

International Rescue Committee Syria: Strategy Action Plan



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IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of our global strategy, IRC2020 (shown at right), is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and power. To turn strategy into action, the IRC will make investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly and respond to clients' needs.



SYRIA OVERVIEW

The conflict in Syria has become the largest humanitarian crisis of the 21st century. Inside Syria, there are over 6 million internally displaced people and 13 million people in need of emergency assistance (OCHA).

The ongoing conflict and the rise of armed militant groups have destroyed the structure of Syrian society leaving a shattered economy, a lack of health services, unsafe schools, and widespread daily insecurity.

Women and children are particularly vulnerable to a range of protection issues including sexual violence, child labor, and physical and mental trauma.

In 2012, the IRC began providing humanitarian assistance inside Syria both directly, and through local partnerships. The program is managed and operated by closely coordinated teams in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, and Jordan.

The IRC strategy for inside Syria establishes where the IRC will work, who the IRC will serve, and how the IRC will impact people's lives.

As the conflict continues and the resources available for Syrians and their families dwindle, IRC's work is more critical than ever. Our new strategy illustrates IRC's commitment to improving the safety, health, and economic wellbeing of Syrian communities through 2020.

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

The IRC currently provides Syrians with emergency supplies, comprehensive healthcare, and cash for basic needs, while ensuring the safety and empowerment of women and children. Teams provide a wide range of emergency and long-term services to meet the complex needs of households that have often been displaced multiple times.

From 2016 to 2020, the IRC will prioritize improving outcomes in **safety, health, and economic wellbeing** for Syrians (see Figure 1). Our teams will target internally displaced Syrians and host communities, with a sustained focus on women and children.

As a global leader in safety, the IRC will expand its successful protection monitoring programs, increase protection-focused advocacy, and integrate safety into all program planning and delivery.

IRC's growing network of static and mobile health services, implemented with local health partners and providers, will continue to provide curative and preventative care focusing on trauma, reproductive health, immunizations, and non-communicable disease like hypertension.

The IRC's economic support will aim to ensure that people can access food, water, and shelter without falling into debt, or resorting to survival sex or other risky situations to meet basic needs.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in Syria	Future Programs
➤ SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm > Students are safe in their schools and receive support when they experience harm > Women and girls are safe where they live, learn and work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Comprehensive care for survivors of abuse through safe spaces, schools, and mobile teams > New protection teams to monitor access to civil documentation and other concerns, integrated with health and education services
➤ HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Children and adults are protected from and treated for malnutrition > People are protected from, treated for, and supported to recover from the consequences of violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Grow network of fixed and mobile clinics – up to 3 fold in some governorates – to expand primary care, immunization coverage, and chronic disease management > Address widespread PTSD through mental health training for providers and a new cadre of community health workers
➤ ECONOMIC WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People meet basic needs and avoid negative coping strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Cash-based programs that let households buy what they need, when they need it > New job training and apprenticeships so beneficiaries boost income and control over their lives
<p>The IRC Commitment to Gender Equality</p> <p>We strive for equal outcomes for women and girls, and men and boys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will incorporate gender-focused activities into all programing. 		

COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize our impact, the IRC is making **new investments** to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly, and better respond to clients' needs. We're making the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people we serve inside Syria.

Figure 2: Commitments to ensure impact



Effectiveness

- > Ensure evidence-based project design through routine and standardized needs assessments
- > Adapt programs to contexts and use specific indicators for narrowing the gender gap



Best Use of Resources

- > Develop a new and comprehensive human resources strategy
- > Ensure all staff receive gender sensitivity, M&E, and technical needs training



Speed & Timeliness

- > Train and enable staff to respond to emergencies within 72 hours
- > Develop emergency preparedness and contingency plans to enable rapid response to surges in violence and mass population movements



Scale & Reach

- > Increase Syria sub-office capacity to improve effectiveness and efficiency in program implementation
- > Develop a common partnership approach across Syria program locations



Responsiveness

- > Strengthen client feedback and complaint mechanisms and use to inform decision making

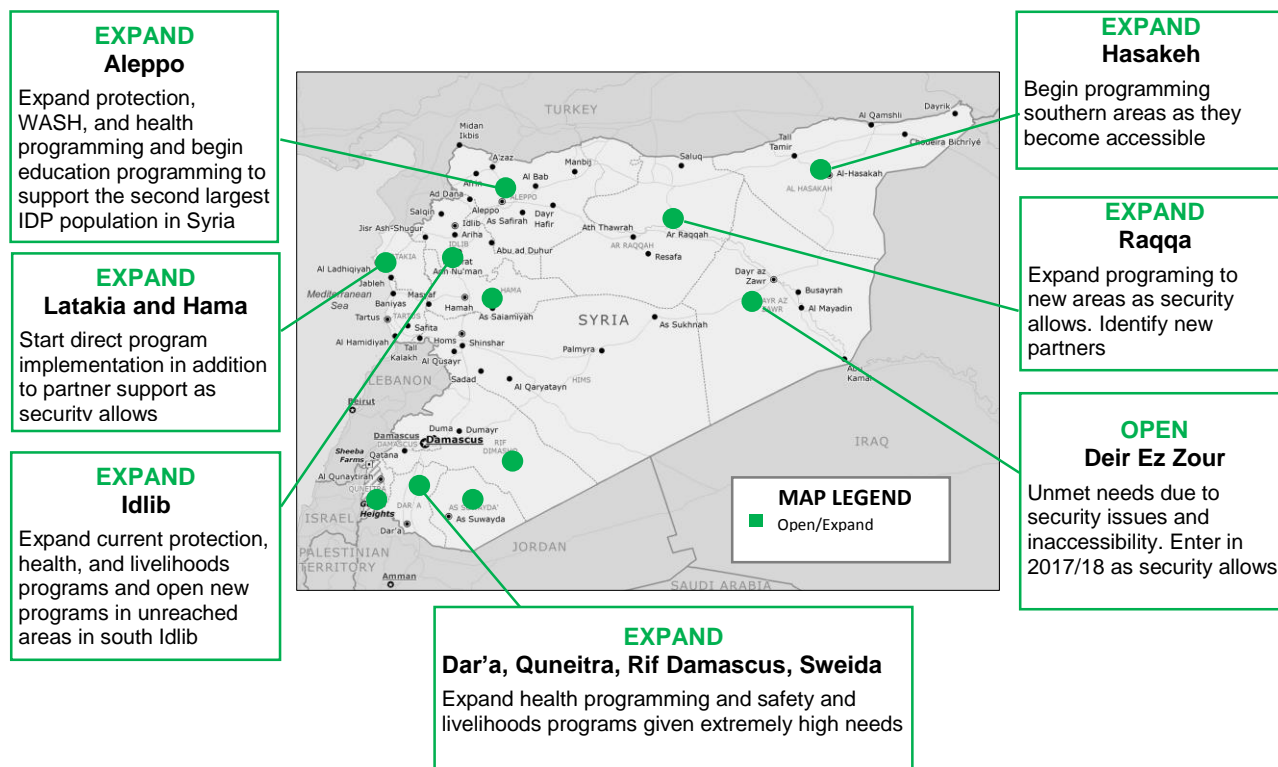
*Beyond the dangers of the armed groups, what makes life difficult for ordinary Syrians are the lack of jobs and the high prices for food. **The IRC was the first organization to try and respond to economic problems in my area.***

- IRC officer, Mzeireb Sub-District, Syria

IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

The IRC is committed to reaching the most vulnerable people throughout Syria. While insecurity, blockages, and a rapidly changing conflict make it difficult to access the most affected parts of the country, the IRC will **expand existing sites** and open new ones based on analyses of need, program effectiveness, and security.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographical Transitions inside Syria



North Syria: The IRC will significantly expand existing programs due to high levels of need. Geographic shifts may be necessary to respond to IDP movements and security constraints.

South Syria: We will expand our presence in Dar'a, Quneitra, and Rif Damascus. Depending on security, we will explore opportunities in Sweida and Homs.

Northeast Syria: The IRC will expand in North Hasakeh, explore opportunities to reach the most vulnerable in contested South Hasakeh, and prepare to enter Deir Ez Zour if security allows.





The IRC inside Syria



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