

Field Report: Al-Seraj Team's Response to Wildfires in Syria's Coastal Mountains

Date: July 9, 2025

Location: Kassab, Al-Farluq, and Jabal Al-Turkman – Lattakia Governorate

Purpose of Visit: To assess humanitarian and environmental impact and define emergency response priorities

Background

On July 3, 2025, massive wildfires broke out across forested and mountainous areas of Syria's coastal region, affecting Kassab, Al-Farluq, and Jabal Al-Turkman. As of the evening of July 8, an estimated **14,600 hectares** of forested terrain had been devastated, marking one of the largest environmental disasters in the region in recent years.

Although no large-scale displacement was recorded—owing to the concentration of fires in forested zones—several families fled toward Ras al-Basit, Lattakia City, and nearby villages. Approximately **25,000 residents**, representing around **5,000 families**, reside in the affected areas. Some of these households are now in urgent need of food and non-food assistance.



Field Visit Overview

On July 9, the Al-Seraj team departed from Damascus to the impacted region and conducted a series of core activities:

- **Site inspections with Civil Defense teams** to monitor fire suppression efforts, road clearing operations, and assess the risks posed by widespread landmines.
- **Logistical and operational needs assessment** for active teams to identify support requirements and coordinate with local and international humanitarian actors.
- **Multi-agency coordination meeting** attended by representatives from relief organizations, the Minister of Emergency Response, and the Governor of Lattakia. The Minister confirmed that operations have been ongoing for seven days, with substantial support from Turkish and Jordanian firefighting aircraft and helicopters. These teams are also managing unexploded ordnance and landmine hazards.
- **Coordination with the Central Operations Room ("Point Zero")**, which identified immediate response needs including:
 - Fuel for field equipment
 - Electrical supplies for technical operations
 - 1.5-inch diameter firefighting hoses
- **Visit to the Humanitarian Coordination Hub**, overseeing the distribution of food and non-food items and ensuring water and nourishment for deployed response teams

Current Situation

As of report drafting, fires remain active at three critical points near the towns of Turkmanli and Faqeili in Jabal Al-Turkman. Displaced families are in urgent need of:

- Food assistance and potable water
- Non-food items such as hygiene kits, tents, clothing, and bedding

Preliminary Recommendations

- Rapid provision of firefighting equipment and operational fuel
- Urgent coordination with mine action entities
- Emergency response to meet displaced households' core needs
- Development of long-term plans for environmental recovery and community rehabilitation

