

HIGHLIGHTS

- Deterioration of humanitarian situation in several governorates, including Homs and Aleppo, over recent weeks.
- UN inter-agency convoy to Aleppo delivers aid to assist 350,000 people.
- Almost 1.8 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa.
- Humanitarian response underfunded at only 36% of requirements.

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	1,773,586

FUNDING

\$1.4 billion

requested for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

36% funded

\$3 billion

requested under the Regional Response Plan

35% funded



In this issue

Civilians continue to bear the brunt of conflict P.1

Aid delivered to Aleppo despite insecurity P.2

4 million Syrians food insecure P.2

Urgent funds required to maintain response P.6

Civilians trapped as violence escalates in Homs and Aleppo

Increasing concerns for civilians trapped in besieged areas of Homs

The humanitarian situation in Homs continues to deteriorate and needs are reported to have grown substantially across the governorate over the last two weeks. Fighting has intensified in the Old City, as well as in surrounding contested areas. An estimated 2,000-2,500 people remain in the Old City. Due to a continued siege, these families have not received humanitarian assistance in more than twelve months. They are reported to be in desperate need of health care and medicines, food, potable water, and other essential items. While security restrictions have hampered the delivery of food, WFP is monitoring population flows and is prepared to respond using stocks of ready-to-eat food rations sufficient to cover 5,000 people.

UN humanitarian agencies maintain a permanent presence in Homs City and continue to call for access to affected areas. On 12 July, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem (Navi) Pillay, called on all parties to immediately halt all actions that might result in civilian loss of life, to grant immediate safe passage to allow civilians to leave Homs, and to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered.

Humanitarian situation deteriorating across several other governorates

Ongoing hostilities in Aleppo, coupled with highly restricted humanitarian access, have increased the vulnerability of many people affected by the crisis. The limited transfer of food between neighbourhoods in the governorate is leading to localized food shortages, resulting in increased prices of staple products such as bread, grains and vegetables. High fuel prices and devaluation of the Syrian pound are also diminishing people's ability to access basic needs. In the villages of Nubul and Zahra, north of Aleppo, more than 35,000 people are besieged by armed opposition groups, constraining their access to basic commodities and humanitarian assistance.

The health situation is reported to have deteriorated in Homs, Rural Damascus and Dera'a. Some medical supplies allocated to Aleppo, Idlib and Rural Damascus have not yet been delivered, largely due to insecurity. The Ministry of Health has also been unable to overcome internal bureaucracy in order to expedite the process of supply delivery. Despite numerous discussions focused on the need to enable immediate delivery by the United Nations, the Ministry of Health continues to insist on receipt of supplies through a centralized technical committee.

Access constraints and bureaucracy slow down aid delivery

Violence continues unabated in many parts of the country. As a result, access is limited across many locations, especially in the eastern governorates, as well as in Rural Damascus and Dera'a. Areas known to have considerable humanitarian needs remain inaccessible to humanitarian partners. Overall insecurity and a proliferation of checkpoints are also slowing down movement of humanitarian goods. Meanwhile,

UN staff in Aleppo highlight shortages of basic goods, breakdown of services.

bureaucratic processes continue to delay aid delivery and impede the efficiency of the emergency response.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to support the humanitarian community in Damascus. However, licensing and importation of IT and telecommunications equipment into Syria remains a significant challenge. The importation of certain types of equipment, including repeaters, iridium satellite phones and VSATs, is not authorized, hampering the effectiveness of the humanitarian operation.

UN inter-agency convoy delivers aid to Aleppo

Aid to cover 350,000 people delivered despite access, security challenges

A UN inter-agency convoy consisting of 15 trucks of relief items entered Aleppo City on 14 July, despite the escalation of hostilities and a deteriorating security situation. Staff from UNICEF, WHO, UNRWA, OCHA and IOM participated in the convoy, supported by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the Logistics Cluster (WFP) and UN DSS. The convoy carried relief items to cover an estimated 350,000 people, including 40,000 Palestine refugees. Items for distribution were provided by UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNRWA, IOM and UNHCR.

UN staff assessed the situation on the ground, advocated for further humanitarian access and highlighted the need to distribute aid in accordance with humanitarian principles. Staff confirmed that the situation in the city is characterized by major shortages of essential items and that prices of basic commodities such as fuel and bread have skyrocketed. The breakdown of services in large parts of the city was observed. The UN in Syria will continue its advocacy and engagement with all concerned actors on the provision of humanitarian access and safe passage for the civilian population.

Early dispatch of WFP food rations covers 391,500 people in Aleppo

In anticipation of the escalation of violence and the continued restrictions on humanitarian access in Aleppo, WFP began its July cycle dispatches early with more than 70 percent of the total allocation for Aleppo City having been dispatched to partners prior to the first week of the month. Prior to the tightening of access restrictions, WFP dispatched food rations to Aleppo to cover more than 216,500 people. Food will be distributed by SARC and local charity partners. Food rations for a further 175,000 people have been dispatched to affected people in rural Aleppo. WFP remains concerned, however, that partners will face challenges in distributing the food, given the deteriorating situation in the governorate and continued insecurity.

Food insecurity affecting 4 million Syrians

Food insecurity expected to increase if conflict continues

On 5 July, WFP and FAO released a joint Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) report. According to the assessment, Syria's food security situation has significantly deteriorated over the past year and an estimated 4 million people are considered food insecure. Household food insecurity has increased due to massive population displacement, disruption of agricultural production, unemployment, economic sanctions, currency depreciation and high food and fuel prices. For example, the average price of wheat flour more than doubled between May 2011 and May 2013 in several locations. Domestic agricultural production is expected to continue to decline over the next 12 months if the conflict continues. This in turn is likely to cause further food insecurity.

Coping strategies stretched as value of Syrian Pound continues to plummet

The rapid devaluation of the Syrian Pound, currently at just over 300 Syrian pounds to the US Dollar, is affecting the coping strategies of Syrian families – especially during the holy month of Ramadan, when demands for basic food items typically increase.

WFP food assistance in July targets 3 million people.

The devaluation of the Syrian Pound is also affecting the ability of Syrian families to pay for basic health services. Among those affected, IDPs and families in hard-to-reach areas are considered the most vulnerable. The significant increase in the price of medication (25%-50%), which was recently announced by the pharmacists' syndicate, has added strains on already stretched resources.

Humanitarian agencies committed to stay, deliver and upscale response

WFP begins to scale-up to reach 3 million people

WFP is scaling up to reach 3 million people across Syria, up from 2.5 million. Dispatches under the current distribution cycle commenced late last month and so far (10 July), food rations to cover a total of 1.36 million people (46 percent of the monthly plan) have been dispatched to 13 governorates. Dispatches to Hassakeh governorate have been delayed due to road insecurity. In addition to the distribution of family food rations, WFP is also providing beneficiaries with wheat flour in areas where the impact of the conflict has compromised availability in the market and reduced milling and bakery capacities.

UNRWA food and cash assistance reaches Palestine refugees

In the past two weeks, UNRWA distributed food assistance to cover more than 58,000 people, providing two-thirds of minimum nutrition needs adequate for one week. During the reporting period, the Agency also distributed food to 12,500 displaced Palestine refugees who have sought shelter across 20 UNRWA facilities and 11 non-UNRWA collective shelters. Moreover, non-food items and hygiene kits were delivered to displaced refugees in Damascus and Aleppo. A total of nearly 148,000 refugees have received such essential non-food items since the onset of the crisis in March 2011, including around 127,000 people this year.

In the reporting period, cash assistance was provided to nearly 34,000 people in the Damascus area, as well as to around 25,000 people in Homs, Hama and Lattakia, combined. In 2013, more than 215,000 people have been supported through cash assistance from UNRWA. Cash distribution since March 2011 has reached about 401,000 people, to the value of more than 1.15 billion Syrian Pounds.

Essential health supplies and support to Homs, Dera'a, Hama, Rural Damascus, Quneitra, Deir Ez-Zor and Damascus

Notwithstanding the challenges to delivery of medical supplies and associated bureaucratic obstacles, as reported above, humanitarian partners continue to provide essential health supplies and support. During the reporting period, WHO supported the Ministry of Health in Damascus with essential and communicable disease medicines to treat more than 93,450 people. Burn kits for a total of 4,500 people, various types of supplies and diagnostic kits for communicable diseases have been provided, as well as life-saving medicines and consumables to treat and assist more than 15,350 beneficiaries were provided.

During the second quarter of 2013, WHO supported the delivery of basic health supplies for 270,500 people in Homs, Dera'a, Damascus and Deir Ez-Zor through SARC and health authorities. WHO continued to support local health NGOs in providing health care delivery in affected government- controlled and opposition-held areas. NGOs supported by WHO provided 42,982 treatments/consultations for communicable and non-communicable diseases, reproductive health, and surgical interventions in the second quarter of 2013.

By the end of June, more than 95,000 IDPs had received primary health care services through five UNHCR-supported SARC clinics in Damascus and Rural Damascus. The average patient accessed and received services two to three times.

More than 138,000 children have received medical check-ups through 50 UNICEF-supported mobile medical teams across 12 governorates as well as through fixed centres in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Quneitra since the beginning of this year. UNICEF

Interventions by Protection Working Group partners assisted 700,000 people in first half of 2013.

also continues to dispatch health supplies. Over the reporting period, 60 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs) were delivered to partners in order to cover the needs of a total of 60,000 beneficiaries in Rural Damascus (10,000 people) and Hama (50,000 people). In addition, diarrhoea kits delivered to Hama will cover up to 5,000 cases, while hygiene kits have been delivered to 4,000 people. UNICEF also dispatched other supplies to the Ministry of Health, including biscuits and first aid kits targeting 45,000 people and 48,000 people, respectively.

UNICEF continues to assist IDPs from Al Qusayr

Following the recent influx of IDPs from Al Qusayr (Homs governorate) to Hasia, UNICEF provided access to safe water through water trucking for 2,000 IDPs. Affected people in the area are also assisted by a medical team of the Syrian Family Planning Association, supported by UNICEF.

UNFPA-supported interventions assist 8,200 women

Over the reporting period, around 5,800 women received reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care, through UNFPA-supported maternal hospitals in Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Aleppo. Another 2,400 women received emergency obstetric care, including normal and C-section delivery services, through reproductive health vouchers, enabling them to access such services free of charge. UNFPA also delivered intra-venous fluids to Damascus Hospital, the main hospital in Damascus under the Ministry of Health.

UNRWA receives essential medical stocks to cover 12 months

UNRWA recently received essential medical stocks to support the health needs of 529,000 Palestine refugees hosted in Syria over the coming 12 months. The medicines have been distributed to UNRWA health clinics across the country. So far, no outbreaks of infectious diseases have been reported in Palestine refugee camps in Syria, and the vaccination scheme continues to operate. In addition to fixed facilities, UNRWA has established four mobile health points to respond to the immediate needs of displaced refugees.

As temperatures soar, partners continue delivery of safe drinking water

With the support of UNICEF, more than 1,059,500 people in Rural Homs have benefited from enhanced access to clean water through generator repairs connected to the water system. Moreover, in Homs City, more than 1,150 IDPs in 35 collective shelters have received access to safe water. In Talbiseh and surrounding villages (Homs governorate), more than 3,500 people have benefited from WASH interventions by UNICEF and partners. Water trucking supported by SIF, benefited 9,276 IDPs in several neighbourhoods of Damascus and Rural Damascus. SIF provided water to 29 public and private collective shelters at an average of 25 liters of water per day per person (SPHERE standard).

Scabies has emerged as a common hygiene-related concern in collective shelters. To address this, IMC has undertaken an awareness campaign, targeting nearly 5,000 people in Rural Damascus.

More than 700,000 vulnerable people have received support in 2013 by Protection Working Group partners

In the first half of the year, more than 700,000 people have received assistance through humanitarian partners of the Protection Working Group. One of the Protection Working Group responses is to deliver relief items and targeted assistance to communities and individuals who are considered particularly vulnerable. As part of this on-going response, more than 6,000 individuals benefited during the reporting period. This included the provision of hygiene kits and other items for 1,100 people by the International Medical Corps (IMC); kits benefiting 4,000 women and men by UNFPA; and toys, clothes and hygiene kits for more than 1,000 children by UNHCR.

Psychosocial support also continued, with UNFPA providing such assistance to 840 women in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Idlib and Hama over the reporting period.

Shelter sector needs and damage assessments developed by UN-Habitat expected to enhance response.

UNICEF provided services to 1,693 children in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Dera'a and Quinetra, while IMC provided assistance to 1,316 beneficiaries through their three mobile mental health psychosocial support teams covering eight collective shelters in Damascus. In addition, community centers in Jaramana and Barzeh (Damascus area) provided more than 600 beneficiaries (children, youth and adults) with educational and vocational skills. A centre for children with disabilities in Mezzeh (Damascus) continues to deliver assistance.

More than 5,000 IDPs have received legal assistance so far this year

UNHCR continues to provide legal counselling and awareness-raising in Damascus and Rural Damascus through the Syrian Women's Union and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). During the first six months of the year, a total of 3,433 IDPs received legal advice/counselling on documentation and family law issues. A further 549 individuals received assistance with their legal interventions before courts, the Directorate of Civil Registry, and police stations. In addition 1,168 IDPs received legal awareness sessions. The main concerns raised by IDPs were in relation to lost documentation, birth registration, custody battles, lost family members, and establishment of marriage and divorce, with a minority requesting assistance on matters of property.

2,714 IDPs benefit from recent completion of shelter rehabilitation

At the end of June, Secours Islamique France (SIF), in partnership with UNHCR, completed the rehabilitation of 15 collective shelters in Rural Damascus, to the benefit of more than 2,700 people. To date, out of 113 shelters planned for rehabilitation, work on 84 shelters is on-going, while rehabilitation of 19 collective shelters has been completed. In total, more than 42,000 IDPs will benefit from such support.

Essential items and cash assistance to 72,500 people

Over the reporting period, essential non-food items to cover 5,000 people were delivered to Palmyra (Homs governorate). Such items have also been provided to around 40,000 people in Aleppo and Idlib. So far this year, UNHCR has reached more than 1,288,000 people across all 14 governorates.

UNHCR cash assistance is now targeting IDPs in collective shelters in Tartous. So far, more than 4,500 IDPs have received such assistance. In total, UNHCR has provided cash assistance to more than 41,500 people in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Tartous and Hassakeh to the value of SYP 130,606,000.

IOM assisted more than 23,000 IDPs in Suweida, Damascus, Hama and Rural Damascus with family hygiene kits and other supplies over the last two weeks.

UN-Habitat support to enhance shelter response

UN-Habitat, with support from the Swiss Development Cooperation and in collaboration with shelter partners, has developed shelter sector needs and damage assessments and trainings. The assessments will enable the sector to develop a broad range of shelter responses, including repair guidelines and host community support, and is expected to enhance overall understanding of shelter needs in affected cities.

Number of school clubs increases, almost 147,000 children reached

The number of school clubs has reached 457, benefitting 146,390 children, just over half of them girls. In Homs, 5,500 students attend remedial classes. Educational partners also continue to offer different types of vocational training to about 2,500 boys and girls, including in Homs and Rural Damascus. In Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs, around 1,000 children living in collective shelters benefit from formal and informal education, while 3,500 children receive psycho-social support. The recent distribution of school supplies in Hama targeted 31,500 children, while recreational kits to collective shelters will benefit 5,000 children.

Number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa is close to 1.8 million.

Syrian refugees approaching 1.8 million

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 15 July 2013
Egypt	90,903
Iraq	161,014
Jordan	486,972
Lebanon	607,908
Turkey	412,789
North Africa	14,000
Total	1,773,586

Source: UNHCR as of 15 July 2013. For updated figures and more information: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. The 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.

Humanitarian response only 36% funded

Lack of funds jeopardizes life-saving assistance delivery

Funding towards the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) is urgently required, particularly in light of the onset of summer and associated risks of waterborne disease outbreaks and preparations for the start of the new school year in September. In the agricultural sector, timely assistance is necessary to ensure that small-scale farmers plant crops ahead of the next winter season. There is also urgent need to procure and preposition lifesaving supplies, including winterization items. In terms of food assistance, inadequate resources and delays to the arrival of certain commodities have already forced WFP to reduce the ration of some items (pasta, vegetable oil, bulgur wheat and sugar) in the July distribution cycle. From July to September, WFP operations inside Syria carry a cost of \$134 million, of which \$83 million remain outstanding.

Syria ERF allocations to 100 projects

Nearly \$32 million allocated to address gaps in response

The objective of the Syria Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is to mobilize and channel resources to humanitarian partners to respond to the current situation in Syria and initiate life-saving humanitarian activities both inside Syria and in neighbouring countries. The ERF has witnessed rapid growth in contributions. Since its inception in March 2012, the Fund has received \$47.34 million. To date, the ERF has allocated \$31.64 million for 100 projects in Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. Projects amounting to \$4.68 million are currently under review.

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