Alert note

Syria, November 2026

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Date completed: November 15, 2026
Forum: ACT Syria Forum

Type of emergency: Natural Disaster – Deir Ez Zor Flood Emergency
Date of emergency (if rapid onset): November 7, 2026

1. The nature of the emergency

During the night of 6 to 7 November 2026, heavy rainfall triggered severe flash floods in Al Bukamal district, eastern Deir ez Zor governorate, Syria. Floodwaters flowing through seasonal watercourses, particularly Wadi Ali, damaged homes and agricultural land. Strong currents and the deteriorated condition of the temporary crossing at Al Suway'iyah caused it to become unusable. These impacts were also collected by GOPA/DERD field area coordinator in Deir Ez-Zor, and reported by the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA)[1] on 7 November and Anadolu Agencyon[2] 8 November 2026.

The floods inundated homes in Al Hari, forcing families to evacuate, and disrupted roads and electricity networks. On 7 November, authorities confirmed that the temporary diversion bridge had been washed away and began assessing the damage and planning repairs. The loss of this crossing disrupted movement between Al Suway'iyah and Al Bukamal, compounding the emergency for communities affected by flooding.
Al Jazeera[3] reported that approximately 25 residential properties had been damaged in an initial assessment, while the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR)[4] documented the evacuation of families in Al Hari.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency *(please include your source of information with links if possible)*

i) Scale of the emergency:

The emergency is provisionally assessed as medium scale, given its concentration in several communities within Al Bukamal district. However, its local impact is severe, combining displacement, agricultural damage and disruption of a critical transport route.

ii) Geographical areas and characteristics:

The affected area comprises Al Suway'iyah, Al Hari and Huwayjat Sween in Al Bukamal district, eastern Deir ez Zor governorate, near the Syrian and Iraqi border. These rural communities depend on access to Al Bukamal city for markets, healthcare and essential supplies. Damage to the temporary Al Suway'iyah crossing has disrupted this connection. SANA confirmed damage to the crossing, homes, roads and electricity networks on 7 November 2026.

iii) Numbers and characteristics of people affected:

[1] Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA). (7 November 2026). Reporting on flash floods in Al Bukamal, damage to residential properties and agricultural land, disruption of the Al Suway'iyah crossing, and authorities' response. Open source

[2] Anadolu Agency. (8 November 2026). Reporting on the collapse of the Al Suway'iyah crossing, disruption of access, damage to homes and roads, and interruptions to electricity services. Open source

[3] Al Jazeera. (7 November 2026). Reporting on flooding in Deir ez-Zor, Civil Defence emergency operations, and preliminary assessment of damage to approximately 25 residential properties. Open source

[4] Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR). (7 November 2026). Reporting on evacuations in Al Hari and flooding of residential areas and agricultural land. Open source

Preliminary information collected by GOPA-DERD's field team, including through coordination with the local administration, indicates that approximately 40,000 people have been affected by disrupted access, while more than 100 households have been displaced. These estimates remain subject to verification and should not be added together, as the displaced population may be included in the wider affected population.

iv) Impact and consequences:

Preliminary field information indicates damage to approximately 1,000 dunums of agricultural land, threatening farming incomes. Flooding has also damaged homes and forced families to leave. Published reporting confirms residential and agricultural damage, while authorities reported approximately 25 damaged homes in an initial assessment on 7 November. This early count covers a different indicator from the preliminary displacement estimate.

The greatest concern is for displaced families with limited resources, particularly households headed by women, children, older people, persons with disabilities and people requiring regular medical treatment. For families facing both displacement and lost income, the combined costs of shelter, food, medicines and heating may exceed their capacity to cope.

Immediate risks include exposure to cold, interrupted treatment and difficulties obtaining essential supplies. If access restrictions and livelihood losses persist, households may face prolonged displacement that could last months, debt, reduced food consumption and delayed recovery.

3. Local and national capacity

i) How are people coping:

Affected families have evacuated flooded homes and moved to safer locations with assistance from Civil Defence teams and local residents. Urgent support is needed to contribute to the immediate response.

ii) Available local structures and resources:

Civil Defence teams have conducted evacuations, search operations, damage assessments and emergency measures to facilitate movement. The General Establishment for Road Transport has deployed technical staff to assess the damaged crossing and plan rehabilitation. GOPA-DERD also has field teams and established relationships with local authorities and community representatives who have been supporting assessment, targeting and delivery of assistance.

iii) Government plans and response:

The government response has focused on rescue, evacuation, public safety warnings. Deir ez Zor emergency directorate reported coordination with the early warning room and heightened readiness of Civil Defence teams.

A National Winter Preparedness Plan prepared by the Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management is referenced in OCHA's winter response priorities for 2026 to 2027.

iv) Humanitarian response and coordination:

GOPA-DERD proposes multipurpose cash assistance for 265 vulnerable households, subject to funding and assessment, and plans to coordinate through relevant Food Security, Health, Shelter and Household Items, and Cash Working Group mechanisms as well as the ACT Syria Forum Members.

4. Key needs and gaps

i) Major needs and geographical gaps

Priority needs in Al Suway'iyah, Al Hari and Huwayjat Sween include food, essential healthcare and medicines, temporary accommodation, household items and winter supplies. Flood damage and disruption of the crossing have restricted access to markets and essential services in Al Bukamal city. Agricultural losses also threaten household income and recovery.

Displaced families and households with limited resources face the greatest difficulties, particularly households headed by women, families with children, older people, persons with disabilities and individuals requiring regular medical treatment.

ii) Needs addressed and remaining gaps:

GOPA-DERD proposes multipurpose cash assistance for 265 vulnerable households, providing USD 160 per household each month for three months, as per the recommended Syria UN Cash working group modality. This will help families cover food, healthcare, medicines and winter needs, subject to functioning markets and accessible payment mechanisms. Coordination with local authorities and relevant humanitarian working groups will help identify remaining gaps and avoid duplication.

iii) Information gaps and assessment timeframe:

Information gaps include verified displacement figures, population data by sex, age and disability, the extent of housing and agricultural damage, access to essential services, market functionality and assistance received from other actors. The duration of access restrictions also remains uncertain.

GOPA-DERD's field teams, supported by its Research and Development Unit, have conducted rapid assessments during the initial days of implementation, with community consultations. Findings will guide participants selection and confirm the feasibility of cash assistance before the first planned distributions, expected within two weeks of project commencement. Regular reassessments and community feedback will inform adjustments throughout the response.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an **X** below
Rapid Response Fund *(intended for small and medium scale emergencies)*	**X**
Appeal *(intended for large scale emergencies)*	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond *(Please refer to your EPRP and Contingency Plan, you can add rows if needed)*

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
GOPA-DERD	GOPA-DERD operates inside all 14 governorates, in this response, it plans to intervene in Deir Ez Zor	GOPA-DERD has experience working in all 7 humanitarian sectors: Health, Protection, Education, Shelter, Livelihood, WASH, FIs & NFIs, Social Cohesion & Peacebuilding

6. Potential responses

i) Initial plans and response options:

GOPA-DERD plans to provide multipurpose cash assistance to 265 vulnerable households in Al Suway'iyah, Al Hari and Huwayjat Sween. Each household will receive USD 160 per month for three months to meet priority needs, including food, healthcare, medicines and winter supplies as per the guidelines by the UN Cash working group. Selection will prioritise displaced households and families facing the greatest barriers to essential goods and services.

Rapid assessments will verify needs, market functionality, payment accessibility and safe delivery arrangements. The first assistance is expected within two weeks of project commencement, following funding approval. Regular monitoring and community feedback will guide adjustments as needs and access conditions evolve. Coordination with local authorities and relevant humanitarian working groups will help avoid duplication and address unmet needs.

ii) Support required:

GOPA-DERD requires USD 150,000 in RRF funding to implement the proposed response, as available internal resources are insufficient to meet the identified needs. Timely funding will enable cash distributions, assessment, beneficiary verification, monitoring and operational support.

ACT Syria Forum members can support coordination, information sharing and identification of complementary assistance. GOPA-DERD will contribute its existing field presence, personnel, community networks and logistical resources, while coordination with authorities and financial service providers will support safe access and delivery.