



## In this issue

Humanitarian situation is catastrophic P.1

Palestine refugees severely affected P.2

WFP steps up food assistance P.3

Underfunding hampers response P.6

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Number of Syrian IDPs has more than doubled over recent months.
- UN agencies continue cross-line assistance but require access to more people in need.
- WFP dispatched food assistance to 2.25 million people in April.
- Number of Syrian refugees increased by nearly 850,000 people in first quarter of 2013.

## FIGURES

Population	21.4m
# of people in need	6.8m
# of IDPs	4.25m
# of children in need	3.1m
# of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa	1,443,284

## FUNDING

**\$563 million**

requested for humanitarian assistance inside Syria (January-June 2013)

**61%** funded (as of 6 May 2013)

**\$1 billion**

requested under the Regional Response Plan (January-June 2013)

**55%** funded (as of 6 May 2013)

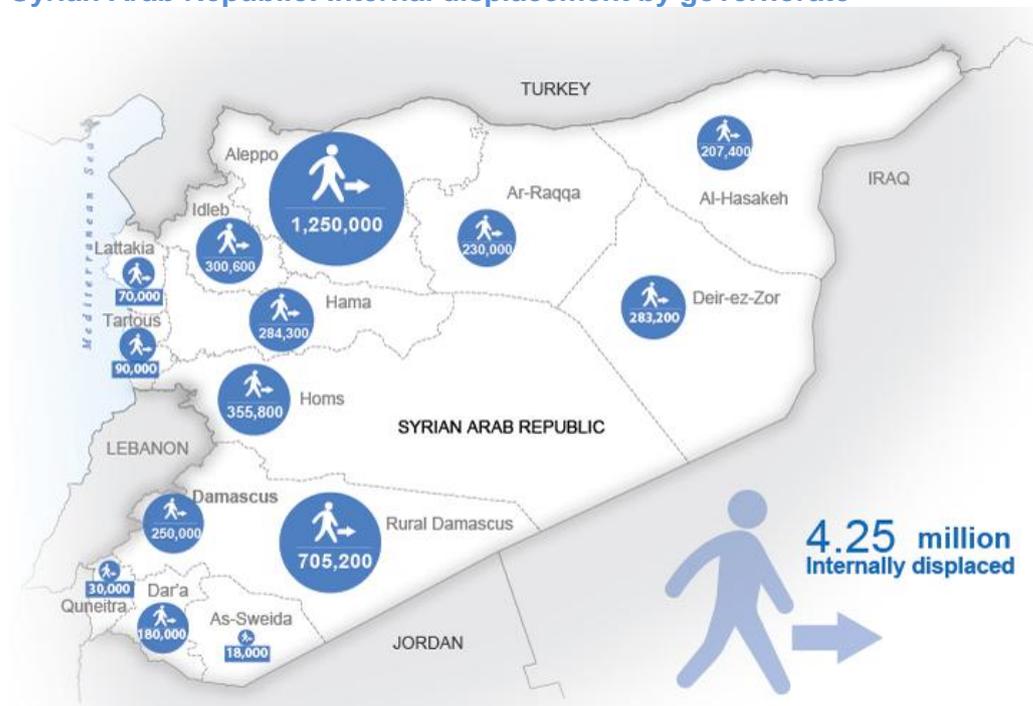
## Immense humanitarian needs in Syria

### Numbers of people in need have grown rapidly

Humanitarian needs are increasing across Syria. An estimated 6.8 million Syrians, or almost one-third of the entire population, require urgent humanitarian assistance. About 3.1 million children, or around 50 per cent of those who currently require assistance, are children. Over the past year, humanitarian needs have risen by 5.8 million people, up from 1 million estimated to be in need in March 2012. Almost half of this increase occurred during the first four months of this year.

Movement by internally displaced persons (IDPs) continues to be large-scale and fluid, as many Syrians are displaced multiple times. Over the past months, the number of IDPs in Syria has more than doubled, from an estimated 2 million to 4.25 million people. Particularly high numbers of IDPs are concentrated in Aleppo and Rural Damascus at 1,250,000 and 705,200 people, respectively.

### Syrian Arab Republic: Internal displacement by governorate



Source: UN estimate. IDP numbers are indicated by actual location. The

### Thousands flee violence in Tartous as humanitarian situation worsens

Recent violence in the towns of Al Bayda and Baniyas has left an unconfirmed number of people dead and many wounded. An initial wave of IDPs left Baniyas for Tartous City on

*Almost half of Palestine refugee community in Syria has been displaced.*

4 May, with the current expectation that thousands of others will follow amid fear of further violence. According to humanitarian agencies, some IDPs originating in Baniyas have been unable to cross Government checkpoints and access Tartous City. Since 4 May, WFP has been providing food assistance to cover 10,000 IDPs from Baniyas and Bayda. Other agencies are looking to scale up the response and provide further assistance.

Meanwhile, the overall situation among IDPs in Tartous is deteriorating. Most IDPs located in the city are renting accommodation or staying with host families, but available accommodation is dwindling. About 6,000 people are housed in communal shelters and SARC Tartous has recently set up a tented camp. According to an assessment by UNHCR, families in communal shelters face considerable overcrowding and precarious water and sanitation conditions.

Due to sustained IDP influx and pressures from the existing IDP population, health and education services in the governorate are completely overstretched and reported to be reaching breaking point. So far, over 30,000 IDP children have registered in Tartous schools, forcing school administrators to set up a double-shift system.

### **Parties to the conflict must abide by International Humanitarian Law**

Physical access to people in need of humanitarian assistance remains severely constrained. All parties to the conflict are reminded of their obligation to abide by International Humanitarian Law and to protect civilians. The parties must provide access for humanitarian aid workers, ensure safe passage to those who wish to leave conflict areas, and protect hospitals and other medical facilities from violence and destruction.

## **Cross-line delivery continues despite insecurity**

### **Inter-agency convoys have assisted 764,000 people in hot-spot areas**

Despite an increasingly complex security situation, progress has been made in organizing inter-agency aid convoys across conflict lines. On 25 April, a UN inter-agency convoy crossed conflict lines and reached Ter Mallah and Al Ghan in Homs governorate to deliver food and essential non-food items for 24,000 people. Another cross-line convoy to Al Kariteen carried essential supplies for 20,000 people.

Overall, from January to April, some 764,000 people have been reached through UN-led relief convoys to hard-to-access areas. Out of ten convoys which crossed conflict lines, five targeted opposition-controlled areas, while another five went to contested areas. Once access into hot-spot areas has been established, agencies have been able to provide additional assistance through regular programme activity.

### **Regular programme assistance reaches hundreds of thousands cross-line**

Regular programme assistance by UN agencies and humanitarian partners continue to reach hundreds of thousands of people in need across conflict lines. In March, WFP food assistance reached about 1.9 million beneficiaries throughout Syria. Almost half of those reached by WFP and partners were staying in opposition-held or contested areas. UNICEF is also providing considerable assistance to people in hard-to-reach areas in Dera'a, Hama and Homs governorates. Of almost 82,000 children recently reached through psycho-social support interventions, about 60 per cent were in cross-line locations.

## **Palestine refugees increasingly affected**

### **235,000 Palestine refugees have been displaced inside Syria**

Palestine refugees in Syria are being killed, injured and displaced in greater numbers than ever before, as the armed conflict continues to affect refugee camps across the country. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) now estimates that approximately 235,000 Palestine refugees, almost half the Palestine refugee community in Syria, have been displaced. In addition, some 42,000 refugees have so far fled to

Lebanon, while another 6,000 have left to Jordan. According to UNRWA, more than 400,000 Palestine refugees currently require urgent humanitarian assistance.

### **Entire Palestine refugee population forced to leave camp north of Aleppo**

Clashes and shelling continue in and around Yarmouk, Husseiniyeh, Sit Zeinab and Khan Eshieh camp in the Damascus area, as well as in Aleppo and the surrounding countryside. On 26 April, following hostilities in and around the Palestine refugee camp of Ein El Tal north of Aleppo, the entire camp population of 6,000 people was displaced. UNRWA staff in Aleppo responded immediately to assist some 3,000 of those who had been displaced, providing food and cash assistance. The majority of displaced refugees have since moved to camps and UNRWA facilities in Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Dera'a and areas of Damascus.

### **Provision of health and education services severely undermined**

The impact of hostilities on the provision of health and education services to Palestine refugees is also considerable. On-going fighting has forced eight of 23 UNRWA health clinics to close. Working hours are substantially reduced in another two health centres. Limited access to health facilities has translated into a reduction in patient visits recorded by UNRWA. While UNRWA had 245,000 consultations during the first quarter of 2012, data from the first quarter of 2013 show a drop of nearly 50 per cent to 130,000 consultations. Similarly, in the education sector, less than half of enrolled Palestine refugee students have been able to attend UNRWA schools. At the end of April, only 48 out of 118 schools were open, with average attendance at 36 per cent out of a total of 67,300 students.

## **UNICEF warns of precarious WASH situation**

### **Decline in water supply availability reported country-wide**

Water availability per capita has decreased to one-third of pre-crisis levels, according to UNICEF. The decline is linked to frequent power cuts, fuel shortages, disruption to production and maintenance of water works, as well as infrastructure damages. UNICEF estimates that the water availability per person per day has dropped from an estimated pre-crisis availability of 75 litres to an average of 25 litres per person a day. Meanwhile, access to waste-water treatment chemicals has become increasingly difficult. Most water utilities are short of chlorine, and chlorination is not systematically carried out by public and private water truckers.

### **UNICEF water purification assistance to 200,000 people over last two weeks**

To respond to urgent water needs, UNICEF supports water purification through provision of sodium hypochlorite to governorates. During the reporting period, over 90 tonnes of chlorine were provided to Tartous, Hama, Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Idlib and Lattakia. Such assistance is expected to cover water purification for 200,000 people.

UNICEF has also started the distribution of generators to Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Hama, Homs, Deir Ez-Zor, Idlib and Quneitra. This initiative is designed to prevent outbreaks of water borne diseases, particularly in cities and villages located across rivers. The estimated population to benefit from clean water in the targeted areas is 2.1 million. To date, nine out of 16 generators have been dispatched to Aleppo, Homs and Deir Ez-Zor.

## **WFP steps up food assistance across Syria**

### **Food assistance to 2.25 million Syrians amid rising needs**

During April, WFP provided food assistance to approximately 2.25 million people out of a target population of 2.5 million. WFP was unable to reach its overall April target as a result of access constraints, which led to suspension of operations for a full week from 16 to 24 April. Following the resumption of operations on 25 April, WFP dispatched enough

*Around 910,000 children have been vaccinated against polio and measles, mumps and rubella.*

food to cover over 840,000 people in just eight days, thus reaching 90 per cent of the target beneficiaries.

According to WFP, food needs are rising across the country. While WFP continues to prepare for further scale up, the current target of its operations is to meet the urgent food needs of 2.5 million Syrians.

## Vulnerable IDPs receive NFIs from UNHCR and humanitarian partners

### **UNHCR, humanitarian partners deliver essential items to 120,000 IDPs**

UNHCR distribution of essential non-food items continued over the reporting period, mainly targeting IDPs in Tartous, Damascus, Homs, Rural Damascus and Aleppo. Nearly 72,000 people received NFIs, bringing the total number of people reached by UNHCR to more than 520,000 so far this year.

On 2 May, DRC provided essential items to IDPs in Aleppo. The dispatch targeted a total of 30,000 people, including 5,000 children.

Over the reporting period, IOM provided essential non-food items to more than 11,000 IDPs in Aleppo and Lattakia. Aid distribution took place across conflict lines in two neighbourhoods of Aleppo. In Lattakia, assistance delivery targeted IDPs staying in collective shelters and a tented IDP site.

UNDP continued its support to vulnerable IDP families through the delivery of hygiene kits and essential items to 5,000 people in Hama City and Dera'a. Another 4,500 beneficiaries in Suweida received assistance, including more than 500 children.

### **UNRWA assistance reaches almost 23,000 Palestine refugees**

Over the past two weeks, UNRWA provided essential items and food assistance to almost 23,000 people, including 3,000 Palestine refugees who had been displaced from Ein El Tal camp north of Aleppo. Since the onset of the crisis, UNRWA has reached almost 166,000 beneficiaries with NFIs and food aid. Meanwhile, cash distribution has benefitted a total of 220,000 Palestine refugees.

## Health support reaches children, women, IDPs

### **910,000 children vaccinated as part of national campaign**

A national vaccination campaign against mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) and polio continues to target children in schools and shelters hosting internally displaced people. According to reports received from nine governorates, some 910,000 children have so far received vaccinations under the campaign. Due to violence and insecurity, vaccinations have been delayed in Homs, Rural Damascus and Ar-Raqqa. In order to reach all those identified to receive vaccinations, the campaign will continue until the end of May.

### **UNFPA reproductive health services to 5,000 women**

Mobile health teams supported by UNFPA continued to deliver reproductive health and psycho-social support services. Over the reporting period, the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) and the Syrian Association for Health Promotion and Development (SAHPAD) provided 3,100 women in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Ar-Raqqa with reproductive health services. Another 1,600 women received assistance through SARC and University Maternal Hospitals. Some 300 women accessed free emergency obstetric care services using reproductive health vouchers.

### **IMC medical, mental health support to nearly 8,000 people in April**

International Medical Corps (IMC) in coordination with SARC has been responding to the health, mental health and psychosocial needs of displaced populations since early 2012. During April, IMC provided more than 3,000 medical consultations through their static clinic in Barzeh. Five mobile medical teams operational in Damascus and its suburbs

*More than 1.4 million Syrian refugees staying in neighbouring countries and North Africa.*

provided another 4,000 IDPs with medical consultations. Health education activities reached nearly 4,000 people. Three mobile mental health and psycho-social services teams assisted 620 people. IMC also opened a clinic in Jaramana, south of Damascus, to respond to needs among displaced Syrians and Iraqi refugees.

### **UNICEF-supported mobile medical teams reached 55,000 children in 2013**

Since the beginning of 2013, UNICEF-supported mobile health teams in 12 governorates and the fixed centre in Damascus have assisted almost 55,000 children. Assistance has focused on children who are internally displaced. UNICEF is also supporting the delivery of nutrition products to 49,000 beneficiaries, including IDP children and lactating and pregnant women in order to prevent malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

## Children receive remedial classes, psycho-social support

### **UNICEF reached over 88,000 children through remedial classes**

By the end of April, a total of 336 schools clubs were operational across nine governorates of Syria. Remedial classes and recreational activities are currently being held with UNICEF support in Dera'a, Rural Damascus, Latakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs, Quneitra, Damascus, and Deir Ez-Zor. Some 88,000 children benefit from such activities.

Meanwhile, around 44,000 children received psycho-social support from UNICEF and partners.

## More than 1.4 million Syrian refugees

### **Refugee population up by almost 850,000 in Q1 of 2013**

The number of refugees fleeing Syria to neighbouring countries and North Africa increased by almost 850,000 people in the first four months of 2013. Syrian refugees now constitute more than ten per cent of the population in Lebanon. In Jordan, the population has increased by 6 per cent as a result of the refugee influx. Host countries are also facing domestic challenges, including economic decline, inflation and unemployment.

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 6 May 2013
Egypt	62,032
Iraq	142,395
Jordan	448,370
Lebanon	455,665
Turkey	324,770
North Africa	10,052
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,443,284</b>

Source: UNHCR as of 6 May 2013. For updated figures and more information, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrian-refugees>. Above figures are based on numbers registered in each country and/or those who are assisted while waiting for registration. In addition to the above figures, around 28,000 Syrians have fled to various European countries.

### **Urban refugees face rising costs, competition for shelter**

The majority of Syrian refugees (76 per cent) are living outside camps in urban settings. Affording rent is becoming an increasing concern for many as overcrowding and competition for shelter grows. In addition to high rental costs, refugees are experiencing significant income-expenditure gaps, limited work opportunities, exhaustion of savings and rising debt levels. Meanwhile, prices of essentials such as food and fuel are rising in several host countries. About 350,000 Syrians are staying in 23 refugee camps in Turkey, Jordan and Iraq. Another six refugee camps are under construction: four in Turkey and one each in Jordan and Iraq.

*WASH and Education sectors severely underfunded.*

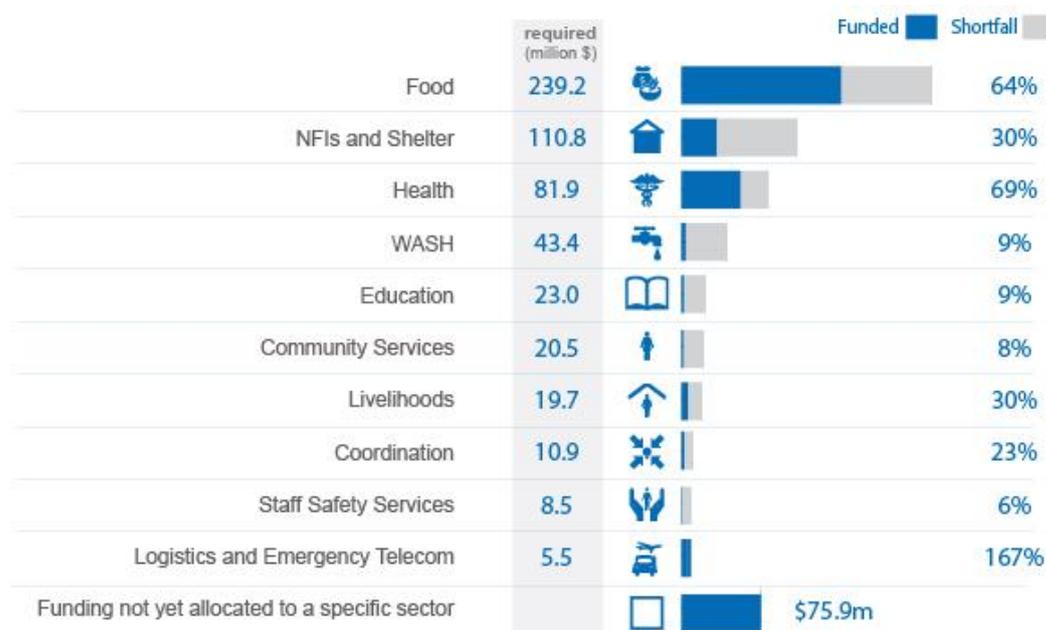
## Regional response plan under revision

UN agencies, humanitarian partners and host Governments are currently revising the Syria Regional Response Plan to December 2013 (RRP5). The new appeal will be launched on 28 May and will reflect the rising numbers of refugees fleeing Syria and their continuing needs, as well as greater support for host Governments and communities.

## Funding constraints continue to limit response

### Assistance in several sectors impeded by underfunding

Funding constraints continue to impede the timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) requires a total of US\$563 million in funding to address the needs of people in Syria. As of 6 May, this response plan was 61 per cent funded. Funding for different sectors under the response plan is uneven. Some sectors, such as WASH (9 per cent funded), Education (9 per cent funded) and NFIs and Shelter (30 per cent funded) are facing considerable shortfalls.



### Steady increase in Syria ERF allocations

As of 6 May, the Syria Emergency Response Fund has allocated nearly US\$20 million to 68 projects in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. There are currently 29 project proposals at different stages of the review and approval process, amounting to a combined value of US\$9 million. As these projects are approved, total allocations are expected to rise to almost US\$29 million. Recent proposals from sector working groups in Jordan, as well as additional project proposals for Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, are expected to further increase ERF funding allocations in coming weeks.

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