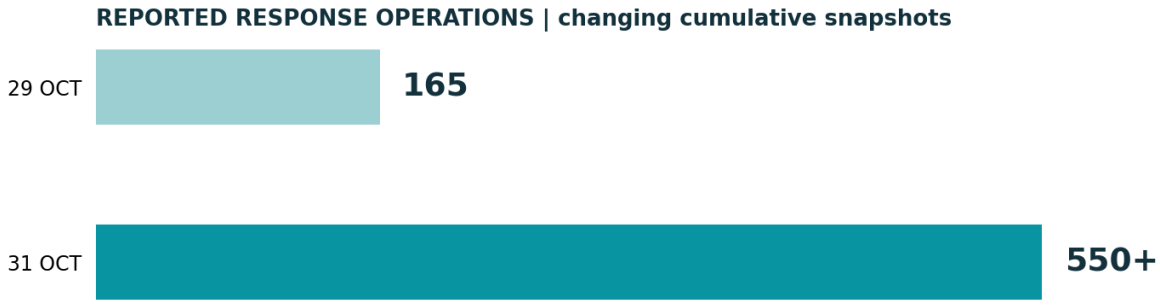
RESEARCH & HUMANITARIAN ANALYSIS

FLASH FLOODS IN SYRIA

SITUATION UPDATE NO. 02 | 31 OCTOBER 2026

Eastern Syria focus: Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor, Al-Hasakah and eastern Homs



At a glance

8 deaths[1]	**4 missing**	**60 people rescued**
550+ operations	900+ emergency reports	375 Raqqa camp families evacuated

[1] Seven people were reported drowned (including five children); an additional person died in a flood-related road traffic incident. Figures reflect the national multi-governorate response rather than an EMISSA-operated response.

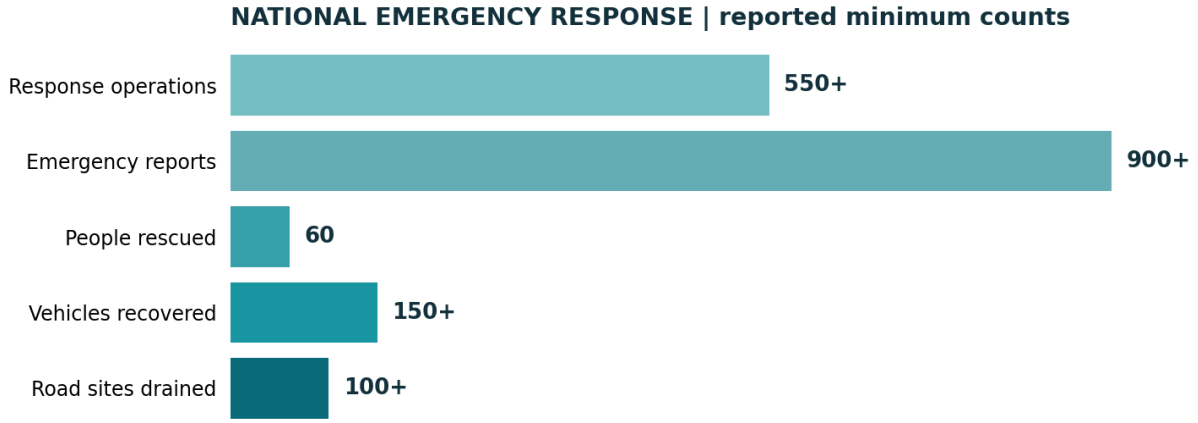
Executive overview

Intense rainfall beginning on 27–28 October 2026 triggered flash floods, road interruptions, casualties and displacements across several Syrian governorates. National emergency teams expanded interventions rapidly through 30 October. Eastern Syria remains a key operational concern because fragile road infrastructure, seasonal riverbeds and low-lying displacement settlements increase exposure and can cut communities off from health care, water and markets.

This update distinguishes the reported national response scale from location-specific implications. It provides an operational picture, identifies information gaps and sets out a sequenced humanitarian response framework. Data remain provisional pending field verification.

01 | Incident evolution and response

Across affected governorates, the emergency system reported over 550 field interventions and more than 900 incoming calls. At least 60 civilians were rescued after becoming trapped by floodwaters, and more than 150 stranded vehicles were recovered. Water removal operations covered around 250 homes or public facilities and over 100 sites on main roads.



Reading the graphic: the five measures represent different activity types and must not be added together. Several indicators are reported as approximate or minimum counts.

Chronology of reported developments

27–28 Oct	**Heavy rainfall and early flash-flood impact; local access constraints emerge.**
29 Oct	Initial response and evacuation reports; site-level figures still incomplete.
30 Oct	Multi-governorate operations exceed 550; rescues, vehicle recovery and drainage accelerate.
31 Oct	Updated casualty clarification and continuing search operations; access and service monitoring remain necessary.

People at immediate risk

Available reporting identifies 375 families evacuated from camps in Raqqa and more than 350 students safely evacuated from two schools. These represent distinct groups and should not be combined into an overall displacement total. Reported deaths, missing persons and injuries are likely to require further reconciliation as information flows improve.

02 | Geographic impact and access analysis

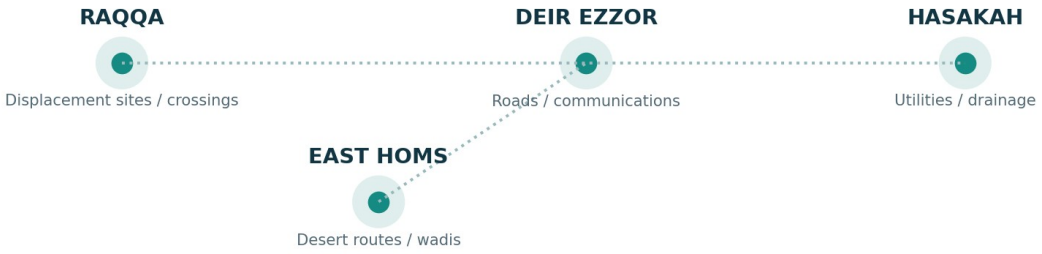
This section provides an operational risk assessment rather than a verified inventory of all damaged assets. Locations and routes should be checked on the day of deployment.

Geography	Observed / reported concern	Immediate verification requirement
Raqqa	Displacement-site exposure, inundated roads, access disruption, camp evacuations	Household counts, temporary shelter, road and bridge usability
Deir ez-Zor	Road and culvert damage, transport and communication disruption	Functional crossings, communications, health referrals
Al-Hasakah	Potential interruption to utilities and scattered settlements	Water, electricity and settlement access assessments
Eastern Homs / Palmyra	Desert corridors and wadis subject to rapid runoff and travel restrictions	Route clearance, traffic restrictions, safe alternate access

Access implications for humanitarian actors

- Damaged crossings may create significant travel-time variability and constrain last-mile deliveries.
- Do not treat a road described as reopened as unrestricted for heavy vehicles or humanitarian convoys.
- Medical referral routes should be reconfirmed before patient movement; backup communications should be available.
- Use community focal points, road authorities and civil defence coordination to validate safe access before deployment.

Illustrative exposure pathway



Schematic of operational concerns only; it is not a map of flood extent, event locations, geographic boundaries or confirmed damage sites.

03 | Humanitarian needs and sector risks

Protection and inclusion

Sudden inundation is especially dangerous for children, older people, people with disabilities and households without accessible transport. Priority checks include safe evacuation, family tracing, emergency referrals, document loss, safeguarding and two-way risk communication.

Shelter and non-food items

Temporary displacement can leave families with wet bedding, damaged clothing and deteriorated housing conditions. Household-level verification should determine who needs safe accommodation, mattresses, blankets, clothing, lighting and essential domestic items.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Floodwater can compromise water quality, sanitation facilities and waste disposal. Water operators should assess turbidity, supply interruption and contamination risks. Emergency messages should cover safe water storage and hand hygiene.

Health and psychosocial wellbeing

Access constraints and interrupted services can delay treatment of injuries, chronic conditions and acute illness. Support should prioritize continuity of referrals and essential medicines, first aid and psychologically informed communication.

Education and public services

The evacuation of over 350 students from two schools illustrates service disruption. Education authorities should inspect affected premises before reopening and communicate alternative arrangements.

Livelihoods and markets

Damaged local routes can restrict wage employment, agricultural transport and access to shops and supplies. Market conditions and vendor accessibility require rapid follow-up before cash or voucher modalities are selected.

04 | Recommended first 72-hour action plan

Window	Priority action	Operational output
0–24h	Establish joint information cell; check fatalities and missing-person reporting; verify access alerts; connect local responders	Verified incident log, safe-access notice and urgent referral contacts
24–48h	Rapid multisector check in priority settlements, shelters, WASH assets and health referral pathways	Location-level needs matrix and service interruption list
48–72h	Target immediate lifesaving assistance and prioritize drainage, shelter and safe water needs	Response package, delivery plan and accountable feedback mechanism

Priority assessment questions

- Which settlements remain inaccessible, and through which routes or means can responders safely reach them?
- How many households are displaced, where are they staying and what assistance has already been delivered?
- Are drinking-water networks, pumps, toilets, drainage systems and electricity operating safely?
- Which children, older people and people with disabilities require urgent assisted movement or referral?
- What are local prices, markets and transport conditions, and are cash-based options operationally feasible?
- What community feedback mechanisms exist to identify exclusion, safety concerns or unmet needs?

Operational readiness checklist

A practical response sequence is: validate alerts → agree safe routes → assess needs → coordinate gaps → mobilize assistance → log delivery and feedback → reassess residual exposure. No deployment should be based solely on province-level headlines.

05 | Information gaps, risks and reporting discipline

Risk / gap	Mitigation / update rule
Mixed national and local counts	Separate national response figures from specific eastern Syria observations.
Overlapping reporting windows	Use date and cut-off for every metric; do not add cumulative figures from separate bulletins.
Unverified damage reports	Classify as provisional until checked by field teams or service operators.
Changing road status	Reconfirm conditions immediately before movement and maintain alternate routes.
Protection and privacy	Publish aggregated figures and avoid identifying affected individuals.
Further rainfall	Refresh local meteorological and flash-flood advisories before field activities.

EMISSA operational positioning

EMISSA can contribute through rapid community-based information gathering, context analysis, local coordination and needs-based prioritization. This report is an analytical briefing; it does not indicate that EMISSA conducted the reported nationwide rescues or response operations. Future field updates should document the precise organization responsible for any delivered assistance.

Key messages for partners

- Immediate needs are concentrated in protection of life, safe movement, temporary shelter, drinking water and restoration of critical access.
- National activity volumes demonstrate response intensity but do not provide a reliable household-level picture for targeting in eastern Syria.
- A coordinated, geographically disaggregated assessment is needed to avoid duplication and support safe early recovery.
- Continued rainfall risk requires flexible planning and repeated verification of route and utility conditions.

Update note

Prepared as a desk-based situation update on 31 October 2026. Figures are public emergency-response reports available at the reporting cut-off and are subject to revision. No fabricated field photographs or simulated disaster images are used as incident evidence. The EMISSA emblem reproduced on the cover was supplied by the organization.

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