

### HIGHLIGHTS

- UN Secretary-General urges a cessation of hostilities to enable humanitarian assistance and investigation of chemical weapons in East Goutha.
- Humanitarian response faces increasing access challenges as the needs of vulnerable Syrians continue to grow.
- Lack of funding for the SHARP hinders 'winterization' response, particularly the Shelter/NFI sector, as a 57% funding gap risks leaving vulnerable Syrians in the cold.

### FIGURES

Population	21.4 m
# of people in need	6.8 m
# of IDPs	4.25 m
# of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries & North Africa	1.9 m
Population	21.4 m

### FUNDING

**\$1.4 billion**

requested for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

**43%** funded

**\$3 billion**

requested for the Regional Refugee Response Plan

**37%** funded



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## Escalating violence in Damascus suburbs results in deaths and injuries

### UN Secretary-General urges a cessation of hostilities to enable humanitarian assistance and investigate allegations of chemical weapons use

On 21 August 2013, escalating violence in Damascus suburbs, particularly in East Ghouta, resulted in hundreds of deaths, wounded and injured people. It was alleged that some of the shells used in the attacks contained chemical substances. The United Nations Secretary-General promptly repeated his call on all parties to cease hostilities, allow humanitarian assistance to reach those in need and return to the negotiating table so as to find a political solution to the crisis.

The Secretary-General requested the Syrian authorities to enable an investigation by the United Nations Chemical Weapons Investigative Team (CWIT) mission currently in Syria into the alleged incident. On 24 August, the Secretary-General deployed his High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane, to Syria, who secured the Syrian Government's cooperation to allow the investigation including the observance of the cessation of hostilities at the locations related to the incidents. The investigation commenced on 26 August.

## Needs rise amidst access constraints

### Thousands in urgent need of relief in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo Al Hassakeh, Homs and Lattakia

Rising violence throughout the country continues impacting on the civilian population. In the besieged areas of Damascus and Rural Damascus, approximately 600,000 people are estimated to be in a critical humanitarian situation. The population has been suffering from frequent power cuts, lack of water supplies and shortages of basic commodities. Unconfirmed reports from citizens in East Ghouta indicate water contamination and an increased number of people with typhoid fever in some villages. Meanwhile, humanitarian agencies continue experiencing access challenges to provide the much needed support.

The western part of Aleppo remains largely inaccessible to humanitarian aid with the population relying upon supplies which are provided in small amounts, often hand-carried, from the eastern part of the city. The continuous siege, in addition to the limited access of supplies, is aggravating the already critical humanitarian situation in the western part of Aleppo.

In Al Hassakeh, intense conflict over the last two months has caused an increase in the number of people needing food assistance. It is estimated that more than 135,000 people from Aleppo, Idleb, Homs and Deir ez Zor have been displaced to Al Hassakeh. In Al Hassakeh town public transport has been severely hampered, limiting people's movement, and commodity prices are expected to further increase due to dwindling supplies and high

*Syrian children bear the brunt of violence: three million forced to flee their homes; 7,000 killed since the onset of the crisis*

transaction costs. In addition, it is estimated that more than 20,000 IDPs have moved from rural Al Hassakeh into the city. Some 30,000 returnee families, who had left the governorate prior to the conflict in search of employment and have now returned, are believed to require food assistance. Based on preliminary estimates, some 285,000 people need food assistance in the area.

In Homs City and surrounding villages, armed clashes and shelling continue. It is believed that the city's Al Wa'er neighbourhood, a key flashpoint, is now home to 450,000 people, of which 80 per cent are IDPs: a four-fold increase since before the crisis. Recently, a broken water pipe in Al Wa'er, which serves as the main source of drinking water for Hama and some parts of Homs, has been damaged leaving approximately 65 communities and an estimated 800,000 people or more without water supplies. Amid significantly increased demand and disruption to the supply chain, local markets are running out of essential food and non-food items. On 12 August, deliveries were temporarily suspended following a failure to secure the necessary government facilitation letters. Efforts are underway to resolve the issue and to gain approval for the use of larger trucks in order to scale-up deliveries.

In Lattakia, UNICEF WASH and Child Protection teams undertook an assessment of the situation, including in existing and newly opened IDP shelters. In the industrial area of the city, 333 nomadic families who came from Aleppo are living in a tent camp where the hygiene situation is a matter of concern with cases of Leishmaniasis, scabies, lice, and skin infections reported.

### **Millions of children pay the price of the conflict**

In a joint press release issued on 23 August, UNHCR and UNICEF stated that with Syria's war well into its third year, the number of Syrian children forced to flee their homeland as refugees has now reached one million, marking a shameful milestone in Syria crisis. Inside Syria, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, some 7,000 children have been killed since the onset of the conflict. UNHCR and UNICEF estimate that more than 2 million children have been internally displaced within Syria. For more information, visit [www.childrenofsyria.info](http://www.childrenofsyria.info)

## **11 UN and 2- SARC aid workers killed in Syria since the onset of the crisis**

### **World Humanitarian Day marks the lives and spirit of those who have died while providing emergency assistance**

Aid workers come under attack while seeking to provide assistance to those in need. Humanitarian workers on the front lines in many war-torn areas are largely local staff – people seeking to provide aid for their fellow countrymen and women. In Syria, an untold number of humanitarian workers lost their lives in the line of duty since the beginning of the crisis, including 11 from the United Nations and 20 from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

This year the UN and its humanitarian partners launched a ground-breaking campaign titled "The World Needs More \_\_\_\_" with the aim of turning words into real aid for real people. From 19 August - 24 September, people can "unlock" money pledged by a number of brands by sharing the sponsored words through social media, SMS or through the campaign website. Every time a sponsored word is shared, \$1 will go towards aid efforts in the world's most underfunded humanitarian crises. USG Valerie Amos' word is #Humanity. For more information, visit: [worldhumanitarianday.org](http://worldhumanitarianday.org)

## Conflict and kidnapping increasingly encroach upon gatherings for Palestine refugees

In Damascus governorate, armed hostilities are frequently occurring in Yarmouk, Sbeineh, Jaramana and Husseiniyah resulting in the loss of dozens of Palestine refugees' lives in recent weeks.

Kidnapping remains a destructive feature of the conflict in Syria, and is a harrowing reminder of the need to strengthen protection for all civilians and safeguard human life. Along with Syrians, Palestine refugees and UNRWA staff have been targeted by kidnappings. In Dara'a, intense clashes and shelling continue in the vicinity of Dara'a refugee camp, while fierce hostilities in Homs have resulted in a number of shells and stray bullets impacting the Palestine refugee camp. An armed opposition group during the reporting period broke into an UNRWA school in Dara'a and used classrooms as shelter for displaced Syrian citizens. The IDPs have since been relocated to a government school in the area. Communication with all colleagues in Aleppo has been cut off for several days.

## Humanitarian agencies meet on-going needs while preparing for rapid response

### Shelter monitoring visits indicate increased protection risks

Since the beginning of 2013, UNHCR conducted 245 shelter visits in Syria and mapped the needs and trends related to various sectors across 8 governorates: Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Lattakia, Al Hassakeh, Qamishli and Dara'a. UNHCR identified several protection risks including, inter alia, an increase in violence against children by caregivers, considerable school drop-out rates, lack of safe spaces to play, lack of female representation in shelters, domestic violence and an increase in post-traumatic stress disorder. In order to address the situation, recommendations consist in: a larger field presence of all protection actors, shelter management training for all NGOs, an increase in income generating activities for women, recreational activities for children and monitoring of rehabilitation work with protection focus. The need to further enhance the referral mechanism and quality of a comprehensive coordinated response should be prioritized.

### UN agencies and partners address the protection needs of vulnerable people

During the reporting period, the Danish Refugee Council provided legal and social counselling in community centres as well as ad hoc support and assistance in civil status, deportation, arrest and missing cases in addition to direct intervention in courts, in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a and Homs to 5,750 people, despite the fragile security situation. International Medical Corps, in coordination with SARC, also provided psychosocial support to 1,562 individuals, in the form of recreational activities, group counselling and early child development. UNFPA continued to provide support to implementing partners in their assessment, screening and services for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors through the deployment of staff, and the provision of supplies such as dignity kits and post-rape kits. IOM continued to provide repatriation assistance to vulnerable stranded migrants affected by the crisis in Syria. In the last two weeks, IOM has facilitated the safe return of 16 vulnerable stranded migrants to South Sudan.

UNICEF, through its implementing partners, reached a further 7,364 children with psychosocial support in 7 governorates: Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Lattakia, Tartous, Quneitra and Dara'a, bringing the total reached for 2013 to 63,565 children. UNHCR trained 15 staff and volunteers from Syrian Women's Union on SGBV awareness materials, as part of a larger series of training for UNHCR partners on SGBV prevention and response. On 19-20 August, UNHCR provided a 3rd session in a series of trainings provided to NGOs operational in Damascus on humanitarian needs

assessments, code of conduct for humanitarian workers and principles on humanitarian work.

In the period of 13-19 August, IOM conducted 2 trainings in mental health and psychosocial consideration for 55 shelter managers in Tartous and Homs, and continued its technical weekly supervision for SOS caregivers. From 18-22 August, IOM, in collaboration with local partners, identified 15 professionals from Homs, Aleppo, Lattakia and Tartous to receive training of trainers for mental health and psychosocial consideration in emergencies towards building capacity of 910 frontline professionals. IOM completed the training of 15 professional trainers to deliver supportive communication, active listening and self-care workshops to NGO frontline workers. In 2013, IOM has reached 28,680 vulnerable children, youth and their families with psychosocial support in Damascus Rural Damascus, Tartous and Homs through building capacity of 155 professionals and frontline workers in mental health and psychosocial support.

Compromised security concerns continue to negatively impact UNFPA's and its implementing partners' ability to provide timely reproductive health services. As socio-economic indicators also continue to decline, the demand for free-of-charge public health services, including for reproductive health and emergency obstetric care, are on the rise.

### Medical supplies bridge the gap for emergency service

In the past two weeks, UNHCR has donated two X-ray machines to a hospital in rural Damascus to enable the emergency and orthopaedic surgery units. In addition to a basic X-ray machine, a C-armed X-ray machine, which was requested urgently by the Ministry of Health, was provided to meet the need for orthopaedic surgery. These X-ray machines will provide life-changing treatment as they will allow serious medical problems to be identified.



Credit: UNHCR. A young girl receives urgent care at Ibn al Nafis hospital in Rukneddin area, Rural Damascus, after UNHCR dispatched life-saving X-ray machines.

WHO led in-depth analysis of surveillance and Early Warning Alert and Response System data, with the Ministry of Health team and partners, to respond to the reported increase in the number of brucellosis cases and will support the Ministry of Health in printing and distributing Education Materials and Case Management Guidelines.

From 1-17 August, International Medical Corps, in coordination with SARC, has reached 2,245 people for consultation at static clinics in Barzeh and Jaramana; 580 IDPs in nine communal shelters in Damascus via two medical mobile teams; and 695 people, mostly IDPs, for consultation at official and non-official shelters in Damascus.

### UNRWA has refocused its health care services in response to shifting needs and access

Continuing and acute conflict has affected UNRWA's regular service provision across Syria, in addition to causing increasing demand for emergency cash, food and non-food assistance. In response, UNRWA and partners are increasingly providing services to Palestine refugees in areas of secondary displacement, both in the community and in collective shelters. In the last two weeks UNRWA established a further two mobile health points in Damascus, bringing the total number to six, with plans to open a further four in the coming weeks. The mobile health points are staffed by medical teams from the ten health centres which are currently closed due to on-going hostilities and access difficulties. After recent restocking missions, all ten operational health centres now have sufficient medical supplies until October 2013.

Meeting the education needs of children caught up in conflict and displacement has been an operational challenge for UNRWA. Where possible, UNRWA kept its schools open and provided regular classes. On 21-22 August, UNRWA conducted a two-day conference entitled Education development and children support that focused on education in emergency and education reform. Some 120 education specialists from Syria along with participants from the Ministry of Education, experts from Jordan and Lebanon as well as education experts from UNRWA HQ actively participated in this conference.

UNRWA is working in coordination with humanitarian partners, including the SARC, Syrian General Authority for Palestine Arab Refugees (GAPAR), United Nations agencies and accredited NGOs to ensure that people in need have shelter, mattresses, blankets, food, access to health, education and water and sanitation, as well as other essential items. 21 of its 200 facilities across Syria now provide collective shelter to displaced Palestine refugees and Syrian IDPs. In the reporting period UNRWA has successfully distributed: 10,349 family food parcels, 22,690 units of canned food, 3,588 jerry cans, 335 mattresses, 813 blankets, 1,835 hygiene kits, 7 new-born baby kits, 897 packs of diapers and 155 packs of sanitary towels. Temporary awnings were installed at an IDP shelter in Jaramana camp in order to provide shade to some of the refugees living in tents there and cash distributed to 9,500 individuals in Neirab and Aleppo, 10,300 refugees in Lattakia, and 9,700 in Hama, with a further round of distribution planned in the coming weeks in Aleppo.

### **Intensifying conflict severely constrains the pace of WFP dispatches**

WFP's August cycle food distributions are targeting a total of 3 million beneficiaries across Syria on a monthly basis. By 21 August, WFP had dispatched food for distribution to 1,283,845 people in 13 governorates (43 per cent of the August target). Access constraints continue to be particularly pronounced in Al Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir ez Zor, Aleppo, Idleb and Homs, compromising both the dispatch and distribution of food. As in previous months, it is likely that governorate allocations will remain subject to revision, in accordance with shifting patterns of access on the ground. It is also likely that additional food rations will be reprioritized to locations hosting new IDP outflows, such as Lattakia city, which has received 3,000 newly displaced families from rural areas experiencing violence. In addition to SARC, WFP is working with 22 local charity partners. Efforts continue to identify additional qualified cooperating partners to facilitate an on-going scale-up to WFP's response. Other members of the sector also continue to provide food and/or agriculture assistance in various parts of Syria.

### **UNICEF and partners help children catch up on lost school time**

Across the country, children continue to use the summer holidays to catch up on the school time they have lost. According to a Ministry of Education's report dated 13 August 2013, an estimated 1.9 million children have dropped out of basic education between 2012 and 2013, with more than half remaining out of school inside Syria. As part of the ongoing response, approximately 150,000 children attend the UNICEF supported school clubs in 9 governorates. In addition, with the support of the Danish Refugee Council, GOPA, Premiere Urgence, the Syrian Society for Social Development, UNHCR and UNICEF, 4,500 children in Aleppo, Damascus, Dara'a, Homs and Rural Damascus participate in remedial classes, summer school activities and informal education and tutoring. This includes support for children with learning difficulties and children who dropped out of school. Another 3,000 children benefit from recreational activities in schools and shelters offered by the Syrian Society for Social Development and UNHCR. In collaboration with GOPA, an accessories course for 100 youth has just been completed. With SARC, computer and electricity related training is provided for 28 youth, while the Danish Refugee Council is providing 98 young people living in collective shelters in Damascus with vocational training. Also with the Danish Refugee Council, UNICEF is providing vocational training for 100 beneficiaries from collective shelters in Damascus.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Danish Refugee Council is currently rehabilitating 9 schools, benefitting almost 7,000 children. In addition, 2,300 children benefit from the on-going installation of blast film on their schools' windows. In Al

Hassakeh, also in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Action Contre la Faim has started the technical assessment in preparation of the rehabilitation of 9 schools, including WASH facilities. In collaboration with UNICEF, the Danish Refugee Council has distributed supplies and equipment benefitting 5,000 children in Damascus and Rural Damascus.

### **Hygiene promotion campaign targets summer-season health concerns**

International Medical Corps launched a hygiene promotion campaign in response to the seasonal increase in risk and incidence of diarrhoeal diseases. Targeting 3,258 people in 8 IDP shelters in Damascus over the next two months, the campaign aims to prevent incidence of acute diarrhoea and related diseases by promoting appropriate hygiene knowledge and practices amongst the community via community volunteers. Further, the campaign aims to empower the community with knowledge regarding home-based care and treatment of diarrhoeal disease, with a special focus on vulnerable sub-populations, namely children under five, and distribution of soap and jerry cans.

Action Contre la Faim has dispatched 7,363 hygiene kits via WFP to Adra. Technical assessment on WASH facility rehabilitation needs in 9 schools in Al Hassakeh is ongoing.

### **UNHCR and partners complete the rehabilitation of 54 shelters to meet the needs of displaced Syrians**

UNHCR, through implementing partners, has completely rehabilitated 54 collective shelters in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Tartous, Homs, Aleppo, and Al Hassakeh, where over 30,000 displaced people are residing and in the process of rehabilitating a further 51 collective shelters. IOM contractors are undertaking repairs and rehabilitation of 42 shelters in Damascus, Hama, Homs and Lattakia for the benefit of over 15,000 individuals. Première Urgence, a UNHCR implementing partner, which has completed the rehabilitation of 11 collective shelters (of the previously mentioned 54) in Damascus, Tartous and Homs has suspended work on 2 remaining shelters in Homs due to instability in Al Wa'er area as neither the contractor nor Première Urgence engineers were able to reach the shelters.

During the last two weeks, UNHCR's field office in Aleppo visited 3 completed collective shelters which were rehabilitated by UNHCR's implementing partners to hand over to the Province of Aleppo and the Directorate of Education. The Syrian Society for Social Development, the Danish Refugee Council and Syria Trust continue to work in 29 (of the previously mentioned 51) shelters in Aleppo.

UNHCR has responded to the challenges in dispatching relief items in hard to access areas by providing cash assistance until the next replenishment of core relief items can be provided. Since 25 June, UNHCR has continued to provide cash assistance to individuals in Qamishli, reaching 22,681 people so far. Since January 2013, UNHCR has provided cash assistance to 12,475 families (65,292 individuals), in Qamishli, Homs, Tartous and Damascus in the amount of over 221 million SYP (approximately US\$ 1.6 million).

### **Emergency humanitarian aid reaches 25,000 newly displaced people in Lattakia**

In support of the 5,000 families (25,000 people), SARC estimates have fled from 30 surrounding villages to Lattakia city earlier this month, IOM provided essential non-food items to 4,000 individuals; met emergency WASH needs in two locations and started repairs for an additional 5 shelters in order to accommodate the emerging needs. UNHCR provided core relief items for 3,000 households (15,000 people), while UNICEF, in coordination with SARC, delivered recreational kits, hygiene kits, water kits, wash powder and soap bars to 5,000 individuals. Further supplies, including jerry cans and plastic sheeting, have been sent by UNICEF to SARC for distribution to an additional 5,000 people. WFP has already dispatched 2,000 family food rations, sufficient for 10,000 people, for the affected groups.

*More funding required to address the needs of 6.8 million people in Syria and up to 3.5 million Syrian refugees in the region by the end of 2013*

### **The Logistics Cluster's common services capacity enables aid to reach people in need**

Delivering on its user-friendly mandate to fill logistics gaps in Syria via its common transport service, over the past two weeks, the Logistics Cluster transported a total of 1,226 m<sup>3</sup> of Health, WASH, Food, Education and Shelter items on behalf of UNFPA, UNICEF, ACF, Premiere Urgence, IMC and IOM. The items were transported from Tartous and Damascus to locations inside Syria. UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO leveraged common storage facilities in Safita and Damascus to stock health, WASH, food and shelter items, for a total of 621 m<sup>3</sup> for future assistance needs. The planned Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Aleppo in August, supported by the Logistics Cluster, remains on standby pending administrative procedures and security/access.

## More than 1.9 million Syrian refugees

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 26 August 2013
Egypt	110,636
Iraq	155,258
Jordan	517,168
Lebanon	704,877
Turkey	440,773
North Africa	14,289
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,943,001</b>

Source: UNHCR as of 26 August 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.

## Lack of funds hampers winterization response plans

### **57% funding gap in SHARP response risks leaving vulnerable Syrians in the cold this winter**

In addition to the winterization strategy agreed by the NFI/shelter sector, the Inter-sector coordination (ISC) group is developing a winterization response package and accompanying strategy to ensure it reaches the most vulnerable. The ISC strategy will also highlight funding gaps.

The Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) 2013 has received a total of US\$ 603 million out of the required \$1.4 billion to assist 6.8 million people in need inside Syria.

### **The regional refugee response only 37 per cent funded**

The regional Refugee Response Plan requires nearly US\$3 billion to address the needs of 3.5 million Syrian refugees and 1.9 million host country nationals by the end of 2013. To date, the plan has received only 37 per cent of its required funds.

## ERF enables rapid response for underserved populations

After closing the call for proposals for Lebanon, the ERF Review Board has agreed to allocate USD 4.3 million to 14 projects to enable partners to respond to needs in underfunded sectors. Successful identification and effective dispersal of ERF funding will leave 12.5 million in the pot for emerging needs.

ERF-funded integrated education and WASH project in Karak, Jordan, is the primary or only source of emergency assistance for the Syrian refugees who have reached Karak. As the only INGO humanitarian project present on the ground in Karak, where the Jordanian community has shared their homes, resources and good will with Syrian refugees despite the strains on overall services, the funding has enabled Relief International (RI) and Karak Women's Union to provide much needed relief for refugee families while conducting an assessment to identify the overall humanitarian needs of the estimated 6,726 families.



Credit: OCHA/KGilbride. A young Syrian refugee holds his classmates' attention during remedial English class at Osama bin Zaid private school in Karak, Jordan. The school donates the space to enable the ERF-funded RI project to use funding to reach more children.

For further information, please contact:

**Raul Rosende**, Head of Office Syria, [rosende@un.org](mailto:rosende@un.org), Tel. (+963) 953 300 075

**Emanuela Calabrini** Humanitarian Affairs Officer, [calabrini@un.org](mailto:calabrini@un.org), Tel. (+1) 917 367 2310

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