

HIGHLIGHTS

- Scale and gravity of humanitarian needs continue to grow.
- Education under threat due, in part, to infrastructural damage and the presence of IDPs in schools.
- Syrian refugees could total 600,000 by the end of 2012 if outflows continue at current rate.
- UN and partners call for redoubling of efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance.

FIGURES

Population	22 m
Governorates	14
HDI rank (of 187)	119
# of IDPs in schools and public buildings	1.2 m
# of people in need of assistance	2.5 m
# of people food insecure	3 m
# of Syrian refugees registered in neighbouring countries	>260,000

FUNDING (US\$)

347 million requested by the UN for activities inside Syria
104 million (30%) received
193 million requested under the Regional Refugee Response Plan
105 million (54%) received



IDPs in Homs. OCHA

In this issue

- Humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate P.1
- Extensive humanitarian needs in Homs P.1
- Crisis threatens education for thousands of children P.2
- Coming winter calls for tailored response P.2
- UN agencies step up assistance amid challenges P.2
- Number of Syrian refugees triple in three months P.4

Humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate

Number of Syrians in need of assistance more than doubles

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has more than doubled since the launch of the response plan in June 2012. The UN now estimates that 2.5 million require urgent humanitarian aid, including 1.2 million internally displaced people hosted in schools and public buildings. The main humanitarian concern is protection. The rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation is largely a result of the recent escalation of violence. People are routinely subjected to indiscriminate shelling of densely populated areas, excessive use of force and arbitrary detention. There is no safe place for those who are caught up in the violence.

Syrians continue to seek refuge in neighbouring countries

The ability of local communities to support people who have fled their homes has generally been exhausted. While some Syrians continue to seek refuge in schools and other public buildings, a high number of people cross the border into neighbouring countries. The number of Syrians who have registered as refugees in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey has more than tripled from early June to early September. The total number of refugees has now reached more than 260,000 with an increase of 100,000 refugees during the month of August alone.

Security risks faced by aid workers include kidnappings, car-jackings

Humanitarian access continues to be impeded by checkpoints, roadblocks, road closures and insecurity. General insecurity related to on-going violence is compounded by a rise in criminal activity. An increase in the number of kidnappings and car-jackings has been observed over recent weeks. Many of the kidnappings are carried out by criminal elements for financial gain. Humanitarian workers are not immune from such threats, with national staff particularly vulnerable. Aid workers should be respected and their safety and security guaranteed by all parties.

UN mission reveals extensive humanitarian needs in Homs

490,000 IDPs in need of assistance in Homs Governorate alone

A UN inter-agency assessment mission visited Homs City and surrounding areas in early September. The mission witnessed extensive humanitarian needs. Unified registration data indicate that about 490,000 displaced people are located in Homs Governorate and are scattered across 100 locations. As a first step to address increased needs, WFP will double its provision of food rations to Homs from a total coverage of 125,000 people in August to 223,500 people in September.

Majority of Homs hospitals have ceased to function

The needs assessment in Homs Governorate revealed critical secondary health needs. According to WHO, half of the governorate's public hospitals (6 of 12) and three-quarters of all private hospitals (24 of 32) are not functioning. Hospitals that remain open typically operate at reduced capacity and are overwhelmed. WHO reports that the largest hospital in Homs (350 beds) has been destroyed.

Crisis threatens education for thousands of children

More than 2,000 schools damaged or destroyed

The Syrian authorities estimate that 2,072 schools across the country have been damaged or destroyed. This represents almost 10 per cent of Syria's 22,000 schools. Efforts are underway to repair and rehabilitate several hundred schools. UNICEF has so far completed repairs of 64 schools in Dera'a, Rural Damascus and Lattakia. Another 100 schools are scheduled to be repaired in the coming weeks. Such repairs are necessary to enable children to return to school. However, it is also expected that a number of teachers will not return to teaching duties due, *inter alia*, to access constraints and internal displacement.

IDPs hosted in more than 800 schools

According to the Ministry of Education, an estimated 1.2 million IDPs are currently hosted in 801 schools and other public buildings across Syria, up from 470 schools reported last month. Some alternative locations for IDPs have been identified, but few IDPs have relocated so far. According to UNHCR, displaced families have left a small number of schools in Rural Damascus over the last two weeks. Time to rehabilitate identified alternative sites to an acceptable standard is very limited. Although some schools are expected to run double shifts in order to absorb an increased number of students, thousands of children are likely to miss the school year.

Coming winter calls for tailored response

Harsh winter period will bring additional challenges for IDPs

The winter period is harsh in Syria with average minimum temperatures in January at around 2 degrees Celsius. For IDPs living in temporary shelters, the drop in temperature will have significant implications. Schools generally have basic heating systems, but reduced access to fuel is likely to have a negative impact. Most of the partially completed private and public buildings currently housing many IDPs lack heating systems and even basic access to electricity.

Buildings need to be provided with basic insulation from the damp and cold. UN agencies and humanitarian partners have identified the priority items required for the winter season, including roofing, panelling and windows. Other needs include carpets, heaters, children's thermal clothes and blankets. A pilot winterization programme is already underway by UNICEF in partnership with an international NGO, specifically targeting children in IDP locations.

UN agencies continue to step up assistance amid challenges

WFP to provide food assistance to 1.5 million across all governorates

Starting from the second week of September, WFP is increasing its overall food assistance coverage from a target population of 850,000 to 1.5 million people. The scale-up includes significant upward revisions of the number of food rations distributed in governorates affected by violence, including Dera'a, Idlib, Hama and Homs, as well as

areas of IDP concentrations, such as Hassakeh, Ar Raqqa and Lattakia.

WFP Food Assistance by Governorate

Governorate	Pre-July target beneficiaries	August target beneficiaries	September target beneficiaries	% increase August-September
Aleppo	55,000	125,000	193,500	55%
Ar Raqqa	7,500	25,000	76,750	207%
Damascus	50,000	90,000	132,375	47%
Dera'a	40,000	35,000	87,000	149%
Deir Ezzor	35,000	70,000	95,000	36%
Hama	40,000	60,000	119,000	98%
Hassakeh	22,500	40,000	89,000	123%
Homs	75,000	125,000	223,500	79%
Idlib	35,000	55,000	118,500	115%
Lattakia	22,500	25,000	51,500	106%
Quneitra	2,500	5,000	8,250	65%
Rural Damascus	75,000	155,000	237,750	53%
Suwaida	2,500	2,500	8,625	245%
Tartous	37,500	37,500	59,250	58%
Total	500,000	850,000	1,500,000	76%

Source: WFP/SARC/OCHA

UNHCR increases end-year assistance planning figure to 500,000 people

From a planning figure for humanitarian assistance delivery of 125,000 people in June, UNHCR has increased its target. The agency now aims to reach 500,000 people by the end of the year, significantly stepping up provision of essential items. From March 2012 and to date, UNHCR has delivered non-food items to more than 170,000 people. Overall, more than 330,000 people have received such assistance from UN agencies and partners.

WHO finalizes Early Warning Alert and Response Systems (EWARS)

To ensure prompt identification and response to disease outbreaks, WHO has finalized an Early Warning Alert and Response tool. Data collection will commence on 23 September from 104 participating health facilities across Syria. A workshop on epidemic surveillance attended by 40 participants from 10 out of 14 governorates has increased the level of early epidemic preparedness and rapid response capacity.

UNICEF school clubs offer respite for 20,000 children

UNICEF is engaged in ensuring children's right to education through the support of more than 100 school clubs across several governorates of Syria. The school clubs offer remedial classes and recreational activities to almost 20,000 students. As part of the Back-to-School campaign, UNICEF will distribute 30,000 school bags. Recreation kits and clothes for children who have been displaced have targeted more than 2,000 children over the last two weeks.

More than 25,000 people benefit from UNFPA assistance in August

During the month of August, more than 5,600 women were provided with reproductive health and psychosocial services through UNFPA-supported mobile health clinics in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Hama. With the support of UNFPA, a medical point has been set up for an estimated 20,000 IDPs who are staying in university dormitories in Aleppo.

Agencies deepen partnerships with national NGOs to broaden reach

To assist all those in need, wherever they are located, UN agencies seek to enhance partnerships with local and international organizations. Some 90 local organisations and

8 international NGOs are authorised by the Government to partner on humanitarian assistance in the current crisis. Assistance delivery will be scaled up through capacity building targeting existing humanitarian partners, diversification of partnerships with national NGOs and local charities, as well as strengthened cooperation with international NGOs. Through its food assistance delivery operations, WFP cooperates with 78 local organizations. UNICEF cooperates with 40 local implementing partners and UNHCR, WHO and UNDP have recently been able to increase the number of such partnerships. To enable greater decentralisation of humanitarian assistance, the UN is setting up humanitarian hubs in key locations, starting with the establishment of a hub in Homs.

Number of Syrian refugees triple in three months

More than 260,000 Syrians have registered as refugees

From a total of less than 80,000 refugees in June, the current figure is more than 260,000 people. More than half of registered refugees are children. The most significant increases have been noted in Turkey and Jordan. Syrian refugees are also increasingly arriving in countries in North Africa (Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Libya). At least 5,000 of those who have arrived in these countries are likely to be in need of assistance, according to UNHCR. More than 15,000 Syrians have sought asylum in Europe so far this year. UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies continue to plan for an ever increasing number of arrivals, possibly reaching a total figure of more than 600,000 by the end of the year.

Country	Refugees registered and/ or assisted
Iraq	25,508
Jordan	86,940
Lebanon	67,960
Turkey	80,104
Total	260,512

Source: UNHCR, 14 September 2012. Figures are based on estimates and may vary.

Increasing numbers of Syrian families arrive in Iraq

The number of Syrian refugees hosted in Iraq has more than tripled over the last three months. The profile of refugees has changed, with an increasing number of families arriving. The majority of refugees are hosted in the north-eastern province of Duhok, with other concentrations of refugees in Anbar province and Irbil. Most of the new arrivals come from Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Hassakeh and Qamishly.

WFP has commenced daily provision of food assistance to refugees hosted in Domiz camp. A UNICEF vaccination campaign targeting children under the age of five is underway in Al Qa'im.

More than 86,000 refugees registered in Jordan

Over 86,000 Syrian refugees have been registered and assisted by UNHCR in Jordan. Daily arrivals average between 1,000 and 1,500 people. At this rate, the number of Syrian refugees in Jordan would reach 250,000 by the end of the year. According to the Jordanian Government there are currently more than 200,000 Syrians in the country.

About 30,000 refugees are hosted at Za'atari camp. According to UNHCR, more than 80 per cent of recent arrivals originate from Dera'a governorate, where artillery and air attacks continue. Other refugees arrive from Damascus and Homs. WFP provides food assistance to refugees at Za'atari, totalling more than 50,000 meals per day. Over 800 children have registered to enter Jordanian schools, under an on-going registration effort. More than 4,500 children have received vaccinations in a campaign led by UNICEF.

Refugee registration continues to rise in Lebanon

Almost 50,000 refugees have registered in Lebanon, with another 20,000 waiting to register. Most refugees (73 per cent) originate from Homs. To facilitate the registration process, UNHCR has opened a new registration centre in Baalbek.

Considerable progress has been made in relocating refugee families from schools to alternative shelters in the Beka'a Valley. WFP provides food assistance targeting more than 30,000 refugees. Food vouchers valued at US\$31 are distributed to refugees in the Beka'a Valley. The vouchers can be redeemed against a list of items, including fresh produce. UNHCR and education partners continue to encourage registration of Syrian children in Lebanese schools ahead of the new school year, scheduled to start on 24 September.

Turkey hosts more than 80,000 refugees

The number of refugees registered in Turkey has almost doubled from early August to early September. Twelve camps are currently operational in the country, with another four under construction. With the construction of these camps, Turkey will reach a total hosting capacity of around 130,000 refugees. All Syrian refugees who had been temporarily hosted in schools have now been transferred to camp facilities.

UN agencies seek US\$347m to assist 2.5 million people in Syria

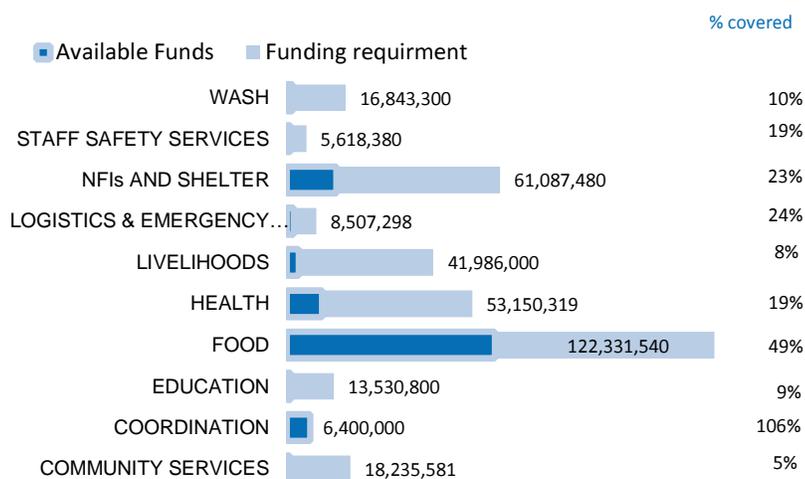
Syria humanitarian response plan only 30 per cent funded

To address the rise in needs, the UN has presented a draft revised humanitarian response plan. The plan is seeking US\$347 million in funding for 57 projects in 10 sectors across all governorates. Key priorities under the revised plan include health, food, livelihoods, infrastructure rehabilitation, community services, education and shelter.

Projects are designed to ensure that assistance will reach more people in need in more areas of Syria. Efforts will focus on areas particularly affected by on-going violence, such as Homs, Hama, Idlib, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Deir Ezzor and Aleppo. Interventions will also target areas where large numbers of IDPs are hosted, including Ar Raqqa.

Only 30 per cent of required funds for the revised response plan have been received so far.

Funding by Sector – Draft Revised Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan



Funding towards regional refugee response fails to meet growing needs

A total of US\$193 million is required under the Regional Refugee Response Plan. So far, only 54 per cent of these funds have been received. As the number of refugees has far

exceeded the number anticipated, a revised response plan is expected to be launched on 27 September 2012. The revised plan will present a significant increase in the amount of funding requested.

Humanitarian coordination activities

Fifth Syria Humanitarian Forum convened in Geneva

The fifth Syria Humanitarian Forum was held in Geneva on 7 September. The Forum brought together over 350 participants from Member States, regional organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and UN humanitarian agencies. Addressing the Forum, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator stressed the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria and urged donors to meet the funding challenge in advance of the onset of a cold and harsh winter season.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Aurelien Buffler, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, buffler@un.org, Tel. (+1) 917 680 8315

Ms. Yasmine Rockenfeller, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, rockenfeller@un.org, Tel. (+41) 79 945 4327

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int