRC (Danish Red Cross)

Health Support:

- Danish Red Cross (DRC) is supporting 8 of SARC's medical points (the numbers as of May 2013) established in hot spots area in order to provide medical assistance to those in immediate need.
- So far we have reached approx. 33.000 individuals through the 8 medical points providing first aid services (including the performance of medium advanced surgery) and primary treatments (e.g. births, pneumonia etc.).
- The medical points function as basic emergency clinics and ensure a SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) presence close to the affected population. When the case load of injured is not excessive, these points also deal with community emergencies e.g. children with infections, high fever etc. The medical points have proven to be an effective approach to delivering medical care to severely affected communities, and the medical points implemented so far has been widely accepted and welcomed by the communities they serve.
- Advanced first aid training, including first aid kits, is provided to SARC branches and also distributed among the local communities.

Sources: IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), DRC (Danish Red Cross)

Relief Support (Noon Food Items (NFI)):

- Danish Red Cross (DRC) with the support of ECHO (European Community Humanitarian Office) has been supporting SARC in its winterization project by providing blankets and mattresses for more than 90.000 affected people.
- DRC have educated more than 3500 Syrians in first aid and psychosocial work.

Sources: IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), DRC (Danish Red Cross)

Insulin donation by Danish NOVO Nordisk - in collaboration with Danish Red Cross (DRC):

- With the support of NOVO Nordisk we will cover insulin needs for 15 per cent (15.000) people of the total insulin dependent diabetics in Syria for 6 months (starting in February 2013).
- Prior to the conflict in Syria, all patients were screened by an endocrinologist and registered as recipients of free insulin.
- 45.000 veils have been distributed to distribution centers. 45.000 remains in cold storage and will be distributed according to needs.

Sources: IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), DRC (Danish Red Cross)

Ambulance donation from Danish Red Cross (DRC) in collaboration with the Danish newspaper Politiken:

- Danish Red Cross (DRC) and the Danish newspaper Politiken collection financed 2 ambulances, medicine and First Aid kits. The two ambulances are being used close to the frontlines in Syria for transporting the wounded to the nearest medical points.
- DRC have in total supported SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) with 15 ambulances. Besides the two ambulances from the Politiken collection the others are financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (3 ambulances) and ECHO (European Community Humanitarian Office) (10 ambulances) in collaboration with DRC.

Source: DRC (Danish Red Cross)

SARC also does humanitarian work with water and sanitation to the Syrian population.

The mentioned projects in this fact sheet are among the largest programmes that SARC runs in Syria, but they are engaged in many other areas of humanitarian work within the country.

All sources: DRC (Danish Red Cross), SARC (The Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society), IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), BRC (British Red Cross), ECHO (European Community Humanitarian Office), UN (United Nations), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).