



FACTS:

- **DCA has had a presence in Syria since 2015**
- **People supported in 2022:** 263,302 people
- **Annual turnover 2022:** 7,960,540 USD
- **Employees:** 216 staff (200 national and 16 international), across 5 offices.
- **DCA Syria's current operations are funded by:** The EU's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, DANIDA, the U.S. Agency for International Development – Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Church of Sweden.

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OPERATIONAL CONTEXT: Syria continues to be one of the most complex crises in the world, with an estimated 15.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. More than a decade of violent conflict has resulted in widespread destruction of key infrastructure and private housing, severe levels of explosive hazards contamination and the worst displacement crisis of our time. A total of 6.9 million people are displaced within Syria, often living in sub-standard shelters (including in camps, informal settlements, collective centers) without access to basic services resulting in increased vulnerability to a variety of protection risks due to reliance on negative coping mechanisms. It is estimated that one in three communities is contaminated with Explosive Ordnance, putting one in two people at risk of death and injury, rendering agricultural land, private properties and public infrastructure inaccessible, and preventing displaced families from safely returning home.

WHAT WE DO:



Humanitarian Mine Action: DCA targets vulnerable, conflict-affected families in Syria, lacking access to basic services and public infrastructure. Through survey and clearance of key public spaces, community infrastructure and land in suspected or confirmed hazardous areas, DCA firstly identifies and then removes all explosive ordnance and paves the way for rehabilitation and other humanitarian interventions (by DCA or other humanitarian actors), enabling families to (re)gain access to safe infrastructure facilities such as clinics, schools and water facilities (depending on the needs of the communities). DCA Syria works to clear explosive hazards, while educating communities through the selection and training of Community Focal Points on how to mitigate the risk of living in contaminated areas.



Market-Based Humanitarian Response: Most Syrians struggle to meet their basic needs. DCA provides market-based (cash) support to affected households to meet their priority needs.



Rehabilitation of private shelter and key infrastructure: DCA provides affected households support to improve living conditions and protect against harsh weather. Additionally, DCA conducts rehabilitation works on key infrastructure, including schools, after these have been surveyed and cleared by DCA for explosive hazards.



Protection Assistance: DCA provides general protection and child protection assistance for affected people and communities, including specialised case management, awareness sessions, arts, music and handcraft activities as well as psychosocial support to children, youth and adults.

HOW AND WHERE WE WORK:

In Syria, DCA focuses on two of the global goals in DCA's International Strategy: *Save Lives* and *Build resilient communities*. DCA implements the following activities:

Risk Education: Through a local partner, DCA supports the delivery of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to boys, girls, men and women. Community Focal Points identified and trained as community representatives responsible for disseminating safety messages to their peers beyond the scope of DCA, to reach as many at-risk people as possible with potentially life-saving messages.

Non-Technical Survey: DCA supports a local partner to survey of contaminated areas as part of a Humanitarian Mine Action cooperation agreement. This facilitates future clearance and other humanitarian interventions.

Survey & Clearance: The survey and clearance of explosive hazards saves lives and allows access to blocked land and key infrastructure. It is an essential first step before any rehabilitation or reconstruction work can take place. This includes safe, sustainable rubble management using mechanical assets.

Market-Based Humanitarian Response: DCA provides cash to households unable to meet most essential needs, including the distribution of monthly Cash for Food, the use of Multipurpose Cash as an emergency response, distribution of Cash to meet Shelter needs, community-based Cash for Work schemes and community-based Group Cash Transfers.

Protection Assistance: DCA provides specialised protection support for community members, including general protection and child protection case management and psychosocial support through mobile responses (rural areas and informal settlements) and static responses in DCA's Community Safe Spaces to improve the wellbeing of children, youth and adults.

Private Shelter Rehabilitation/Assistance: In urban settings, DCA supports the rehabilitation of private housing facilities by providing affected households with cash for shelter grants and/or through private contractors. In rural settings and informal settlements, DCA provides displaced families with tents and non-food items for weatherisation efforts (winter/summer), protecting people from the harsh weather conditions.

Socio-Economic Infrastructure Rehabilitation: DCA conducts light rehabilitation of damaged buildings that have been previously surveyed and cleared from explosive hazards by DCA Clearance teams, focusing on designing safe and inclusive spaces, with a focus on schools, health clinics and water treatment plants and irrigation channels.



Survivor and Community Led Responses / Community Based Protection: DCA recognises crisis-affected people and communities as first responders and seeks to empower and strengthen local agency through the provision of demand-led skills training, group microgrants, financial management as well as linking, connecting, and networking local actors and community groups. This approach directly supports and operationalises DCA's commitment to Charter-for-Change, Grand Bargain, and DCA's own Global Localisation Framework, which all seek to enhance local leadership, empower and promote local actors and perspectives, and counter global power imbalances within development and humanitarian relief.

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