



SARD



ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020

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FOREWORD | A Message from Our Director

All started 10 years ago when a small group of youth eager to volunteer helping elderly people in the streets of Aleppo with in kind support from the local church. Challenges and several transition processes has passed through the years as we are today issuing our first annual report covering the activities that were implemented in the last two special years where SARD became a stand-alone organization as a result of a great localization successful transition. As much as we are excited and proud of our independency, but we can't forget or discredit the outstanding support provided to us by "Foundation Caritas Luxembourg" when the team was still considered as a grassroot initiative towards a structured humanitarian program-based organization that respond to the people needs under six diversified relief sectors.

I am so honoured to be presenting to you our report, realizing the achieved results where we managed to support more than 330 000 individuals in the past two years, which proves to us how it was worth to face all the challenges since our establishment. I strongly thank all the enormous efforts done by each member of our team, also, a special appreciation to all our partners and donors for their contribution not only in funds but in their trust in us, providing us with technical support which is considered an essential part of our growth and capacity development that directly reflects the better response towards the affected population whom we serve with passion.

Alaa Wafai





SYRIA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW | 2019 and 2020¹

Almost a decade into the conflict, the humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in the North-West region, remains extremely precarious.

2019

Violence in North-West Syria continued unabated, with recurrent clashes between the Government of Syria forces, its allies and non-state armed groups.

The situation in North-West Syria significantly deteriorated in 2019 with the scale, severity and complexity of needs remaining extensive and the humanitarian situation alarming. Civilians bore the brunt of hostilities, with thousands of people suffering from life-altering injuries and countless civilian deaths. Clashes also had a devastating toll on infrastructures such as health facilities, schools, water stations or markets as well as on food prices and fuel availability.

In April 2019, hostilities forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes in search of safety and access to basic services, creating continued and uninterrupted displacement waves throughout 2019. Most of these internally displaced persons (IDPs) were displaced multiple times further exacerbating their vulnerability and ability to cope to additional shocks. Communities in southern Idlib governorate reportedly emptied, with IDPs seeking refuge in northern Idlib, where resources were already over-stretched and camps overcrowded, compelling most of newly displaced households to settle in unfinished/damaged buildings or in open fields.

By end of 2019, **2.8 million people** in North-West Syria were in need of humanitarian assistance.

4 M POPULATION  **51%** CHILDREN  **25%** FEMALES  **2 M** IDPS

(Approx.) 400,000 people displaced between May-August 2019. 300,000 people displaced in December 2019. Sources: OCHA, NWS Snapshot, 20 Nov.2019. OCHA - Recent Developments in Northwest Syria, Situation Report No. 13 -As of 8 October2019. OCHA - Recent Developments in Northwest Syria, Situation Report No. 4 - As of 2 January 2020

¹Following SARD's funding cycle, 2019 refers to the period starting 1st May 2019 to 30th April 2020, and 2020 refers to the period starting 1st May 2020 to 30th April 2021.



2020

The dire humanitarian crisis from late 2019 persisted into early 2020 and was further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 started with ongoing large-scale population movements particularly towards urban areas in northern Aleppo such as A'zaz and Afrin. Between December 2019 and March 2020, almost one million people were displaced, about a third of Idlib's population.

While the 6th of March ceasefire agreement allowed for a slow-down of hostilities – and subsequently of displacements, humanitarian needs remained extensive and multi-sectoral both at the household and community levels throughout 2020.

The situation in North-West Syria was further upended by the COVID-19 pandemic, demanding swift adaptation of humanitarian response towards COVID-19 needs. The pandemic proved particularly challenging for humanitarian actors who faced access restrictions.

Over-crowded living conditions, lack of water, sanitation and hygiene supplies and facilities along with limited access to healthcare services further amplified contamination risks within populations across North-West Syria. Populations also faced accrued economic deterioration both due to the devaluation of the SYP against USD and the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on Livelihood, thus compelling the most vulnerable to resort to harmful coping mechanisms including child labour and the undertaking of hazardous and exploitative work.

Source: OCHA, Recent Developments in Northwest Syria, Situation Report No. 23- As of 21 December 2020

Almost **2,7 million people** were still displaced by the December 2020, and by end of 2020, there were **1,5 million displaced** people still living in IDPs sites in North-West Syria.

 **60%**
CHILDREN

 **20%**
FEMALES

 **19.447**
CASES

SARD | WHO WE ARE

Established in 2013, the Syrian Association for Relief and Development (SARD) is an independent and non-political humanitarian non-profit agency dedicated to impartially reduce human suffering. Headquartered in Turkey, with several field offices inside Syria, SARD aims at galvanising community-life through an integrated and multi-purpose approach supporting conflict-affected households in meeting their basic needs and strengthening their resilience.



With technical and managerial support from the Turkey team, SARD's 100+ field staff implement first-line emergency as well as resilience and early recovery support in the sectors of Food Security and Livelihood, Non-Food Items and Shelter, WASH, Protection and Early Recovery. SARD provides life-saving humanitarian assistance to populations affected by the Syrian conflict, supporting more than 130,000 people annually.

Striving to equitably address the needs and ensure acceptance, SARD is tightly coordinating its response with all the humanitarian stakeholders, including the relevant clusters, international and national partners as well as the local authorities. SARD approach is designed to foster social cohesion among IDPs and host communities, to working close collaboration to develop and implement the project activities, fostering local ownership and ensuring sustainability of the achievements of the project upon its completion.

Safety, dignity and do no harm principle are priorities in SARD's actions and in the selection of beneficiaries, under a human rights-based approach: households where children face child protection risks and concerns (for instance, but not limited to, child marriage child labour, violence and abuse) and cases of severe economic vulnerability will be purposefully targeted. Moreover, inclusion of people with disabilities has been strongly promoted through all our projects, improving their quality of life and providing them with adapted works opportunities according to their physical and mental situation.

Awareness raising and sensitizations on child rights, gender norms and stereotypes, and in general human rights, are organised as a much-needed preliminary starting point for implementation phase.

Participation of the different population and age groups in the design and implementation of activities has always been at the core of SARD's way of action, as beneficiaries are not seen as mere recipients of humanitarian aid, but as children, women and men with potential and resilience skills to be fostered.

With its Protection mainstreaming programming policy, SARD is committed to ensure that through the entire action the humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner. All staff working is required to abide by and sign the Humanitarian Code of Conduct for the Syria Cross-Border Response and the Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEA).



2012

A group of young Syrian volunteers (now SARD) goes door-to-door distributing relief to support the most vulnerable families affected by the conflict.

SARD enters into a partnership with Foundation Caritas Luxembourg (FCL), receiving UN-ERF funding for emergency assistance to IDPs on the Syrian-Turkish border.

2013

SARD provides life-saving assistance to IDPs by developing 2 modules for emergency shelter response in close coordination with the Shelter & NFI clusters, and funding through ECHO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Luxembourg

2014

SARD pilots its first collective shelter upgrades with the main objective of addressing substandard situations for collective shelters.

2015

SARD pilots a project to support returnees in collaboration with Caritas Canada. This project was designed to support the safe return of IDPs to their homes and house rehabilitation.

2016

SARD is included in the ECHO response and begins intervening in 15 communities in North-West Syria with house rehabilitation and infrastructure support on a community level.

SARD registers in Turkey and starts implementing a remote management mechanism to facilitate the work inside Syria.

SARD expands its pilot project to support host communities (returnees south of Idlib) with house rehabilitation in collaboration with CAFOD.

2017

2018

SARD expands its humanitarian assistance to reach the most the vulnerable families in addition to newly arrived IDPs.

SARD registers in Europe.

SARD pilots a livelihood project aimed at restoring income-generating activities negatively affected by the conflict.

2019

SARD was awarded a contract to design and implement Shelter Repairs and Shelter Rehabilitation training based on the cluster guidelines.

SARD provides water, sanitation and hygiene assistance to populations and health facilities in North-West Syria amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020

SARD implement project in direct partnership with other partner and donors: a successful localisation example, thanks to FCL foundations

Our Principle

Guiding our action

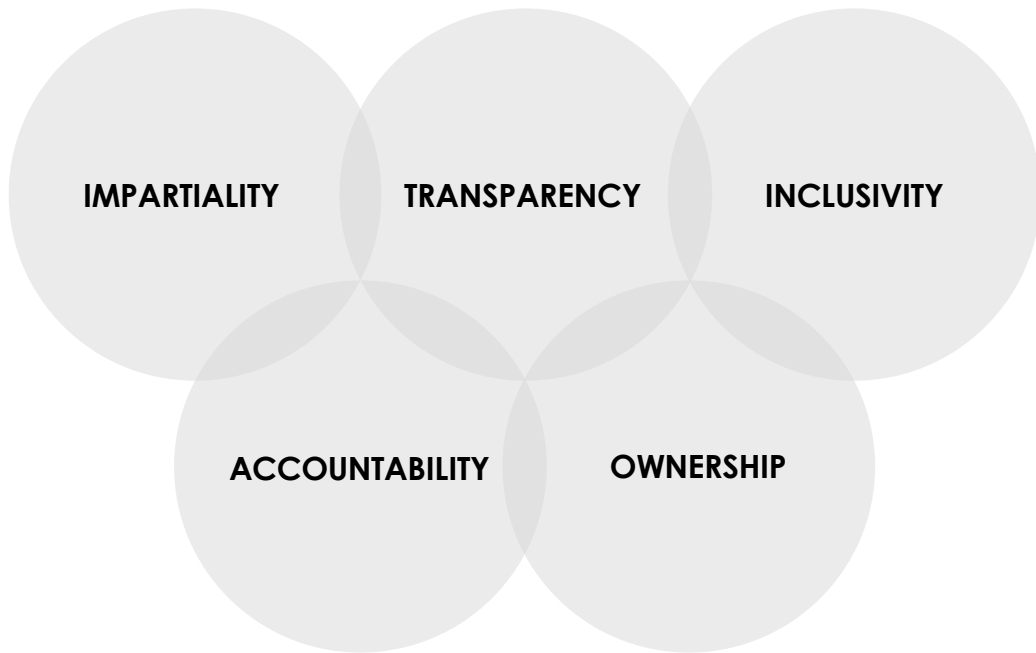
Non-political and non-sectarian, SARD provides assistance on the basis of need, regardless of race, faith, age or gender. Our approach is collaborative, respectful, community-centred and people-focused.

SARD is dedicated to improving the lives of the most vulnerable communities in conflict zones. It has been our experience that investing in communities and giving them the means to recover by themselves is at the core of recovery action. It gives them ownership and restores their dignity to decide and recover collectively.



Our Values

Inspiring our
action



OUR VISION

We aspire to impartially reduce the suffering and improve the lives of internally displaced persons and vulnerable communities

OUR MISSION

We rehabilitate the most vulnerable communities in Syria by providing emergency relief, shelter assistance and livelihood support.

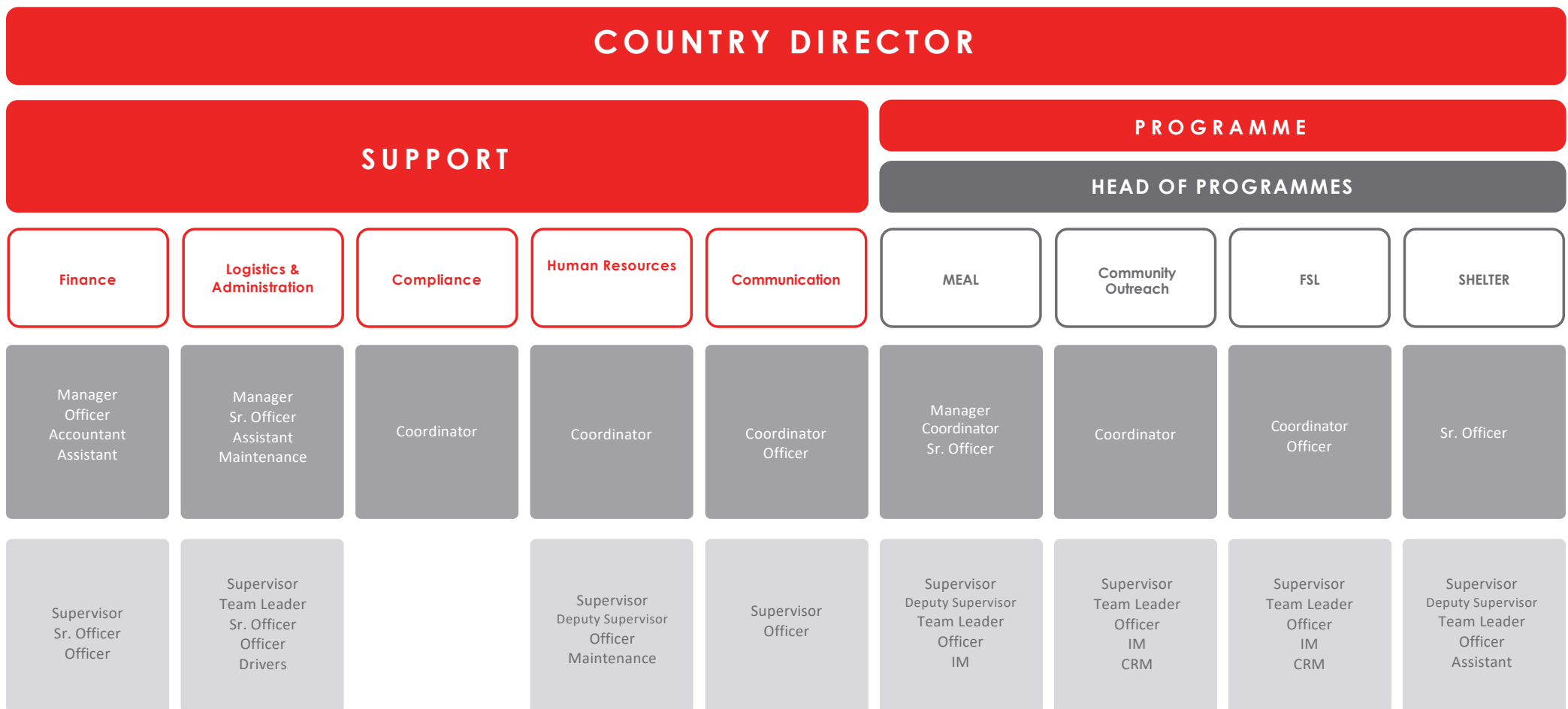


OUR TEAM | Organogram

Our work to support conflict-affected populations would not be possible without the commitment of our dedicated teams in Syria and Turkey.

Despite themselves facing displacement, health, safety and security challenges and overall difficult work conditions in a region ravaged by the war, our Syria team relentlessly continued to provide life-saving assistance to their peers.

Without the unwavering dedication of our field staff to humanitarian work, we would not be able to provide life-saving and life-sustaining assistance. Their commitment to service their peers is the very core of what makes SARD unique and successful.



OUR RESPONSE

A Community-Centred Approach

Aimed at strengthening conflict-affected populations' resilience and at meeting their basic needs, SARD's integrated and multi-sectoral approach revolves around three main objectives:

- Preparedness & Life-saving assistance (emergency support).
- Life-sustaining assistance and income generation.
- Increased resilience and early recovery.

Through protection, food, non-food items, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, livelihood and recovery assistance, this approach intends to meet the first line emergency and life-sustaining needs of newly displaced populations while supporting the most vulnerable populations exiting humanitarian aid dependency and facilitating the recovery of the local community life and economy.

Community inclusion is central to our approach with community representatives and populations actively consulted throughout programme design and implementation stages to ensure community ownership of our activities and sustainability of impact.

With its Protection mainstreaming programming policy, SARD is committed to ensure that through the entire action the humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner, with a dedicated indicator in all output, to measure its implementation.

SARD is committed to further strengthen the Child Safeguarding system and protocol in place, including for local partners, contractors, and any other stakeholders participating in the project.

Gender is mainstreamed throughout the program, SARD ensures that working with households means having access to a space where power dynamics are clearly in favour of men, and it will be important to enhance women and girls' agency, applying a gender-based approach.



Accountability

Emergency Response

Newly displaced women, men, girls and boys have improved access to life-saving assistance through an effective and efficient preparedness response mechanism

Social Cohesion

Life-sustaining and income generation

Critical needs of the most vulnerable households are met and their resilience strengthened through life-sustaining multi-purpose assistance and enhanced income-generation capacity

Protection

Shelter and community rehabilitation

Access to services and facilities is improved and local economy revived.

SARD | Overall Objective

To galvanise community-life through an integrated and multi-purpose approach supporting conflict-affected households in meeting their basic needs and strengthening their resilience in North-West Syria

Offering Tailored Assistance

SARD actively consults and mobilises communities prior, during and post-activities. Local authorities, local relief associations, community representatives as well as populations themselves are consulted on their needs. Through its dedicated Community Outreach team, SARD regularly conducts multi-sectoral needs assessments aimed at determining populations' priority needs and gaps in terms of humanitarian assistance. Community members are invited to mobilisation sessions intended to raise awareness on our activities while ensuring the inclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalised people. Communities' feedback is also actively sought during activities, both through SARD's complaints and response mechanism as well as through our post-implementation monitoring assessments.

This participatory approach not only allows for community acceptance of our projects and longer-term impact but also enables SARD to offer tailored support whereby assistance is provided based on each household's specific needs and characteristics. As such, a household may benefit from food, NFI, shelter and/or livelihood support based on their priority needs. Similarly, some households such as those headed by a woman, an elder or a person with specific needs may be offered bespoke support during distribution such as transportation to the local market to redeem their voucher or door-to-door distribution.

Our Expertise

Food Security and Livelihoods

Non-Food Items and Shelter

Our Modalities

In-kind

Vouchers

Cash



Food



Non-Food Items



Shelter



Water & Sanitation



Livelihood

Strengthening Resilience and Reviving Community-Central Livelihood

With its shelter and settlement approach, through its shelter and rehabilitation of community infrastructures programming, SARD aims at bettering access to essential services and facilities while improving living conditions both at the household and community levels. Community infrastructures and facilities in need of rehabilitation are selected by local communities with the support of engineers from SARD's Shelter and Settlement team. Examples include the rehabilitation of water and sewage networks and upgrade of child-friendly spaces.

Communities are also actively involved in SARD's livelihood component where local authorities and community members are sought in the identification of households requiring financial support to restore their income-generating activities. In this regard, SARD facilitates community discussions intended to assess community priorities and to select Livelihood considered as being of public utility with the ultimate objective of rejuvenating local economies.



Developing Long-Lasting Partnerships

Since its inception, SARD has developed a number of partnerships with local and international organisations, including – among others, Foundation Caritas Luxembourg and other members of the Caritas network, Welthungerhilfe, Mercy Corps, OCHA and IOM.

Since 2013, Foundation Caritas Luxembourg (FCL) has played a major role in strengthening SARD's capacity through the provision of development of core organisational strategy and technical support in terms of programme quality, programme management, compliance and finance, and donor relationship particularly at EU level. For seven years, SARD has been FCL's sole implementing partner for its main humanitarian projects in North-West Syria. On the strength of this successful and innovative experience, as a great localisation success, SARD is, since 2020, implementing projects directly with other partners and donors.

More recently, SARD has collaborated with international NGOs including three projects with OCHA (\$1.9M) implementing food security and camp development, one project with Welthungerhilfe (\$.6M) implementing shelter, food security and livelihood projects as well as two projects with Mercy Corps (\$.9M) for the implementation of shelter, COVID-19 related and social cohesion interventions.



Recognised Shelter Expertise

In 2019, SARD (together with MindEarth, a Swiss organisation) was awarded a contract by IOM to design and implement a 3-day site-planning training based on the Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI) cluster guidelines on house repairs and house rehabilitation. Funded by UN-OCHA, the training was done on behalf of the SNFI cluster and targeted cluster members operating in North-West Syria. Over the course of the training, SARD trained all shelter cluster members on shelter rehabilitation through restricted cash grants.

In 2020, SARD was selected to be part of the Shelter and NFI Strategic Advisory Group (SAG). Selected members typically offer technical and advisory support contributing to enhancing the humanitarian response for the affected populations in North-West Syria.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

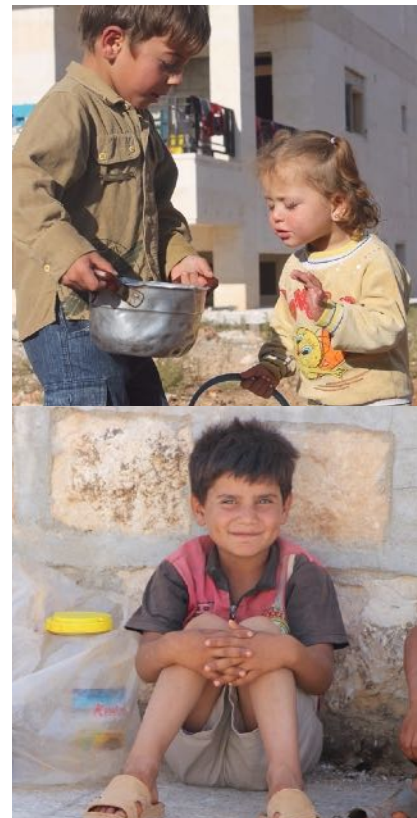
Reflecting on Our Growth

Expanding Geographically and Sectorally

2019 and 2020 saw the expansion of SARD into new geographical and sectoral areas. Following the 2019 displacement waves towards northern Aleppo governorate, SARD's senior management decided to expand operations to A'zaz district. In 2020, we further expanded our operating areas to Jarablus through a local partnership to implement cash and voucher activities.

Sectoral-wise, in 2020, SARD broadened its shelter expertise to camp coordination and camp management, leading the establishment of a new IDP camp hosting 128 displaced households and supporting the flood response in camp flood-prone area with road repair, gravelling, waste water management and channelling, in addition to shelter emergency assistance.

In 2020, as part of the covid-19 response via WASH expertise, SARD also ventured into the health sector, supporting health facilities with emergency sanitation facilities and the provision of personal protection equipment (PPE) to health staff. Utilising the skills of IGA supported businesses, we also provided 20,000 locally made face masks to vulnerable populations.



Improving Our Accountability System

In the last two years, SARD enhanced its accountability system towards affected populations. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) section split into two separate teams: The Community Outreach (CO) and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) departments.

The Community Outreach department focuses on pre-intervention activities such as needs assessments, identification of communities with the highest needs and households' selection and registration. In order to streamline communication, the team is also in charge of community mobilisation sessions and is SARD's liaison focal point for local authorities.

In 2019, SARD initiated a comprehensive assessment aimed at identifying the best communication channels for populations to raise any concerns. Based on the assessment findings, SARD updated its complaint response mechanism and set-up a separate team. The Complaint Response Mechanism (CRM) team now sits under the Community Outreach department. This independent team is responsible for raising awareness on SARD's complaint response mechanism and collecting and responding to feedback and concerns from community members.

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) department focuses on monitoring activities during and post-intervention, collecting feedback from our beneficiaries and assessing the impact of our projects. In 2019 and 2020, the MEL department further strengthened its system, revising data collection tools, improving donor reporting and internal learning to continue improving the quality of our programmes.



Continuously Building Our Capacities

Over the last two years, SARD developed its Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Child Safeguarding policy and trained both its field and headquarter teams on PSEA, gender-based violence, child protection, referral systems and protection mainstreaming. SARD's Human Resources department also trained staff on our internal policies and Code of Conduct and set up an internal PSEA reporting mechanism.

Adjustment of our logistics and procurement processes improved workflow, shortened lead time and overall resulted in a more efficient implementation. Examples include a shift from individual contracts to framework agreements, new vetting systems for vendors under the voucher component, and management shift of warehouse supervision from programme to logistics teams.

With additional projects and new operating areas, SARD teams also expanded with several new positions created across the organisation. The programme team also partook in technical trainings from the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) to develop their knowledge on cash and voucher programming. Finally, field teams have been encouraged to use English as the official email communication language, in order to further develop their language skills.

Adapting Our Modalities to Communities' Preference...

SARD piloted an e-voucher modality in 2018 and initiated its first multi-purpose cash programming in 2019. In addition to often being the preferred modalities by populations themselves, cash and vouchers assistance give beneficiaries the dignity of choice and flexibility to buy essential items according to their self-identified needs and priorities.

The e-voucher modality in particular, has been a successful tool, allowing our beneficiaries to redeem food, non-food and hygiene items via a debit card recharged on a monthly basis. Beneficiaries have access to an online system enabling them to check the balance of their account, giving them full control over when and how much (or little) money they redeem during the month.

... and to Immediate Needs

2019 and 2020 proved challenging on many levels for humanitarian actors. Despite these difficulties, SARD repeatedly demonstrated its ability to adapt to the ever-changing and volatile situation whether due to security (and access) constraints or to the sanitary crisis. Examples include adapting its emergency food activities from cooked meals to ready-to-eat rations as per COVID-19 preventative measures, adjusting its hygiene kits to incorporate additional soap and hand sanitizers or positioning itself for emergency support in the late 2020 flood response .



IN FOCUS - STORIES FROM THE FIELD

General information:

This project aims at supporting Internal Displaced Persons affected by the war in Syria to address their emergency needs, priority being Food and Non-Food Items, whenever possible provided through Cash and Voucher Assistance.

The story

Amira, 52 years old, is a widow with 9 children under her care, including one for the child leaving with heavy disabilities. Originally from Hama, her family was displaced several times due to the conflict, and she was recently sheltered in Al Quayba camp, Azaz community, after being evacuated from a camp that was under attack the previous month.



The emergency assistance they rely on was just enough for food, but the heating was very bad and there was no good bedding until the SARD organization came and provided vouchers for which we bought mattresses, heating fuel, and clothes for the children.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS²

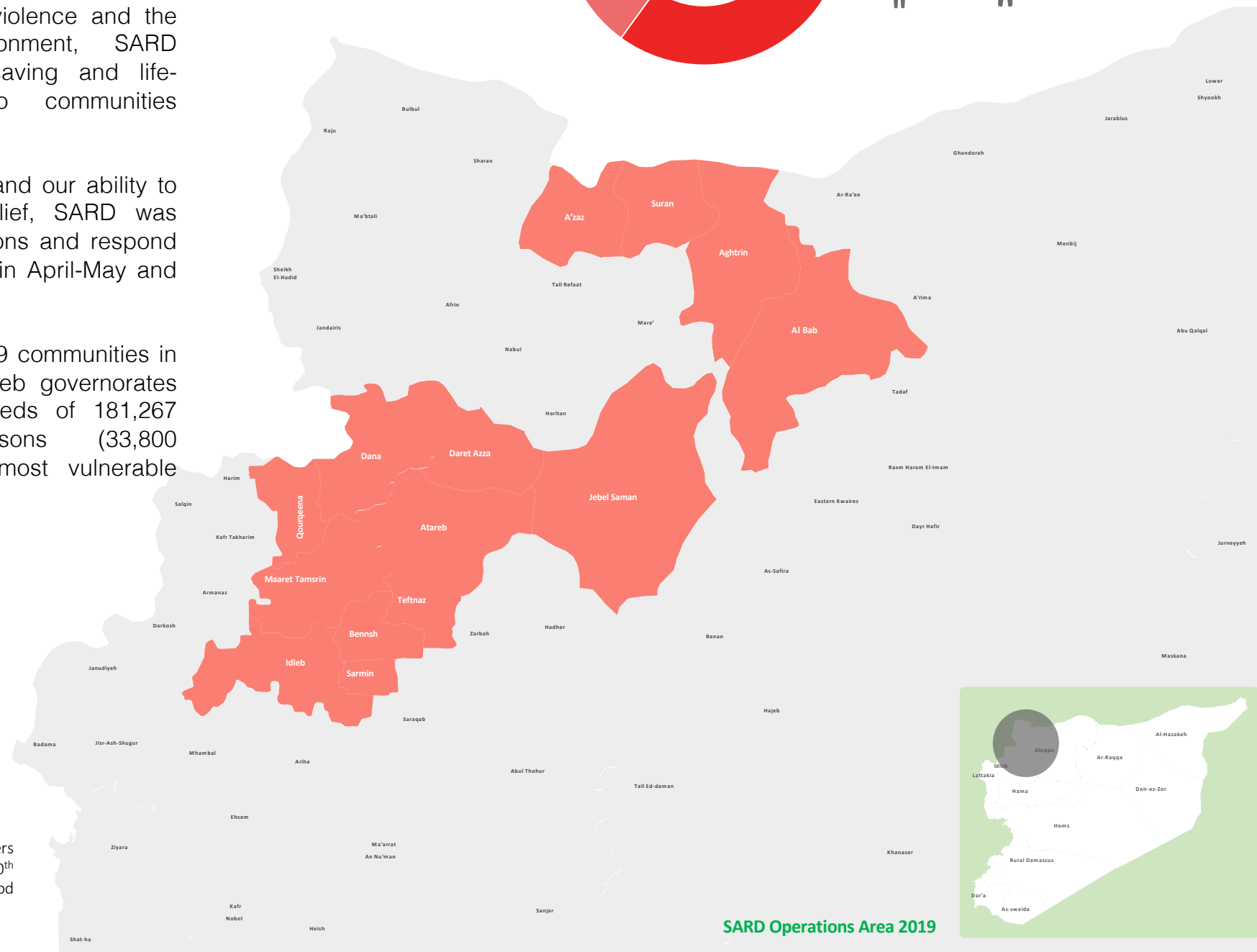
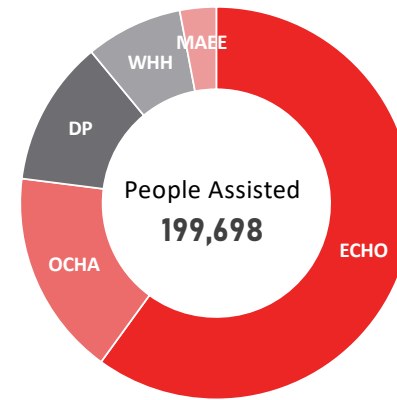
People Served

2019

Despite the escalation of violence and the difficult operating environment, SARD continued to deliver life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to communities affected by the conflict.

Thanks to donors' support and our ability to pre-position emergency relief, SARD was able to scale-up its operations and respond to the displacement waves in April-May and December.

In 2019, SARD supported 89 communities in 70 sites in Aleppo and Idleb governorates and responded to the needs of 181,267 newly displaced persons (33,800 households) and 18,431 most vulnerable people (3,687 households)



²Following SARD's funding cycle, 2019 refers to the period starting 1st May 2019 to 30th April 2020, and 2020 refers to the period starting 1st May 2020 to 30th April 2021.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

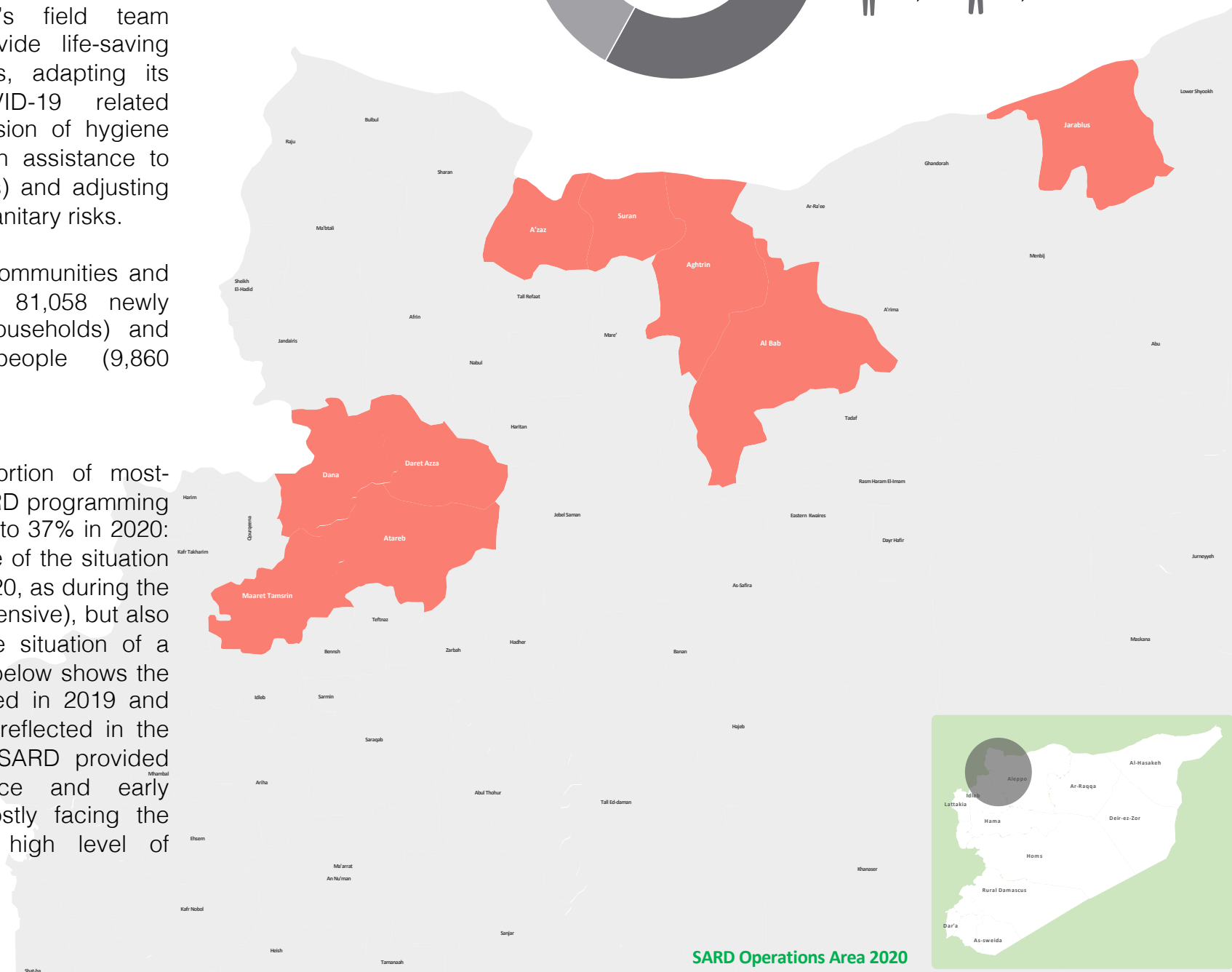
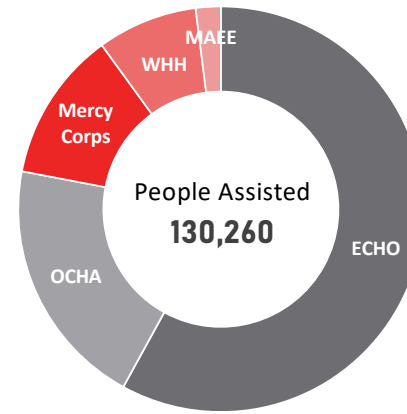
People Served

2020

Despite hurdles due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, SARD's field team relentlessly continued to provide life-saving assistance to those in needs, adapting its response to include COVID-19 related assistance (such as the provision of hygiene items and water and sanitation assistance to households and health facilities) and adjusting assistance modality to reduce sanitary risks.

In 2020, SARD supported 33 communities and responded to the needs of 81,058 newly displaced persons (15,621 households) and 49,202 most vulnerable people (9,860 households).

It is too note that the proportion of most-vulnerable assisted through SARD programming has increase from 10% in 2019 to 37% in 2020: this is due to mainly the change of the situation (with less displacement over 2020, as during the COVID crisis there were less offensive), but also due to the deterioration of the situation of a protracted crisis. The diagram below shows the level of funding SARD managed in 2019 and 2020. That is also very much reflected in the funding analysis, as in 2020 SARD provided more life-sustaining assistance and early recovery, while 2019 was mostly facing the emergency situation with a high level of displacement.



Preparedness & Life-Saving Assistance

Thanks to its preparedness and stock-piling contingency plans, SARD was able to offer an integrated and complementary response encompassing food, non-food items (NFI), water and sanitation (WatSan) and shelter support to households displaced throughout 2019.

With the slow-down of hostilities and subsequent reduction of populations movements, SARD shifted its strategy towards early recovery and resilience. Meanwhile the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic encouraged us to adapt our projects, activities and operating procedures.

Newly-displaced women, men, girls and boys had improved access to life-saving assistance through an effective and efficient preparedness response mechanism

Please note that as the response is multi-sectoral, some beneficiaries received several services (Food + NFI + Shelter + IGA)

Sector/Modality	2019		2020	
	Indiv	HHs	Indiv	HHs
Food				
# of individuals/households who received food under emergency/life-saving activities	178,373	33,255	83,952	16,166
Non-Food Items				
# of individuals who received NFI under emergency/life-saving activities	53,800	8,842	18,274	3,940
Shelter and WASH				
# of individuals/households who benefited from WatSan and shelter emergency activities	6,739	1,323	9,287	1,782
# of individuals/households benefiting from the emergency road rehabilitation (graveling) in response to the floods	-	-	2,467	468
# collective centres and open fields/informal settlements who benefited from WatSan and shelter emergency activities	11		56	
# open fields/informal settlements who benefited from emergency road rehabilitation activities	-		11	
Cash				
# of individuals/households who received Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) under emergency/life-saving activities support to flood-affected victims	-	-	665	137



In 2019, our preparedness response plan enabled us to reposition our contingency stock towards emergency efforts and to quickly scale-up life-saving activities to meet the basic **Food needs** of newly displaced households fleeing their communities due to the intensification of hostilities.

In total, we delivered food assistance to 178,373 IDPs (33,255 displaced households) through the distribution of over 3.9 million cooked meals to 65,527 IDPs in open fields and reception centres IDPs and food baskets to 112,846 IDPs.

In 2020, SARD adapted its emergency food response to the COVID-19 pandemic, shifting its cooked meals modality to the distribution of ready-to-eat rations (RTEs). The slow-down of population movements also prompted us to adjust our emergency food activities towards life-sustaining activities. As such, our kitchen and relief teams delivered 2,5 million cooked meals and 30,400 RTEs to 83,952 IDPs (16,166 displaced households) in 2020.

As per our integrated approach, 25% of food beneficiaries also receive NFI assistance.

In 2019, as part of our emergency response, we distributed **non-food items (NFI)** to 53,800 IDPs (8,842 displaced households) who often had left their homes with little to no belongings. In 2020, we addressed the NFI needs of 18,274 displaced persons (3,940 displaced households). While in 2020, only 18,274 individuals received NFI, as most of the emergency action took place in reception centers, where NFI and shelter are provided by the camps management.

As per our approach, NFI assistance is tailored to each household; as such IDPs may receive bedding units, kitchen sets, clothes and/or hygiene kits as per their specific needs. Assistance modalities included in-kind support and voucher assistance, the latter fostering dignity and allowing households to prioritise their own needs. In 2020, SARD also updated its hygiene kits package to include additional soap and hand sanitizer.



Food



Average time between registration and assistance delivery



Non-Food Items

In 2019, we addressed the shelter needs of 6,739 individuals (or 1,323 displaced households) living in 35 sites such as informal settlements, collective centres and open fields, through the provision of water and sanitation (WatSan) and shelter assistance. With most of the newly displaced households living in sub-standard housing, SARD's shelter and WatSan support proved essential in upgrading living conditions, offering protection against weather conditions, enhancing privacy and reducing protection risks. Activities included the installation of emergency latrines, distribution of shelter kits and quick fixing kits for those residing in collective centres.

Despite a reduction of the displacement in 2020, emergency shelter and WatSan activities remained essential as displaced households' shelter needs continued to be high and further deteriorated in late 2020 due to the harsh winter conditions and floods.

In 2020, SARD nearly doubled its reach, addressing the shelter needs of 9,287 individuals (or 1,782 displaced households) living in 56 sites, located in 25 communities. Activities were similar to those implemented in 2019 along with establishment of a new camp and flood response such as road graveling and tent insulation, especially for camps located in flood prone area.



Shelter



Water & Sanitation

Life-sustaining assistance and Livelihood restoration

While emergency needs remained considerable in 2019 and 2020, SARD's response also encompassed longer-term support to the most vulnerable families.

As part of our multi-pronged approach, the life-sustaining and livelihood restoration component aims at ensuring that the most vulnerable populations – regardless of their displacement status, have access to essential aid beyond the immediate crisis. Supporting protracted displaced families as well as returnees and resident households, activities typically included food and non-food items assistance for up to 8 months as well as livelihood support. Activities under this component aim to improve households' food security and strengthen their financial self-reliance with the ultimate goal of reducing their vulnerability to shock and recourse to harmful coping mechanisms such as indebtedness, sale of assets, child labour or exploitative work.

Through life-sustaining multi-purpose assistance and enhanced income-generation capacity, critical needs of the most vulnerable households are met and their resilience strengthened.

Sector/Modality	2019		2020	
	Indiv	HHs	Indiv	HHs
Food and NFI				
# of individuals/households who received food under life-sustaining activities	15,960	2,723	13,491	2,268
# of individuals/households who received NFI life-sustaining activities	12,614	2,154	11,941	2,000
Livelihoods				
# of individuals/households who received cash-grant for livelihood	798	150	845	159
# of businesses who received livelihood support	620	124	625	125

Following our integrated approach, 25% of newly displaced households targeted under emergency activities are referred to the life-sustaining component.



In 2019, we distributed food assistance to 15,960 most vulnerable individuals (2,723 households) out of which 12,614 (2,154 households) also received NFI assistance. In 2020, we supported 13,491 most vulnerable individuals (2,268 households) with food, out of which 11,941 (2,000 households) also received NFI support.

Similar to NFI activities under the emergency component, SARD also offers tailored assistance to most vulnerable families, with some households receiving bedding units, kitchen sets, clothes and/or hygiene kits as per their specific needs. To facilitate this approach, SARD favours a voucher and/or cash modality whenever local markets are accessible and functioning.



Food




Non-Food Items

Following up a successful pilot project in 2018 that feature a limited number of livelihood opportunities, in 2019, SARD expanded its technical expertise to the sector. Our project aimed at providing restricted cash grants to support 100 conflict-affected households shift from humanitarian dependency towards financial self-sufficiency by restoring their income-generating activities that had been impacted by the crisis.

Following an early recovery approach, SARD's livelihood component focuses on local ownership and capacities strengthening. Local authorities as well as populations are actively consulted in the identification of public utility businesses in need of support while eligible business owners are required to submit business plans and to participate in the development of Bills of Quantities to ensure their ownership of the project.



Livelihood



Examples of restored income-generating activities include those in the service sector (hairstylist, barber, tiling and plumbing services, blacksmith, mechanic, car-wash), food and agricultural sector (chicken store, farming project, beekeeping) and fashion retail and services (clothing store, dressmaking, shoemaker).

External evaluation findings showed that the pilot project had a significant impact on households' financial situation, successfully reducing beneficiaries' dependency on aid and providing them with an alternative source of income. Our livelihood component contributed to enhance households' food security while the additional income had a positive impact on beneficiaries' mental wellbeing, reducing stress and anxiety about providing for their family's needs. At the community level, the project had a positive impact on local employment opportunities (including for the most vulnerable, people with special needs, IDPs and women), lower prices, improved availability of goods in targeted communities and stimulated other local businesses.

Based on these promising results, SARD decided to solidify the livelihood component into its portfolio. In 2020, SARD increased its target by supporting 125 households in restoring their income-generating activities. Going forward, we aspire to support up to 300 households annually while expanding support to other types of livelihood, including those in the agricultural and livestock sector.

IN FOCUS - STORIES FROM THE FIELD

General information:

This project aims to support and assist families to restore their Livelihood, by establishing their own income-generating activities, as each beneficiary (a small business owner) will receive a tailored-made support on how to establish and manage his/her own business. SARD's intervention will be in a method of restricted cash grants.

The story

Ali, 32 years old was born in Aleppo where he was a university student until the war started in Aleppo. After several displacements, Ali lost all his family in a bombing of his temporary shelter in Kaljibrin. Following a long recovery in hospital and rehabilitation center, he eventually settled in Azaz city.

During his displacement, Ali learnt about bee keepings (through on-the-job training and research on several) and when SARD team has met with Ali in Azaz, he presented his project on beekeeping and his ideas about production and marketing for his work. He talked of his long experience and the testimony of the neighbourhood and the people he had previously worked with. As a result, Ali was accepted into the livelihood project and started his work with only 10 cells. The amount of cash was small and not enough to carry out all the necessary equipment. Ali had to borrow some additional money to further develop his production.

SARD's project was a great step for Ali, as he could begin again and expand his business. The team has followed-up with Ali's work passionately, he had a lot of hope despite all circumstances, Ali always came back to build it all up again.



Increased Resilience and Early Recovery

In 2019 and 2020, The main activities under this achievement were implemented as shelter and settlements approaches. Under the shelter and settlement, SARD aims at improving the living conditions of conflict-affected households by minimising safety and protection risks in their settlement, protecting their shelter from weather conditions, increasing their privacy and rehabilitating sanitation facilities.

Activities are threefold and include i.) the repair of individual housing through restricted cash grants, ii.) the upgrade of individual and collective housing through in-kind assistance and iii.) the rehabilitation of public infrastructure through in-kind assistance.

This component is interlinked with the emergency and early recovery components, whereby shelter support is provided in communities in which displaced and most vulnerable families receive food, NFI and livelihood assistance.

Access to services and facilities is improved and local economy revived

Sector/Modality	2019		2020	
	Indiv	HHs	Indiv	HHs
Shelter (Repairs - Upgrades)				
# of individuals/households who benefited from shelter upgrades	5,323	1,127	2,166	466
# of individuals/households who benefited from house repairs (cash grants)	4,597	983	4,281	892
# houses who benefited from shelter upgrades	170		97	
# collective shelters who benefited from shelter upgrades	51		22	
# houses who benefited from house repairs (cash grants)	661		452	
Rehabilitation of Public Infrastructures				
# of individuals/households who benefited from community projects completed	33,075	6,575	30,170	6,034
# of community projects completed	16		13	
# of communities where community projects were completed	12		9	



Shelter Expertise | Repairs - Upgrades - Trainings

In 2019, SARD addressed the shelter needs of 9,945 individuals (or 2,110 households). Out of these, 5,348 individuals (1,127 households) living in 221 sites benefitted from shelter upgrades, where contractors – under the guidance and monitoring of SARD’s Shelter team, rehabilitated individual and collective housing. Another 4,597 individuals (983 households) residing in 661 houses received restricted cash grants up to 1,800 USD enabling them to improve their standards of living, privacy, safety and security.

In 2020, 6,447 individuals (or 1,358 households) received shelter support including 2,166 individuals (466 households) in 119 sites under the shelter upgrade component and 4,281 individuals (892 households) residing in 452 houses under the shelter repair component

In addition to Shelter implementation programming, SARD was also actively contributing to developing the capacity of the shelter partners through a series of training implemented in closed coordination with the shelter cluster.

In 2019, on behalf of the SNFI cluster, SARD led a site-planning training with 100 cluster members. The training aimed at building the capacity of organisations on the SNFI cluster guidelines on house repairs and house rehabilitation.

In 2019 and 2020, SARD also conducted 725 awareness sessions with 3500 people on unexploded ordnances (UXO).



Rehabilitation of Public Infrastructures

In 2019, 16 public infrastructures were rehabilitated in 12 communities benefitting a population of 33,075 (6,575 households). In 2020, SARD repaired 13 public infrastructures in 9 communities improving the living standards of 30,170 people (6,034 households). As part of this component, SARD typically rehabilitates water and sewage networks and has – in some instances, renovated child-friendly spaces and schools and upgraded transport infrastructures.



IN FOCUS - STORIES FROM THE FIELD

General information:

The Project aims at the rehabilitation of war-damaged houses through restricted cash grant, allowing the families to undertake the most urgent repair. The grant is incremental and provided according to BoQ and achievements agreed between SARD and the family benefitting the Project.

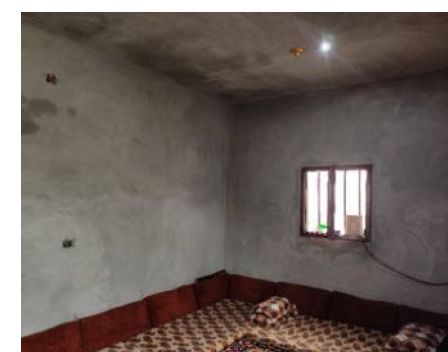
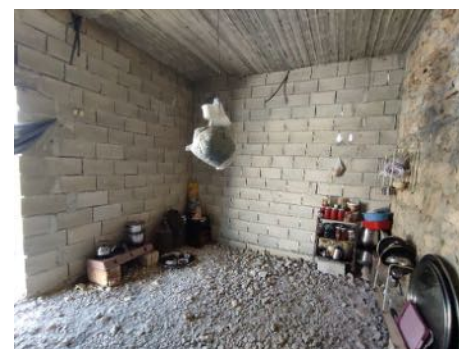
The story

Abdelwahed, 56 years old, originally living in Idlib's Northern Countryside – Ram Hamdan, with his entire family. The town of Ram Hamdan has been under attack, which led to a damage in a great number of houses and the infrastructure. The local council has requested SARD to support the emergency repair of damaged house in its council.

Living in a war-damaged house, suffering from chronic diseases, hosting a family, having more than 6 members under the same roof. Abdelwahed is fulfilling all the SARD selection criteria for the project and was therefore selected.

SARD team undertook a Damage and Vulnerability Assessment and has established a Bill of Quantities for the works to be undertaken to repair the house, as per Shelter cluster standard, that includes:

- Plastering for the outer front of the house, which had cracks. In addition to fixing all walls' cracks inside the house.
- Installation of all necessary equipment in the kitchen; a sink, a tank, and extensions.
- Installation of an aluminium door to the bathroom, along with a new sink, and all other necessary accessories.
- Installation of missing doors and windows, and repairing the damaged ones.



Other Activities

Adapting to ever changing needs... and challenges

COVID-19 Response

As in the rest of the world, North-West Syria was also hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 further hindering humanitarian efforts in the region. In addition to the 'usual' access and security challenges, humanitarian actors also faced health and safety risks not only for themselves but also for the populations they serve.

Despite these difficulties, SARD's team was able to swiftly adapt to this new situation. Applying its expertise in shelter and WatSan rehabilitation and in NFI assistance, our team provided face masks and e-vouchers for hygiene items to 9,977 people (2,001 households) and supported the WASH and PPE needs of 235 health staff in eight health facilities. In addition, SARD conducted awareness campaigns through social media reaching 1,480,407 people. Messages focused on hand-washing, vaccination, and prevention measures.

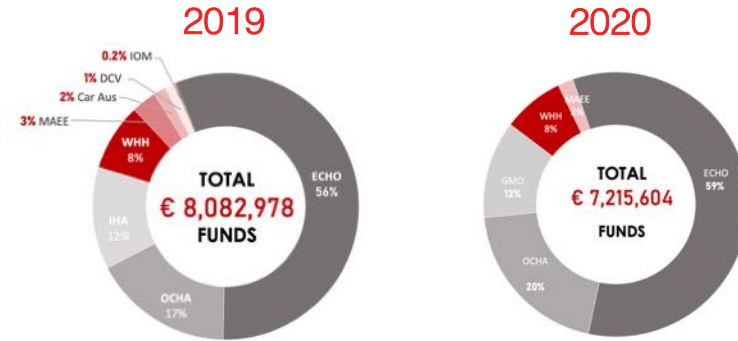
Social Cohesion

As part of new partnership with an international NGO, SARD piloted a social cohesion project in 2020 aimed at strengthening relationships between displaced and host populations. Activities included trainings with a total of 60 youths aged 18-30 years old. Trainings aimed at building participants' problem-solving and conflict management skills with the ultimate goal of strengthening cooperation amongst participants regardless of their gender or status, of generating collaborative initiatives and improving communications and tolerance with each other.

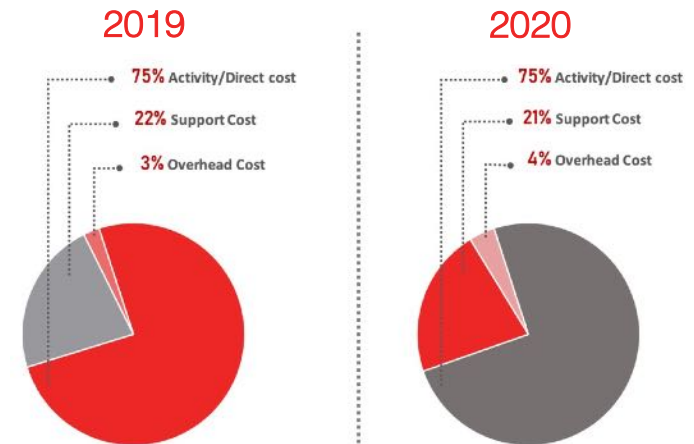
Sector/Modality	2019		2020	
	Indiv	HHs	Indiv	HHs
COVID-19 Response				
# of individuals/households who have received WASH packages			2,898	591
# of individuals who have received/benefitted from hygiene promotion			9,977	2,001
# of health workers who have received WASH packages			235	
# of health facilities who have received WASH packages				8
Social Cohesion				
# of individuals who have participated in social cohesion activities				60
Shelter Expertise				
# of individuals participating in UXO awareness sessions	350		375	
# of trainings done for the shelter cluster			10	
# of organisation trained as part of these cluster trainings			52	

OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION | Funding Overview

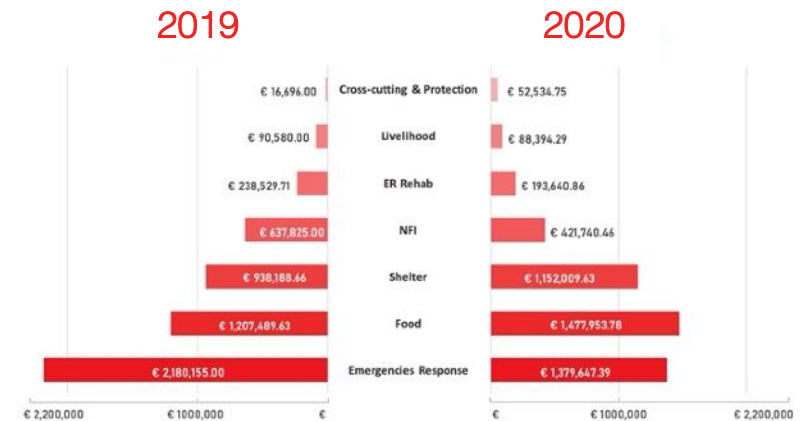
The diagrams on the right show the level of funding SARD managed in 2019 and 2020. The funding, and the number of beneficiaries supported in 2020 is less than in 2019, but it is also due to the nature of the type of assistance, as in 2020 SARD provided more life-sustaining assistance and early recovery, while 2019 was mostly facing the emergency situation with a high level of displacement.



Across 2019 and 2020, the repartition of the cost has been very similar for SARD. There is a variation on the overhead cost: this reflects that in 2020, since SARD was diversifying its donors, it had also to adjust to donors' requirements that resulted in more administration cost for the organisation, as SARD had to invest on its capacity, its developments and also bear some additional cost (previously covered by FCL at the time we had only a single partner).



The graph below shows the expenses per each sector, as well as the cross-cutting and the Protection mainstreaming cost. In 2019, the amount of funding spent on Emergency response is higher than in 2020 as in 2020, SARD invested in supporting life-sustaining assistance, with provision of multi-monthly e-voucher for food, NFI and Hygiene, especially in the light of the covid-19 crisis.



DONOR | Partners

Thank you to all our donors and partners. Your support is what makes our work possible.

It is your continuous technical support and funding that enable us to provide quality life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to vulnerable communities in North-West Syria.

Over the last two years, we have received funding from 9 institutional donors and partnered with 1 local and 7 international organisations and 1 UN Agency.

In particular, we would like to thank Foundation Caritas Luxembourg, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the Caritas family for entrusting us with funds for the last 8 years.





For more information about our work, please visit our website: www.sardngo.org or contact us at: info@sardngo.org

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