

Fourth AFS Regular Allocation (RA4)

Allocation Strategy | May 2026 | Status: **FINAL – APPROVED BY THE AFS STEERING BOARD**

Budget	Strategic framework	Strategic objective	Delivery model	Launch Date
US\$13 million*	HNRP 2026	HNRP S01 and S03	Area-based, multi-sectoral, 100% national NGO-led	1 June 2026

*Subject to increase through additional donor contributions.

1. AFS Overview and Value Proposition

The [Aid Fund for Syria \(AFS\)](#) is an independent, multi-donor humanitarian pooled fund designed to deliver timely, principled, and locally led assistance across Syria. Anchored in the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence, AFS operates nationwide and works mainly with national NGO partners. Designed to enable the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus from within the humanitarian space, AFS connects life-saving assistance to early recovery, service restoration, and livelihoods, helping affected communities move from crisis towards stability. **Of its 52 [qualified partners](#), 38 are national NGOs, which have received 77 per cent of direct AFS funding to date.**

Since beginning operations in 2023, AFS has committed over **US\$111 million, reaching 12.4 million Syrians through 79 projects across five allocations**. AFS supports the continuity of essential services and livelihoods in contexts where needs remain acute and systems are under strain. Through area-based, integrated multi-sectoral programming and medium-term funding, it strengthens local delivery capacity and supports more sustainable access to essential services in line with evolving needs.

US\$111M	12.4M	79	81%
Committed since 2023	Syrians reached	Projects funded	of funding to national NGOs; including 77% direct funding

The **Fourth Regular Allocation (RA4)** builds on the AFS model and on the experience of allocations launched since the political transition of **December 2024**, and translates it into a sharper, more targeted offer. The Fund's distinctive value lies in the combination of features it brings together within a single allocation:

- Locally led delivery at scale:** 100 per cent of RA4 funding goes to qualified national NGO partners, sustaining the local delivery capacity on which principled, needs-based assistance depends. The [AFS Anchor Organisation Modality](#) extends this reach further into civic local actors, including grassroots, community-based, women-led, and youth-led organisations.
- Area-based, multi-sectoral by design:** RA4 funds integrated interventions in defined geographic areas, not scattered single-sector projects. Evidence from previous AFS allocations consistently shows that this model delivers greater impact, sustainability, and value for money than fragmented programming, while addressing the full range of interconnected service and livelihood needs facing a community.
- AFS as an HDP Nexus enabler:** AFS is structured to enable the HDP Nexus **while operating firmly within the humanitarian space**. RA4 funds principled, life-saving assistance that simultaneously restores essential services, strengthens livelihoods, and supports the conditions for sustainable return and recovery, helping connect emergency response to longer-term resilience without crossing into development or peacebuilding mandates.
- Local economy as a programming outcome:** RA4 explicitly requires partners to generate local employment and procure goods, materials, and services locally as part of delivering life-saving humanitarian services. Where projects include rehabilitation of essential service infrastructure or other labour-intensive components, partners must prioritise hiring from targeted communities, enabling humanitarian delivery to also contribute to household income and the recovery of local markets.
- Climate and environmental considerations integrated:** RA4 incorporates climate-resilient design, sustainable management of natural resources, and environmentally responsible construction during implementation. Mine action under RA4 contributes directly to climate and environmental recovery by enabling the safe return of contaminated land to productive use.

2. Context and Strategic Rationale

2.1 Humanitarian Situation

Syria continues to face one of the most acute humanitarian crises in the world. Fourteen years of conflict, economic collapse, and climate shocks have left basic services across the country severely degraded, with hospitals and schools non-functional, water systems damaged, and livelihoods disrupted. **More than 15 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance in 2026**, including millions of displaced Syrians returning to communities that lack the infrastructure and services to sustain them.

The scale of need remains profound. Over 8,000 schools are non-functional, while only 57 per cent of hospitals and 30 per cent of primary healthcare centres are fully operational. Up to 12 million people have limited access to water and sanitation services, and food insecurity affects 13.3 million people, including 7.2 million who are acutely food insecure. At least one quarter of the population lives in extreme poverty. These challenges are compounded by widespread contamination from explosive ordnance and climatic shocks, with 2025 marking the worst drought conditions in nearly four decades. Explosive remnants of war continue to threaten lives and injure civilians, including children, and prevent the safe use of agricultural land, compounding humanitarian and livelihood needs.

At the same time, the humanitarian response is becoming more financially constrained and less able to keep pace with these realities. Overall funding has declined, while aid is increasingly channelled through larger, more centralised mechanisms rather than through Syrian civil society organisations that have the capacity, access, trust, and contextual knowledge to reach affected populations. Despite international

commitments on localisation, **direct donor funding to national NGOs stood at just three per cent of total humanitarian financing for Syria in 2025**¹. As a result, local capacity built over years is at risk of being eroded precisely when it is needed most.

2.2 The Strategic Framework: 2026 HNRP

The 2026 HNRP, published on 2 April 2026, provides the primary strategic framework for RA4. Developed through consultation with affected communities and relevant Syrian authorities, it sets out a comprehensive framework for identifying and prioritising humanitarian needs across all 14 governorates. In line with global funding constraints, the HNRP applies a hyper-prioritisation approach, prioritising 4.3 million people within an overall target of 8.6 million, out of 15.6 million identified as in need. This framework provides a clear and appropriate basis for RA4 to focus on areas and population groups facing the most severe and unmet needs.

The HNRP also reflects national recovery priorities, including the importance of area-based service restoration and livelihood support as foundations for sustainable recovery. This alignment between humanitarian priorities and recovery objectives makes it a suitable basis for RA4’s area-based, multi-sectoral approach. The evidence base for RA4 is further informed by REACH HSOS data, IOM DTM displacement tracking, partner inputs, community consultations, and AFS research and analysis.

2026 HNRP - Strategic Objectives

The HNRP structures the humanitarian response around three strategic objectives:

- **SO1** targets 2.2 million people and centres on saving lives and alleviating suffering through principled, life-saving assistance.
- **SO2** targets 2.4 million people and covers the protection of safety, dignity, and rights.
- **SO3** targets 5.8 million people and focuses on restoring life-saving services and livelihoods in support of national recovery priorities.

RA4 operates across the HNRP framework and is informed by all three strategic objectives, with SO1 and SO3 serving as its primary points of reference.

SO1 reflects the acute life-saving needs that remain present across the high-severity locations targeted by RA4, while SO3 most directly addresses the service restoration and livelihood gaps that define them. This positioning enables RA4 to respond to the full range of humanitarian needs in the areas it targets, while maintaining a clear programmatic orientation toward AFS’s comparative strengths in area-based, multi-sectoral, nationally led programming.

** The published 2026 HNRP table presents the SO3 funding requirement as "US\$8.94M". Based on the overall HNRP financial totals and sectoral breakdowns, RA4 uses an SO3 reference figure of US\$894M.*

2026 HNRP:
8.6 million people targeted
US\$ 2.9 billion required

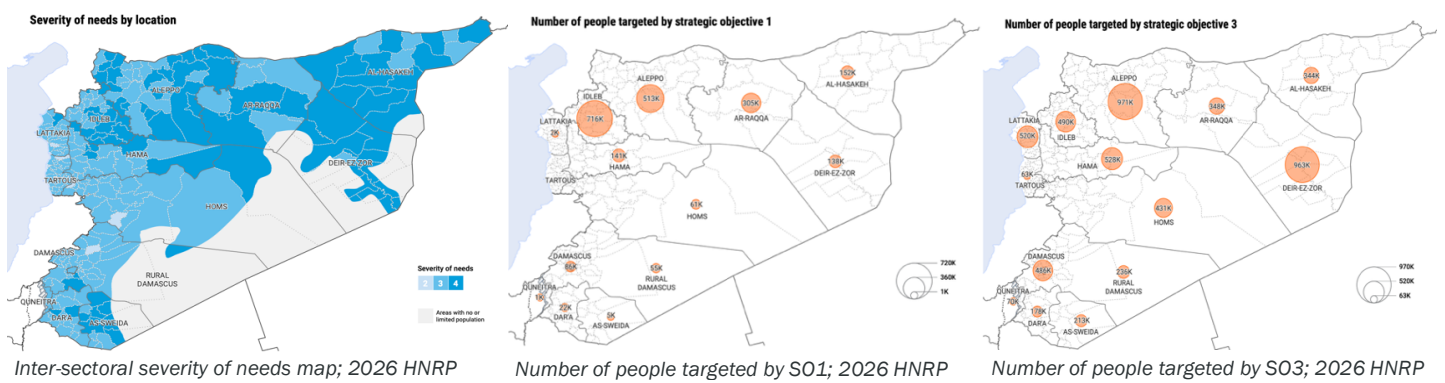
Strategic objective	People targeted	Funding requirement
SO1	2.2M	US\$ 1.86B
SO2	2.4M	US\$ 163.6M
SO3	5.8M	US\$ 894M*

- SO3 targets the largest population, while SO1 carries the highest funding requirement.
- AFS RA4 is positioned to address both service restoration and life-saving needs across these priorities.

2.3 Convergence with National Recovery Priorities

The 2026 HNRP was developed in close consultation with Syrian authorities and reflects shared analysis of priority humanitarian needs. **By anchoring RA4 in the HNRP, AFS uses a framework that is independently assessed while also reflecting nationally articulated priorities.**

There is strong convergence between the 2026 HNRP and priorities articulated by Syrian authorities for international cooperation in support of national recovery. The HNRP Strategic Objectives and the four national priorities — restoring critical infrastructure, resuming essential services, building social and economic resilience including livelihoods and support for returnees, and strengthening core public systems — are reflected in the design and programmatic focus of RA4. Geographic and sectoral prioritisation under RA4 has been further refined through collaborative consultation with the International Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, including the identification of nine Strategic Convergence Locations within the priority list, as set out in Annex 1.



Note: Scope informed by ICD/MoFA engagement, IOM DTM displacement tracking (prioritising areas of high return), SHF results, and community consultations.

3. RA4 at a Glance

RA4 is AFS's sixth allocation overall and the third following the political transition of December 2024. This is in addition to the emergency responses delivered through the [AFS Emergency Response Framework](#), which operates alongside the regular and special allocation cycles. As such, RA4 is informed by lessons drawn from previous allocations launched during a period of profound change in Syria, including experience in operating across an expanded geographic scope, deepening partnership with national NGOs, civic local actors, and adapting programming to a rapidly evolving operating environment.

RA4 will target affected populations in areas where needs are highest, essential services are severely degraded, livelihoods have been most affected, and displaced populations are returning to communities that cannot yet sustain them. Through area-based, multi-sectoral programming, RA4 will deliver life-saving assistance and support the restoration of essential services, including health, water and sanitation, and education; strengthen livelihoods and community resilience; and sustain local delivery capacity on which principled, continued assistance depends.

100 per cent of RA4 funding will be directed to qualified national NGO partners, enabling locally led implementation at scale and reinforcing the delivery systems central to the response. In doing so, RA4 addresses a critical gap that neither emergency relief nor development assistance can fully address on its own, supporting needs-based, locally delivered assistance that meets basic needs, restores essential services, and helps lay the groundwork for recovery and social cohesion.

100% of funding
directed to
national NGO
partners

3.1 Strategic Positioning within the HDP Nexus

RA4 is delivered within the framework of the [AFS Strategy 2025–2030](#), which positions the Fund as a principled humanitarian mechanism designed to enable HDP Nexus programming. While AFS operates firmly within the humanitarian space, it structures life-saving assistance to support early recovery, service restoration, and livelihoods, helping address basic needs, prevent further displacement, support principled returns, and contribute to broader stability.

This positioning is particularly relevant in 2026, as the political transition of December 2024 has created new opportunities for the international community to support Syria's recovery, while humanitarian needs remain severe. AFS is designed to navigate this evolving landscape by sustaining principled humanitarian assistance, strengthening local delivery capacity, and contributing to the conditions for more sustainable and locally driven recovery.

4. Objectives

RA4 pursues four objectives that **respond directly to the needs and pressures** outlined above:

- 1 **Restore and sustain access to life-saving essential services**
Essential service infrastructure across Syria, including health facilities, schools, and water and sanitation systems, has been severely damaged, destroyed, or neglected. RA4 supports the restoration and continued functioning of these services in the most affected communities, with particular attention to those facing the most acute unmet humanitarian needs and receiving significant numbers of returnees.
- 2 **Strengthen livelihoods and community resilience**
The collapse of livelihoods has driven millions into poverty and increased reliance on harmful coping mechanisms. RA4 addresses critical livelihood gaps and supports the economic and climate resilience of displaced populations, returnees, and vulnerable residents through community-level interventions that create local economic opportunity and contribute to more resilient local food systems and ecosystems.
- 3 **Sustain principled, locally delivered assistance**
At a time when direct support to national organisations remains limited, RA4 directs 100 per cent of its funding to qualified national NGO partners, sustaining the local delivery capacity on which principled, needs-based humanitarian assistance depends, and reinforcing the leadership role of Syrian civil society in the response.
- 4 **Bridge emergency relief and recovery**
Syria's needs cannot be met through emergency response or recovery programming alone. RA4 supports interventions that meet immediate humanitarian needs while restoring essential services, strengthening local capacity, and building the conditions for sustainable recovery and social cohesion, consistent with the AFS HDP Nexus approach.

5. Programming Approach

5.1 Area-based, Multi-sectoral Programming

The area-based, multi-sectoral model is core to how AFS delivers humanitarian programming. Building on the experience of previous AFS allocations, including Special Allocation (SA)2 and RA3, area-based programming has demonstrated strong potential to deliver greater impact, sustainability, and value for money than scattered or disconnected sector-specific interventions. RA4 therefore applies this approach in full.

Rather than funding standalone projects, **RA4 supports integrated interventions across a defined geographic area that address interconnected service and livelihood needs facing a community.** Programming targets community-level needs rather than household-level assistance, and proposals must demonstrate meaningful engagement with relevant civic and public actors throughout the project cycle. The approach also aligns directly with the emphasis on area-based programming reflected in both the 2026 HNRP and in the priorities articulated by Syrian authorities.

The area-based approach is mandatory under RA4. Proposals that do not apply this model will not be considered. Partners are strongly encouraged to design and deliver area-based programming through a consortium, the preferred delivery model under this allocation (see Section 6). A single partner may also deliver area-based programming where it can demonstrate the access, capacity, and technical ability to address the full range of interconnected community-level needs.

5.2 Sectoral Focus

RA4 concentrates on four sectors, selected for their direct alignment with the HNRP's life-saving and service restoration objectives and with national recovery priorities. Within each location, proposals are expected to prioritise sectors identified through HNRP sector severity scoring (see Annex 1). Across these sectors, RA4 also supports the livelihoods and food-systems objective set out in Section 4: WASH interventions may include water for agricultural and food production; mine action returns contaminated agricultural land to productive use; and the local-economy requirements (Section 5.3) generate income and strengthen local food markets.

1. **Health:** Restoration of damaged or non-functional health facilities, continued delivery of primary healthcare services, mother and child health, nutrition services in response to rising acute malnutrition, and emergency care, including referral pathways and access to essential medicines.
2. **Education:** Rehabilitation of damaged school infrastructure, ensuring continuity of access to learning, protection of the right to education for children and youth, and support for safe and inclusive learning environments.
3. **WASH:** Rehabilitation of community-level water supply and sanitation infrastructure, restoration of safe water access, and integrated hygiene promotion to mitigate public health risks. Water systems should be designed for efficiency, resilience to drought and climate-related stresses, and the sustainable management of local water resources, including water for agricultural and food production where this supports household food security and the recovery of local food systems.
4. **Protection:** Protection mainstreaming across all interventions, with additional focus on mine action and clearance of explosive ordnance. Mine action, specifically the physical clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnance, is a life-saving priority. Beyond the immediate protection imperative, mine clearance is also a critical enabler of safe return, agricultural recovery, livelihood restoration, and the safe rehabilitation of land for productive use.

5.3 Supporting the Local Economy

RA4 places a deliberate emphasis on programming that contributes to the recovery of the local economy. Partners are expected to design and deliver projects in ways that create local economic opportunities, contribute to household income for affected populations, and strengthen local markets and supply chains. This is operationalised through the following requirements:

- **Local hiring:** Construction, rehabilitation, and casual labour components must prioritise workers from targeted communities, generating income for affected households and contributing to local livelihoods.
- **Local procurement:** Goods, materials, and services required for project implementation must be procured locally where feasible, engaging Syrian-owned suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers, and reinforcing the recovery of local markets.

RA4 may also support small-scale pilots that generate local economic activity, engage local markets, or test alternative financing models, where these are embedded within the broader area-based design of the project and aligned with the allocation's humanitarian objectives. Further detail on the scope, eligibility, and requirements of such pilots will be provided in the RA4 Proposal Guidelines.

Note: Partners will be required to report against indicators that measure direct employment generated and local economic value created through project implementation.

5.4 Climate and Environmental Considerations

Climate-related pressures, including drought, water scarcity, degraded ecosystems, and explosive ordnance contamination that prevents the safe use of agricultural land, are increasingly central to humanitarian needs in Syria. RA4 reflects this reality by integrating climate and environmental considerations into design and implementation where relevant, strengthening the resilience of the services and livelihoods it supports.

RA4 expects partners to incorporate the following considerations **where relevant** to their proposed activities:

- **Climate-resilient livelihoods and food systems:** Livelihood interventions should contribute to more resilient and sustainable local food production, agricultural value chains, and market systems, particularly in areas affected by drought and land contamination.
- **Natural resource management:** Programming related to land, soil, or water should apply approaches that contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources, including water-efficient design and nature-based solutions where feasible.
- **Mine action and land restoration:** Mine action can contribute to climate and environmental recovery by enabling the safe return of contaminated land to productive agricultural use, restoring rural livelihoods, and supporting food security in affected areas.
- **Risk reduction and anticipatory action:** Programming should incorporate approaches to risk reduction, early warning, and preparedness, helping communities absorb and respond to climate-related and other shocks more effectively.
- **Environmentally responsible rehabilitation and construction:** Rehabilitation and construction components should apply environmentally responsible standards, including energy-efficient design, sustainable materials sourcing where feasible, and waste management practices appropriate to the local context.

5.5 Localisation

AFS is the highest-localisation humanitarian pooled fund operating in Syria, with 100 per cent of RA4 funding directed to qualified national NGO partners. RA4 advances localisation in two reinforcing ways.

1. **National NGO leadership of the response:** National NGOs hold the grants, lead project design, and deliver activities, sustaining the local capacity, access, and trust on which principled, needs-based assistance depends.
2. **Advancing the AFS Anchor Organisation (AO) Modality:** AOs are qualified AFS partners with demonstrated operational capacity, alignment with localisation principles, and a track record of mobilising and supporting civic local actors. The AO Modality enables civic local actors, including civil society organisations, grassroots groups, community-based organisations, women-led organisations, and youth associations, to access AFS support without needing to meet the eligibility criteria for direct AFS funding. The modality formalises tiered monitoring and targeted capacity strengthening in financial management, project reporting, and compliance, and provides a pathway towards future direct funding eligibility. Where AOs participate in RA4 through consortium-based delivery arrangements, partners are expected to engage civic local actors in context analysis, community mapping and needs assessment, beneficiary feedback systems, leadership development, advocacy, and the joint design of targeted interventions, rather than treating their inclusion as a downstream implementation step.

International NGOs (INGOs) may participate in RA4 only as sub-Implementing Partners within a consortium led by an AFS-qualified national NGO, and only in niche technical areas where specialist capacity is required, such as mine action.

5.6 Cross-cutting Approaches

All RA4 programming integrates AFS's cross-cutting approaches throughout the project cycle, in line with the AFS Strategy 2025–2030 and supporting the relevant AFS approach documents available on the [AFS Knowledge Hub](#):

- **Protection mainstreaming:** All interventions must integrate protection considerations into design, implementation, and monitoring, in line with the HNRP's framing of protection as a cross-cutting priority.
- **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI):** Proposals must demonstrate how interventions address the different needs of women, men, girls, boys, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised groups, consistent with the AFS GESI Approach.
- **Accountability to Affected Populations and Community Engagement (AAPCE):** Partners must apply meaningful community engagement throughout the project cycle and operate functional feedback and complaints response mechanisms.
- **Conflict sensitivity and Do No Harm:** All programming must apply conflict-sensitive analysis and approaches to ensure interventions do not exacerbate tensions, exclusion, or protection risks, or compromise humanitarian principles; while actively contributing to Social Cohesion by strengthening trust, inclusion, and equitable relationships within and between communities and institutions.
- **Environmental sustainability:** Programming should integrate environmentally responsible practices and contribute to community resilience to climate-related risks, in line with Section 5.5.

5.7 Coordination and Complementarity

RA4 has been designed through structured coordination and consultation with key stakeholders to ensure complementarity with the broader humanitarian and recovery landscape. This has included:

- Engagement with the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates to share the RA4 framework, discuss alignment with national recovery priorities, and receive feedback that has informed the geographic and sectoral focus of the allocation, consistent with the HNRP. The consultation surfaced strong convergence between AFS's evidence-based priorities and the National Priority Sub-districts identified by Syrian authorities, leading to the designation of nine Strategic Convergence Locations within the RA4 priority list (see Annex 1).
- Engagement with the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) on geographic scope and sectoral priorities, where feasible, to support alignment with the SHF Standard Allocation 1 (SA1, upcoming), and complementarity with the SHF First Reserve Allocation (ongoing) and avoid duplication. As has been the practice with previous AFS allocations, the list of approved and funded projects under RA4 will be shared with donors, sectors, and funding mechanisms, including the SHF, ECHO, the SRTF, and other relevant actors to support ongoing coordination and prevent overlap across mechanisms.
- Partner consultations to capture operational perspectives, priority gaps, and contextual inputs from organisations with direct access to affected communities.
- Community consultations conducted by the AFS Quality and Impact Team in a sample of high-severity locations to ensure that the views and priorities of affected populations inform RA4 design and proposal evaluation.

6 Eligibility and Proposal Requirements

6.1 Eligible Partners and Application Formats

Only AFS-qualified National NGOs (NNGOs) are invited to apply for funding under this allocation. While NNGO partners may apply individually, RA4 strongly encourages consortium-based applications where such an arrangement meaningfully contributes to high-quality area-based programming and greater localisation.

A consortium can be led by an Anchor Organisation (AO) or by another AFS qualified NNGO partner. A consortium includes a minimum of two entities. Arrangements may include:

- An AO leading a consortium with sub-implementing partners and civic local actors (See [AFS AO Modality paper](#) for more information on civic local actors).
- Any other AFS qualified partner leading a consortium with at least one other sub-implementing partner.

The consortium lead retains overall accountability to AFS, while other consortium members are engaged as sub-implementing partners.

International NGOs may only participate as sub-implementing partners within a consortium led by an AFS-qualified NNGO, and only in specific circumstances where they provide experience in niche technical areas requiring specialist capacity added by their organisation.

Note: During the scoring and evaluation process, additional points will be awarded to the following types of applications provided they strongly advance area-based delivery and localisation:

- **Anchor Organisation-led consortium:** Proposals submitted by AOs engaging civic local actors through the AFS AO Modality will receive additional points where such engagement meaningfully strengthens community-rooted and locally led programming, particularly through partnerships with grassroots groups, community-based organisations, women-led organisations, and youth associations.
- **Other AFS Qualified Partner-led consortium:** Proposals submitted by such a consortium will receive additional points in recognition of the added value brought through complementary expertise, operational synergies, economies of scale, coordinated delivery, and deeper sectoral integration.

Proposals submitted by an AO may receive additional points on **both** counts where the consortium includes both sub-implementing partners **AND** demonstrates meaningful engagement with grassroots groups, community-based organisations, women-led organisations, and youth associations.

Note: The [AFS AO Modality paper](#) describes the categories of civic local actors that may be engaged (civil society organisations, grassroots groups, community-based organisations, women-led organisations, youth associations), the modes of engagement (community mapping, beneficiary feedback systems, leadership development, advocacy, joint design of targeted interventions), and the capacity strengthening expected. Partners are encouraged to consult this guidance to ensure meaningful consortium and proposal design.

6.2 Project Parameters

- **Project duration:** Maximum 16 months, where clearly justified. Project duration must be proportionate to the proposed scope of activities. Projects with durations that are not proportionate to their activities may be marked down or disqualified at the evaluation stage. Projects should be completed as efficiently and quickly as the operating context allows.
- **Budget ceiling:** Each project may receive up to US\$2 million in total, dependent on the partner's individual budget ceiling per the AFS Manual.
- **One-proposal rule:** An AFS-qualified partner may participate in only one RA4 proposal, whether as the lead partner or as a sub-IP.

6.3 Mandatory Proposal Requirements

All proposals must address the following requirements. **Failure to meet these requirements may result in disqualification during pre-screening or evaluation.**

- **Geographic priority:** Projects must target one or more of the priority locations identified in Annex 1. Proposals targeting locations outside this list will not be considered.
- **Sector priority:** Within each location, sectors are classified as 1st or 2nd priority based on HNRP sector severity (see Annex 1). Proposals must demonstrate that the sectors they target are 1st priority sectors in the targeted location(s). Proposals only targeting 2nd priority sectors may be assessed unfavourably or disqualified.
- **Area-based design:** Projects must be designed as integrated, multi-sectoral interventions in defined geographic areas, addressing community-level needs rather than household-level interventions. Proposals that do not apply an area-based model will not be considered.
- **Local economy:** Projects must demonstrate how they will generate local employment and procure goods, materials, and services locally to support the recovery of the local economy. Specific indicators measuring direct employment and local economic value created must be included in the project log frame.
- **Climate and environment:** Where relevant to the proposed activities, projects must integrate climate-resilient and environmentally responsible design, in line with Section 5.4.
- **Coordination:** Projects must demonstrate coordination with relevant sectors, and local and national authorities for the proposed intervention areas, including any applicable notifications or administrative arrangements. This will be considered an indicator of access and operational feasibility.
- **Cross-cutting approaches:** Proposals must integrate Protection, GESI, AAPCE, conflict sensitivity, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability considerations throughout the project cycle, in line with the relevant AFS approach documents.
- **Compliance:** All proposals must adhere to the AFS Manual and the RA4 Proposal Guidelines, including risk management, sanctions compliance, due diligence, and accountability measures.
- **National banking channels:** RA4 partners are expected to make use of national banking systems for local payments, including salaries and service provider transfers, where operationally feasible. This supports the integration of humanitarian programming with national economic structures and contributes to the recovery of the formal financial system.

6.4 Proposal Evaluation

Proposals are evaluated by the AFS Technical Evaluation Panel against the criteria set out in the Proposal Guidelines. Technical scoring covers relevance to the allocation objectives, design quality, partner capacity and access, value for money, risk management, and the integration of cross-cutting approaches. The additional scoring for consortia and AO described in Section 6.1 applies. The Technical Evaluation Panel's recommendations are reviewed by the AFS Executive Team, and the final shortlist of selected proposals is endorsed by the Steering Board.

Note: The Scorecard Guideline will be shared with all AFS partners who are eligible to apply for RA4 during the proposal preparation stage. This guideline will serve as a guide and support for them in developing their proposals.

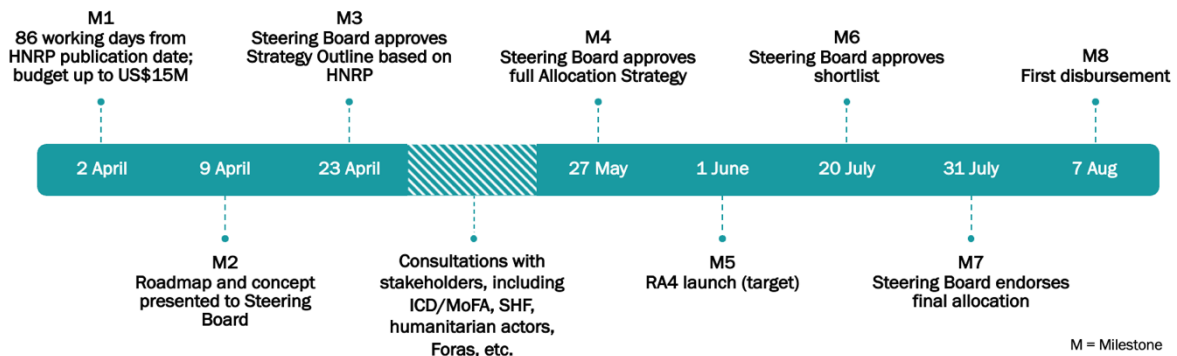
6.5 Partner Guidance and Support

This Allocation Strategy provides the strategic framework for RA4. The following guidance and support materials will be made available to AFS-qualified partners during the proposal submission process:

- **Q&A sessions:** AFS will schedule a Q&A session immediately following the launch of this allocation strategy. An invitation will be sent to all AFS-qualified partners. Further sessions may be scheduled as needed.
- **FAQ document:** Published following the Q&A session and updated throughout the proposal submission period as partners raise questions.
- **Proposal Guideline:** Shared with the FAQ document, the Proposal Guideline provides detailed guidance on proposal structure, technical and financial requirements, scoring criteria, and key dates.
- **Proposal Template:** Made available through the Grant Management System (GMS) during the proposal submission period, with embedded guidance for each section of the proposal and supporting annexes.

7 Process and Timeline

The RA4 allocation cycle began on 2 April 2026, following the publication of the 2026 HNRP:



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Annex 1. Geographic Prioritisation and Priority Locations

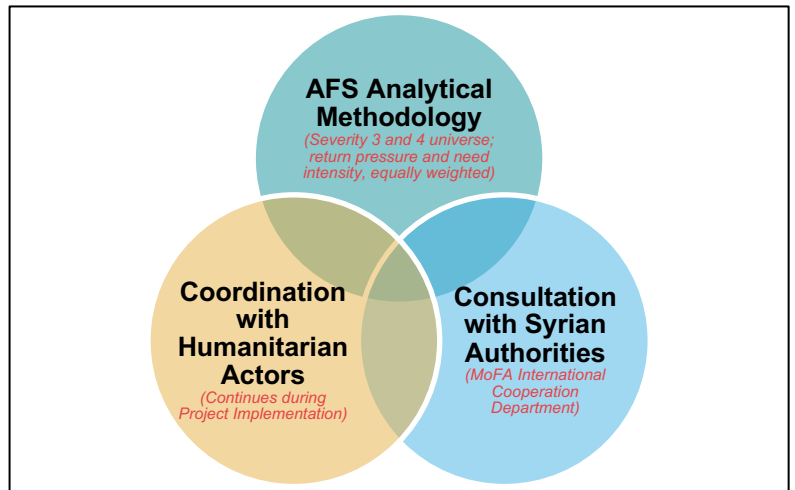
Converging Lens Framework

RA4 geographic prioritisation is informed by three complementary lenses, each contributing a distinct dimension of evidence and judgement: an evidence-based methodology grounded in HNRP data, consultation with Syrian authorities, and coordination with humanitarian mechanisms operating in Syria. The RA4 priority location list is derived from the intersection of these lenses.

Analytical Methodology

RA4 considers all sub-districts classified at Severity 3 and Severity 4 by the 2026 HNRP Inter-sector Severity Assessment as the eligibility universe, capturing locations that face severe to extreme multi-sectoral needs. Of the 272 sub-districts assessed nationally, 262 fall within these two categories. The inclusion of Severity 3 reflects consultation feedback and displacement data indicating that several Severity 3 locations face needs and recovery pressures comparable to Severity 4 areas.

Within this universe, a combined priority score has been calculated for each location using two equally weighted dimensions that reflect RA4's primary SO1 and SO3 reference points:¹



Score A: Return Pressure

Returnees as a percentage of sub-district population. This measures the pressure that return movements place on depleted essential services.

Score B: Need Intensity

People in Need as a percentage of sub-district population. This measures the intensity of humanitarian needs, regardless of displacement type.

Combined Priority Score = (Score A + Score B) / 2. Both scores are normalised on a 0–100 scale and weighted equally, reflecting RA4's co-equal SO1 and SO3 reference framework. Sub-districts are ranked by combined score; those scoring above 60, meaning locations performing well above average across both dimensions within the Severity 3 and 4 universe, form the RA4 priority location list of 24 sub-districts.

Consultation with Syrian Authorities

The priority list was shared with the International Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates during the consultation process. **Of the 24 RA4 priority locations, nine are also identified in MoFA's National Priority Sub-districts list**, a government prioritisation framework focused on supporting return movements. These nine are designated as Strategic Convergence Locations in the table below. Selection, scoring, and funding decisions under RA4 apply equally across all priority locations.

Coordination with Humanitarian Mechanisms

RA4 has been designed to be complementary to other humanitarian financing mechanisms operating in Syria, including the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF), ECHO, and the Syria Recovery Trust Fund (SRTF). Complementarity under RA4 is built into the design of the allocation itself, rather than negotiated location by location.

The SHF First Reserve Allocation, launched in March 2026, is a six-month fast-track reserve providing rapid life-saving and protection assistance to pre-selected UN agencies and INGOs across 85 Severity 4 sub-districts. RA4 is structurally complementary to this in three respects: it operates over a longer 16-month implementation cycle suited to area-based service restoration and recovery, it directs 100 per cent of funding to qualified national NGO partners; and it focuses on integrated, multi-sectoral interventions at the community level rather than rapid direct service delivery to individuals. Where RA4 priority locations overlap with the SHF priority locations, the two allocations are expected to operate in parallel and at different points along the response timeline, addressing distinct dimensions of need within the same geographies.

As is standard practice for AFS allocations, the list of approved and funded projects under RA4 will be shared with SHF, ECHO, SRTF, and other relevant donors and mechanisms during implementation, to support ongoing coordination and prevent overlap.

Priority Location and Sector List

For each priority location, **the table indicates whether each sector is a 1st or 2nd priority, based on the HNRP sector severity score for that location:**

- **1st priority:** Sector severity score of 4 in that sub-district. Proposals must include this sector as a primary component of the intervention.

¹ Data sources: 2026 HNRP Needs, Severity and Target dataset (HDX, 21 April 2026) and IOM DTM Syria Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment, Round 14 (IOM, 27 April 2026).

- **2nd priority:** Sector severity score of 3 in that sub-district. Proposals may include this sector, but it is not a required primary component.

The **24 priority locations listed below** emerge from the converging lens framework. Strategic Convergence Locations (SCL), where AFS analytical priorities and Syrian authority priorities align, are highlighted. The list also presents the underlying data on returnee pressure, need intensity, and sectoral severity that informs each location's priority status.

Table 1: RA4 Priority Locations

#	Gov	District	Sub-district	P-Code	Sev.	% Returnees	% PiN	Score	Health	Edu	WaSH	Prot.	SCL
1	Homs	Tadmor	Sokhneh	SY040501	4	97.3%	100.0%	98.6	1st	1st	1st	1st	—
2	Idleb	Idleb	Saraqab	SY070003	4	97.7%	89.6%	93.2	2nd	1st	1st	2nd	—
3	Idleb	Idleb	Abul Thohur	SY070001	4	95.2%	91.0%	92.7	1st	1st	1st	2nd	—
4	Lattakia	Lattakia	Rabee'a	SY060002	4	100.0%	85.2%	92.0	1st	1st	1st	1st	—
5	Idleb	Al Ma'ra	Tamanaah	SY070204	4	83.0%	100.0%	91.5	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	YES
6	Idleb	Al Ma'ra	Sanjar	SY070202	4	80.7%	100.0%	90.4	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	—
7	Idleb	Al Ma'ra	Khan Shaykun	SY070201	4	74.8%	100.0%	87.4	1st	1st	1st	2nd	YES
8	Idleb	Al Ma'ra	Kafr Nobol	SY070203	4	99.7%	69.0%	83.0	1st	1st	1st	1st	YES
9	Hama	As-Suqaylabiyah	Ziyara	SY050202	4	89.6%	78.1%	82.8	1st	1st	1st	2nd	YES
10	Hama	As-Salamiyeh	Oqeirbat	SY050304	4	87.7%	69.9%	77.5	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	—
11	Ar-Raqqa	Ar-Raqqa	Maadan	SY110103	3	49.6%	100.0%	74.8	2nd	1st	1st	2nd	—
12	Aleppo	Jebel Saman	Tall Ed-daman	SY020002	3	65.3%	84.9%	74.4	2nd	2nd	1st	2nd	YES
13	Hama	As-Suqaylabiyah	Madiq Castle	SY050204	3	88.2%	63.2%	74.1	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	YES
14	Idleb	Al Ma'ra	Ma'arrat An Nu'man	SY070200	4	97.9%	53.8%	73.8	1st	1st	1st	2nd	YES
15	Idleb	Al Ma'ra	Heish	SY070205	4	92.7%	56.7%	72.8	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	—
16	Aleppo	A'zaz	Tall Refaat	SY020402	3	61.2%	79.6%	69.5	1st	1st	1st	2nd	—
17	Hama	Muhradah	Karnaz	SY050502	4	65.3%	74.5%	68.8	2nd	2nd	1st	1st	—
18	Hama	Muhradah	Kafr Zeita	SY050501	4	95.2%	46.5%	68.5	2nd	2nd	1st	2nd	YES
19	As-Sweida	As-Sweida	Mazra'a	SY130001	4	36.4%	100.0%	68.2	—	1st	2nd	1st	—
20	Aleppo	As-Safira	Khanaser	SY020701	4	33.5%	100.0%	66.8	1st	1st	1st	2nd	YES
21	Aleppo	Afrin	Bulbul	SY020301	4	32.9%	100.0%	66.4	2nd	1st	1st	1st	—
22	Rural Damascus	Duma	Haran Al'awameed	SY030206	3	31.7%	100.0%	65.8	2nd	1st	2nd	2nd	—
23	Homs	Tadmor	Tadmor	SY040500	3	89.9%	45.9%	65.5	2nd	1st	2nd	2nd	—
24	Aleppo	As-Safira	Hajeb	SY020703	4	53.5%	72.0%	61.5	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	—

SCL = Strategic Convergence Location: included in both the AFS priority list and the MoFA National Priority Sub-districts (NPS) list.

Data sources: 2026 HNRP Needs, Severity and Target dataset (HDX, 21 April 2026) and IOM DTM Syria Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment, Round 14 (IOM, 27 April 2026).

ⁱ According to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS), NNGOs received \$85.5 million in 2025, accounting for 3% of the total \$2.7 billion in humanitarian funding for Syria that year. The \$2.7 billion figure includes both funds allocated to the UN's HRP (a total of \$1.35 billion) and other non-HRP humanitarian funding (\$1.36 billion). When only the \$1.35 billion allocated to the HRP is analysed, the share of Syria aid funding allocated to NNGOs in 2025 stands at 6%. See: OCHA, Financial Tracking Service. https://fts.unocha.org/plans/1276/global-clusters?order=total_funding&sort=desc. Numbers are correct as of 3 April 2026.