



# SYRIA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In the past two weeks, fighting between Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) forces and armed opposition groups has intensified in greater Damascus and continued throughout other parts of the country, including Aleppo, Dar’a, Dayr az Zawr, Hama, Homs, Idlib, Latakia, and Rif Damascus governorates, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The fighting has resulted in increased displacement within Syria, including the repeated displacement of some Syrians. The conflict has also resulted in a more than 26 percent increase in the number of Syrians displaced to Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey since August 20.
- On August 30, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres addressed the U.N. Security Council on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria and called for increased international support for relief efforts and greater protection for non-combatants in Syria. The address coincided with U.N. and humanitarian group reports of an increasing number of SARG checkpoints, roadblocks, and road closures limiting their ability to reach some conflict-affected populations, particularly in and around Damascus and Aleppo.
- In early September, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah traveled to Jordan to meet with senior Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (GHKJ) officials, U.N. representatives, international non-governmental organization (NGO) staff, and others to discuss the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria and U.S. assistance for the conflict-affected. While visiting Jordan’s Za’atri camp, Administrator Shah announced that the U.S. Government (USG) is providing an additional \$21 million in humanitarian assistance, bringing total USG humanitarian assistance to nearly \$103 million for people affected by the crisis in Syria. This assistance comprises an additional \$14.3 million to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) to support conflict-affected people inside Syria and an additional \$6.7 million to WFP’s EMOP to support Syrians displaced to neighboring countries.
- The USG continues to address the needs of conflict-affected people in Syria and neighboring countries through the provision of emergency medical care, food, and relief items, as well as humanitarian coordination and logistics support to relief agencies. The USG also supports nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	Source	
Estimated Total Number of IDPs <sup>1</sup> in Syria <sup>2</sup>	1.2 million	OCHA – August 17, 2012
Estimated Total Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria	2.5 million	OCHA – August 17, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey	80,410	GoT <sup>3</sup> – August 30, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Lebanon	61,335	UNHCR <sup>4</sup> – September 3, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Jordan	77,165	UNHCR – September 3, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Iraq	18,682	UNHCR – August 31, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq	237,592	UNHCR, GoT

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 <sup>5</sup>	
USAID/OFDA <sup>6</sup> Assistance to Syria	\$16,151,875
USAID/FFP <sup>7</sup> Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$47,000,000
State/PRM <sup>8</sup> Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$39,600,000
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries</b>	<b>\$102,751,875</b>

<sup>1</sup> Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

<sup>2</sup> Due to lack of access, the U.N. continues to estimate the IDP population in Syria.

<sup>3</sup> Government of Turkey (GoT)

<sup>4</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>5</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>6</sup> USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>7</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## Context

- Following the commencement of peaceful demonstrations against the Syrian government in March 2011, President Bashar al-Assad pledged legislative reforms. However, reforms failed to materialize, and SARG forces loyal to President al-Assad began responding to demonstrations with violence, leading armed opposition groups to retaliate. On June 11, the U.N. reported more than 10,000 civilian deaths due to the conflict. According to public reports by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the conflict had killed more than 26,000 people—including civilians, armed insurgents, defectors, and members of the SARG security forces—as of the end of August.
- On March 26, 2012, the SARG accepted a six-point peace plan proposed by U.N.–Arab League Special Envoy to Syria Kofi Annan. The plan, endorsed by the U.N. Security Council, called for a ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian access, and the withdrawal of military personnel from populated areas. The ceasefire never took full effect as clashes between SARG and opposition forces, as well as SARG attacks on demonstrators and populated areas, continued. On August 2, Annan announced his resignation as U.N.–Arab League Special Envoy to Syria, effective at the end of August. The U.N. named Lakhdar Brahimi as his replacement.
- On August 16, the U.N. elected not to renew the mandate of the U.N. Supervision Mission in Syria, which suspended operations on June 16 due to increasing levels of violence throughout the country. All U.N. military observers departed Syria in late August.

## Population Displacement to Neighboring Countries

### *Turkey*

- In August, the number of displaced Syrians seeking refuge in Turkey nearly doubled from 44,000 to just over 80,000 people as a result of increased conflict in northern Syria, including an estimated 17,000 new arrivals in the past two weeks, according to the GoT. The GoT currently operates twelve camps and plans to complete construction of four additional camps soon, increasing the total camp capacity in Turkey to 130,000 people.
- The Turkey–Syria border remains open and Syrians continue to cross, although the surge in new arrivals has caused delays at the Turkish border while camps are being prepared. The GoT’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) continues to coordinate the delivery of emergency relief supplies to the Turkey–Syria border. In late August, the GoT transferred all displaced Syrians waiting on the Turkey side of the Turkey–Syria border to camps. The GoT is also focusing on transferring displaced Syrians who have been residing in provisional shelters established in schools to camps, to avoid delaying the re-opening of schools for the upcoming school year.
- UNHCR continues to support the GoT by providing displaced individuals in the camps with relief items, such as tents and blankets. At the GoT’s request, UNHCR is also providing government authorities with technical assistance on protection issues, including camp management, voluntary repatriation, and registration. In addition, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supports the provision of primary health care, psychosocial support, and relief items in the camps through the Turkish Red Crescent.

### *Jordan*

- The number of displaced Syrians residing in Jordan’s Za’atri camp has more than doubled since August 24, and the camp now has more than 25,000 residents. On August 29, the GHKJ Foreign Minister announced that the United Arab Emirates plans to fund the construction of a second camp for displaced Syrians with an expected capacity of 20,000 people in Riba’a Sarhan, Jordan, near the border city of Mafraq. The site on which the camp will be built is currently paved and has existing water and electricity infrastructure.
- In addition to supporting displaced Syrians in Za’atri camp, UNHCR, other international organizations, and local humanitarian organizations are assisting approximately 50,000 people from Syria who are residing in Jordanian host communities. UNHCR, other U.N. agencies, and NGOs continue to work with the GHKJ to provide assistance in Za’atri camp, transit centers in Ramtha district, and in host communities. According to the GHKJ, more than 180,000 Syrians have entered Jordan since the conflict began in March 2011.

### *Lebanon*

- The number of UNHCR-registered displaced Syrians in Lebanon has reached nearly 60,000 people, with many recent arrivals settling in the Bekaa Valley. In addition to supporting registration in the Bekaa Valley and greater Beirut, UNHCR continues to register Syrians at its new registration facility in Tripoli, Lebanon, despite ongoing unrest in the greater Tripoli area. Most displaced Syrians in Lebanon reside with host families or rent apartments; however an increasing number are seeking shelter in schools in the north and the east of the country, according to UNHCR. As the beginning of the school year approaches, UNHCR and partners are working to identify and renovate alternative shelters, including rented apartments, for families. WFP continues to provide assistance through food rations and vouchers, targeting more than 33,000 displaced Syrians, while the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), in

cooperation with the Government of Lebanon Ministry of Health, is strengthening surveillance systems for early disease detection and management, according to OCHA.

#### *Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Jordan and Lebanon*

- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continues to provide humanitarian assistance—including food, health services, education, and basic relief supplies—to Palestinian refugees who have fled conflict in Syria for Jordan and Lebanon. More than 3,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have relocated to Lebanon, while over 1,000 have entered Jordan.

#### *Iraq*

- Nearly 19,000 Syrians have sought refuge in Iraq since the beginning of the crisis, with the majority residing in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq. The Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), in conjunction with UNHCR and other humanitarian partners, has established a refugee camp at Domiz that hosts more than 3,000 Syrians. The KRG has offered six-month residency permits to Syrians fleeing the violence in Syria, as well as opportunities to enroll in the local education system and to seek work.
- The Government of Iraq (GoI) has also established a refugee camp near the al-Qaim border crossing in Al Anbar Governorate, which currently accommodates 2,000 Syrians with another 1,700 Syrians temporarily residing in transitional shelters in nearby schools until the camp can be expanded.
- On August 13, the GoI closed its border crossing at al-Qaim, citing security concerns as well as the need to prepare additional spaces to host displaced Syrians.
- In addition to displaced Syrians, more than 31,000 Iraqi refugees have returned to Iraq from Syria since July 18 to escape the escalating violence in Syria. The GoI is providing cash and other assistance to support these returnees in re-establishing their lives in Iraq. UNHCR is providing protection monitoring, referral services, and other critical assistance to this vulnerable group.

#### *Other Countries*

- UNHCR reports that registration of Syrian asylum seekers in Egypt, primarily in Cairo and Alexandria, continues to rise. UNHCR registered 481 Syrian asylum seekers in July, slightly below the number registered in June, bringing the total number of registered Syrian asylum seekers in Egypt to 1,405, as of August 6.

### **Health**

- Conflict has severely limited access to health services in many parts of Syria, according to the U.N. The SARG reports that violence has damaged 43 public hospitals significantly and affected an additional 143 health clinics. In several locations, SARG forces have taken up positions in or around hospitals, according to a recent War Child report. Security concerns and inaccessible roads have prevented health care providers from reporting to work, resulting in understaffing of health facilities, especially in areas most affected by unrest, according to WHO. WHO also reports severe shortages of essential medicines, hindering the ability of operational health facilities to provide assistance.
- As the conflict limits access to static health care facilities, an increasing number of Syrians are seeking medical assistance through mobile health clinics. More than 12,500 people have received assistance through four International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)-supported mobile clinics in Rif Damascus, Homs, and Al Hasakah governorates from January to July 2012, with an increase in visits in July, OCHA reports. Since the onset of the crisis, an estimated 30,000 people have received medical assistance through 16 mobile health clinics supported by WHO, the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IFRC, and NGO partners, according to the U.N.
- The USG has provided \$500,000 to IFRC, \$375,000 to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and more than \$8 million to NGO partners to support health interventions in Syria. The USG has also provided \$8 million to ICRC, part of which supports health interventions in Syria.

### **WASH**

- On August 30, UNICEF reported the results of a preliminary rapid assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in parts of Al Hasakah and Rif Damascus governorates. The assessment indicated a shortage of water—in terms of quantity and possibly quality—in locations where IDPs are congregating in the two governorates. Children under the age of 18 comprised approximately 45 percent of the IDPs in these areas. The assessment found a lack of systems for waste management and solid waste disposal, a limited number of toilets, and poor maintenance of sanitation facilities, increasing the risk of disease transmission. Many IDPs also reported that they had not received hygiene kits.
- The WASH sector group—the coordinating body for WASH activities in Syria, co-chaired by UNICEF and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)—is currently operational, according to UNICEF. During the week of August 26,

WASH organizations distributed 17,800 hygiene kits and provided water trucking for approximately 6,000 people in Rif Damascus.

- The SARG has authorized eight international NGOs to provide assistance to people affected by the conflict in Syria, increasing assistance delivery in recent weeks, particularly in the WASH sector, according to OCHA. Since June 2012, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has provided water and water storage facilities to 8,000 IDPs in shelters in Damascus and Rif Damascus. HELP-Germany provided water and sanitation support to 20,000 people in Rif Damascus, and Secours Islamique France has provided hygiene kits for 30,000 people, focusing on IDPs hosted in schools in the Damascus area.
- To date, UNICEF has provided 100,000 people with access to improved hygiene and 6,000 people with drinking water. In addition, UNICEF has vaccinated 285,000 children against measles.

### **Food Security**

- WFP continues to provide food assistance to approximately 850,000 conflict-affected people in all 14 governorates of Syria, including SARG-controlled, opposition-controlled, and contested areas. However, conflict, insecurity and road closures continue to hinder access across several cities and governorates, including Damascus, Dayr az Zawr, Hama, Homs, Idlib, and Rif Damascus.
- WFP concluded the July cycle of food distributions on August 22, having dispatched to the SARC sufficient food for 824,875 people—97 percent of the 850,000 person target for July. As of August 22, the SARC had distributed rations to 821,125 people—96 percent of the July distribution target. As part of the August cycle of distributions, WFP had dispatched another 64,600 food rations sufficient for 323,000 people as of August 25, reaching all targeted governorates.
- The USG remains the largest donor of WFP emergency food assistance for the Syria crisis, both within Syria and in the neighboring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq. To date in FY 2012, the USG has provided \$32.3 million to support WFP's EMOP in Syria, targeting 850,000 people. The USG has also provided \$14.7 million in support of WFP's EMOP for Syrians displaced to neighboring countries, as a component of the U.N. Regional Response Plan.

### **Logistics and Relief Commodities**

- Humanitarian agencies continue to distribute relief items in conflict-affected areas of Syria. In the last two weeks of August, U.N. agencies and humanitarian partners provided essential relief items to more than 310,000 IDPs across Syria, particularly in Aleppo, Damascus, Al Hasakah, and Rif Damascus governorates, according to OCHA. International NGOs operating in Syria with SARG approval have also recently increased assistance, including DRC, which has provided emergency relief supplies to approximately 10,000 conflict-affected people in Dar'a Governorate since June 2012.
- WFP continues to lead a logistics coordination mechanism in Damascus to enhance coordination among humanitarian organizations engaged in logistics activities in Syria. In addition, WFP continues to provide logistics services to other U.N. agencies, such as the transportation of hygiene kits for babies and families, as well as food kits, on behalf of UNICEF to facilitate storage and distribution.
- The USG is providing support to the IFRC, ICRC, and UNHCR for the distribution of emergency relief supplies in Syria.

### **Protection**

- UNICEF continues to support the SARC in operating five child-friendly spaces and four multi-disciplinary clinics that provide psychosocial and mental health services to children and families in Damascus. UNICEF-supported psychosocial and recreational activities also continue through three child-friendly spaces in Aleppo city, two in Aleppo Governorate, and two in Homs Governorate, as well as through the UNICEF network of 103 school clubs in seven governorates.
- UNICEF also supported the local NGO Syrian Society for Social Development in providing psychosocial first aid training for 70 volunteers, who subsequently provided psychological first aid and recreational activities to children from IDP and host families in Damascus and Rif Damascus governorates. In addition, UNICEF had provided approximately 27,000 children—approximately 45 percent of a targeted 60,000 beneficiaries—with safe access to community spaces for socializing, play, and learning as of August 30.
- The USG has provided \$750,000 to UNICEF to conduct health and protection interventions, including psychosocial support.

### Other Humanitarian Assistance

- As of September 3, the U.N.'s six-month Syria Humanitarian Response Plan had received \$93 million, more than 52 percent of the requested \$180 million and more than an \$11 million funding increase since August 24. Donors have also provided \$64.3 million to the \$193 million U.N. Regional Response Plan for activities targeting displaced Syrians in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq.

### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2012<sup>1</sup>

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
IFRC	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities:	Syria	\$1,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$11,974,409
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Syria	\$500,000
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Syria	\$300,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection	Syria	\$750,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$1,500,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$127,466
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$16,151,875</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	Syria EMOP	Syria	\$32,300,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq	\$14,700,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$47,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Assistance for IDPs through Syria Humanitarian Response Plan	Syria	\$3,600,000
UNHCR	Support for the Regional Response Plan	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq,	\$19,500,000
ICRC	Emergency Medical Care, Food, and Relief Items	Syria	\$8,000,000
UNRWA	Support for Palestinian Refugees in Syria	Syria	\$3,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Psychosocial, Protection, and Shelter Assistance	Jordan and Lebanon	\$3,000,000
UNICEF	WASH and Protection	Jordan	\$2,000,000
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Turkey	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$39,600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$102,751,875</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 5, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. The USG encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:  
The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.  
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).