



SYRIA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In early October 2012, the U.N. reported more than 20,000 deaths, mostly civilians, due to the conflict, while the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported 39,000 civilian deaths as of mid-November.
- Intense fighting is severely impeding relief assistance, the U.N. reports. On November 4, a U.N. staff member was killed by fighting near the Yarmouk neighborhood of Damascus, bringing the total number of U.N. staff killed in Syria to eight people. In addition, numerous Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) staff and medical workers have been killed in fighting. As a result of insecurity throughout Syria, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) temporarily withdrew some staff from Al Hasakah Governorate in early November.
- On November 9, U.S. Government (USG) representatives—including Kelly Clements, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) and Mark Bartolini, Director of USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)—attended the sixth Syria Humanitarian Forum (SHF) in Geneva, Switzerland. Attendees discussed Syria’s limited humanitarian access and highlighted concern for the safety of healthcare workers and targeting of medical facilities.
- Representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Turkey, Qatar, other Arab states, and the newly formed National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (SOC) attended a meeting in London, England, on November 16 to discuss humanitarian and other civilian needs in Syria. The SOC identified need for winterization, food assistance, medical care, and education, and offered to work with the humanitarian community to assist conflict-affected people in areas under opposition control.
- On November 14, at the annual U.S.–Australia ministers meeting, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced \$30 million in additional USG food assistance to support people affected by the Syrian conflict, bringing the total U.S. humanitarian assistance for Syrians to nearly \$200 million. The new assistance comprises an additional \$18 million to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) to support affected people inside Syria and an additional \$12 million to WFP’s regional EMOP to support Syrians displaced to Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, and Iraq.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	Source	
Estimated Total Number of IDPs ¹ in Syria	1.2 million	OCHA ² – September 26, 2012
Estimated Total Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria	2.5 million	OCHA – September 26, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey	120,147	GoT ³ – November 19, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Lebanon	127,420	UNHCR – November 20, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Jordan	123,076	UNHCR – November 18, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Iraq	54,175	UNHCR – November 18, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq	424,818	UNHCR, GoT

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 AND FY 2013 ⁴	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Syria	\$46,270,462
USAID/FFP ⁵ Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$77,000,000
State/PRM Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$72,760,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$196,030,462

¹ Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

² U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

³ Government of Turkey (GoT)

⁴ Fiscal Year (FY) of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

⁵ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

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 Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) forces loyal to President al-Assad began responding to demonstrations with violence, leading armed opposition groups to retaliate.
- 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. Lakhdar Brahimi became U.N.–Arab League Special Envoy to Syria in September.
- 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.
- Syria hosts approximately 500,000 Palestinian refugees, with more than 80 percent living in and around Damascus, particularly in the Yarmouk area. Other sizable Palestinian populations are located in Homs, Hamah, Aleppo, Latakia, and Dar'a. Intense fighting in and around Palestinian camps and neighborhoods in Yarmouk, Aleppo, and Dar'a is increasingly affecting Palestinian refugees in Syria. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates that 225,000 Palestine refugees are directly affected by the conflict. Syria also hosts approximately 87,000 Iraqi refugees, primarily in the greater Damascus area.

Population Displacement

IDPs in Syria

- A recent U.N. assessment of humanitarian conditions in Dar'a, Hasakah, Ar Raqqa, Homs, and Rif Damascus governorates indicated that needs have significantly exceeded previously planning figures for these areas. The assessment mission found that between 50,000 and 70,000 displaced people who were residing in unfinished apartments in northeast Damascus—the majority from the nearby towns of Douma and Harasta—in Adra Oumaliyah town were in need of humanitarian assistance.
- SARC estimates that the conflict has displaced approximately 2.5 million people inside Syria, which is more than twice the U.N.'s estimate of 1.2 million IDPs, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported. UNHCR noted that the SARC considers the 2.5 million IDP figure a conservative estimate and suspects many more people may be displaced in Syria.

Refugees in Syria

- More than 410,000 registered Palestinian refugees live in Damascus and surrounding areas, including an estimated 160,000 refugees in Yarmouk camp. UNRWA noted heavy clashes near Yarmouk and reported that three Palestinian refugees had been killed in clashes near Damascus on November 19. In mid-November, UNRWA increased its public estimate of the number of Palestinian refugees in Syria directly affected by the conflict from 225,000 to more than 300,000 individuals, or approximately 75 percent of Syria's total Palestinian refugee population.

Turkey

- More than 15,000 Syrians, primarily Syrian Kurds, fled from Syria to Turkey between November 7 and 16, UNHCR reported. The individuals, who reportedly fled fighting between SARG and opposition forces, entered at Turkey's Ceylanpinar border crossing, near Syria's eastern town of Ra's Al' ayn, Al Hasakah Governorate. Of the new arrivals, approximately half entered Turkish refugee camps, while the other half are staying in host communities with relatives. The GoT is constructing two new camps in Gaziantep and Sanliurfa provinces, which will increase the overall number of camps to 16 with a total capacity of 140,000 people.
- According to Turkish authorities, as of November 17, approximately 25,000 Syrians had amassed on the Syrian side of the border, across from Turkey's Hatay and Kilis provinces. The GoT's estimate is based on the number of food packages distributed by the Turkish Red Crescent at relief distribution centers along the border. UNHCR reports that not all of the Syrians are waiting to enter Turkey, as many have moved from their villages to the border areas for safety.

Lebanon

- The majority of Syrians displaced in Lebanon continue to rent apartments or reside with host families. Relief agencies are identifying public buildings to serve as collective shelters and land for establishing temporary shelters and prefabricated housing. UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council are working with local municipalities in northern

Lebanon to identify sites for building prefabricated buildings and have begun training displaced Syrians to build the structures. During the week of November 18, UNHCR began a two-month rent assistance pilot project targeting 100 of the most vulnerable displaced Syrian families in Tripoli and surrounding areas. UNHCR is assessing additional Syrian families' rent assistance needs.

- UNHCR, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other relief organizations met on November 13 to assess current sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) referral and response mechanisms in Lebanon. To address gaps in SGBV assistance, the organizations plan to provide technical training to social workers and increase referrals for vulnerable individuals to receive specialized services, such as alternative housing. The organizations will hold bi-weekly meetings and will enhance the response mechanism by incorporating a broader group of organizations that have the expertise to provide relevant legal, health, and shelter services.
- UNHCR, UNICEF, Save the Children, and other education partners have enhanced coordination with school directors to ensure that displaced Syrian children are enrolled in public schools and that all are equipped with proper school supplies. UNICEF recently entered an agreement with Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre to support the enrollment of an 11,000 additional students. UNICEF also distributed school bags, uniforms, and other educational materials to more than 7,500 children in northern Lebanon and Bekaa valley.

Iraq

- Iraq's al-Waleed and Rabi'a border crossing points remain open, while al-Qaim border crossing point in Anbar Province remains closed to Syrians due to the lack of capacity at al-Qaim two displacement camps to receive additional people, UNHCR reports. Local authorities continue to allow urgent medical cases to enter Al-Qaim. The Government of Iraq (GoI) Prime Minister publically reported that the GoI will re-open the border following the completion of Iraq's third displacement camp near al-Obaidi village, Anbar Province. The al-Obaidi site, which is under construction, will initially hold 700 tents for a capacity of 3,500 people.
- As of November 14, al-Qaim's two camps were hosting a total of 7,398 Syrian refugees, including 3,298 people in camp 1 and 4,100 people in camp 2. Registration is on-going in Camp 2. UNHCR has identified 887 people who are residing in al-Qaim outside of the camp. Outside the camps, UNHCR has identified 887 individuals. In total, UNHCR has identified 8,285 individuals in the al-Qaim area.
- According to UNHCR, 1,767 Iraqis entered Iraq from Syria during the past week, while 1,408 Iraqis reentered Syria from Iraq. All three border points—Al-Waleed, Rabi'aa and al-Qaim—remained open for Iraqi returnees. Al-Waleed—located south of al-Qaim in Al Anbar Province—continued to receive the largest number of returnees. As of November 14, approximately 54,350 Iraqis had returned to Iraq from Syria since mid-July 2012. This number includes returnees who are registered with UNHCR in Syria and those who are not. A total of 27,285 Iraqis crossed from Iraq into Syria during the same time period.

Jordan

- UNHCR plans to issue vouchers in Za'atri camp to help residents purchase winter clothes and other winter relief supplies in Jordanian stores designated for the program. Za'atri camp currently hosts approximately 21,000 Syrians.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has pledged to provide 2,500 prefabricated shelters, valued at \$7.5 million, for Za'atri camp. As of November 20, UNHCR had received 460 of the shelters.

Winter Assistance

- Winter assistance remains a priority need in Syria and the region. UNICEF reported that at least 75,000 children required blankets and warm clothes in Syria as of November 11, according to OCHA. UNICEF notes that many displaced children are residing in shelters that are not sufficiently winterized and lack access to basic services, such as health facilities. As of November 8, UNICEF had distributed 1,200 packages of winter clothing to displaced children in shelters and affected communities in the Damascus neighborhoods of Zahira and Rukhnedin.
- The USG's recent \$6 million award to UNICEF includes \$4.5 million for provision of winter relief supplies inside Syria. Between December and March 2013, UNICEF plans to distribute winterization packages to approximately 350,000 people, including 155,000 children. UNICEF has begun procurement of the winter supplies, which include children's winter clothing, blankets and sleeping mats to prevent heat loss, plastic sheeting for shelter, hygiene kits, and cooking sets and stoves.
- In addition, the USG's recent contribution of \$16.7 million to UNHCR included \$13.5 million to help meet winterization needs in Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon and keep families warm during the coming winter by providing additional supplies such as blankets, heating stoves, and clothing.

Health

- Conflict in Syria continues to disrupt access to medical care for Syrians, particularly women and children. A recent assessment of limited areas of Syria, conducted by the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), indicated that approximately 44 percent of pregnant women in assessed areas had delivered via caesarian section, with some women opting for the surgery due to concerns about their ability to reach a hospital in time to deliver safely. To increase access to medical services, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) recently entered a partnership with a Damascus-based non-governmental organization to refer patients, including delivering mothers, to health facilities for receive surgical and medical assistance, OCHA reports.
- The ongoing conflict has also disrupted immunization programs throughout Syria, with the SARG Ministry of Health (MoH) reporting a decline in the national vaccination coverage from 95 to 80 percent during the first quarter of 2012. Despite the challenges, UNICEF and WHO are planning to commence a measles and polio vaccination campaign in November that will 1.5 million children under five at health care facilities in 10 governorates. In addition, WHO is supporting the MoH to conduct vaccinations for approximately 150,000 children in Aleppo Governorate. WHO also plans to deploy mobile teams to conduct vaccinations in areas hosting high numbers of IDPs. The USG is supporting UNICEF and WHO's vaccination campaign through the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan.
- In addition to supporting nearly 100,000 people in Syria with medicines, surgical supplies, and medicines in October, WHO recently provided a hospital in Damascus with 10,000 doses of insulin and other medications.
- In total, the USG has provided \$21.8 million for health and medical assistance in Syria in FY 2012 and FY 2013, including \$2.2 million to UNICEF and \$1.3 million to WHO. In addition to vaccinations, USG is supporting the provision of medicines, emergency medical training, and medical supplies in Syria.

Logistics and Relief Commodities

- To ensure continued distribution of relief supplies in Syria despite the insecurity, the USG continues to support WFP's Special Operation for Syria, which provides logistics assistance, including storage and transport for relief commodities, to other relief organizations operating in Syria. In FY 2012 and FY 2013, the USG has provided nearly \$3.5 million to support WFP's Special Operation. The USG has also provided \$17.2 million to additional relief organizations to deliver relief commodities—including blankets, hygiene kits, mattresses, and other winter supplies—to affected people throughout Syria.

Food Security

- Food prices remain high throughout Syria, with the price of vegetable oil increasing nearly 90 percent since September, WFP reports. While the SARG continues to subsidize bread, supplies are scarce due to limited transportation fuel supplies. Vulnerable Syrians, who lack the resources to pay high food prices, are increasingly relying on negative food-related coping strategies, such as reducing the quantity and quality of meals.
- While food needs continue to increase, the rapidly deteriorating security situation throughout Syria, particularly in Aleppo Governorate, is hampering food distributions, according to WFP. On November 5, fighting destroyed a SARC warehouse in Aleppo that contained WFP food stocks and other relief supplies. Intense fighting and road closures have delayed WFP-contracted trucks from delivering food supplies to areas of Al Hasakah, Latakia, and Dayr az Zawr governorates, while also preventing WFP staff from monitoring distributions in Dar'a, Qunaytirah, and Damascus.
- WFP continues to target food assistance to 1.5 million people. Between November 5 and 10, WFP delivered food rations for 276,500 people in Damascus, Rif Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hamah, Idlib, Ar Raqqah, and Dayr az Zawr. WFP food rations include rice, bulgur, vegetable oil, sugar, dried and canned pulses, and pasta.
- The USG continues to support to WFP to scale up emergency food assistance operations in Syria and the region. To date, the USG has provided \$77 million for WFP's EMOPs, including \$50.3 million to WFP's Syria EMOP and \$26.7 million for WFP's regional EMOP. WFP is primarily supporting Syrians in Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon through a food voucher system, with individuals redeeming vouchers for available items at designated commercial vendors. In Iraq and at Za'atri Camp and King Abdullah Park in Jordan, WFP is providing dry food rations until it can transition to vouchers.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$1,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$12,965,409
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	\$1,750,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$1,500,000
WHO	Health	Syria	\$1,300,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$380,455
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$19,695,864
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	Syria EMOP	Syria	\$32,300,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq	\$14,700,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$47,000,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Assistance for IDPs through Syria Humanitarian Response Plan	Syria	\$8,360,000
UNHCR	Support for the Regional Response Plan	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq	\$19,500,000
International Committee of the Red Cross	Emergency Medical Care, Food, and Relief Items	Syria	\$8,000,000
UNRWA	Support for Palestinian Refugees in the Region	Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon	\$11,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Psychosocial, Protection, and Shelter Assistance	Jordan and Lebanon	\$3,000,000
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene and Protection	Jordan	\$2,000,000
International Organization for Migration	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Turkey	\$500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$52,360,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012			\$119,055,864

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2013

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
NGO Partners	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Syria	\$18,418,104
UNICEF	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$6,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$2,000,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$156,494
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$26,574,598
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	Syria EMOP	Syria	\$18,000,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq	\$12,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$30,000,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Emergency Medical Care	Lebanon	\$400,000
UNFPA	Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response	Turkey	\$323,000
UNHCR	Support for the Regional Response Plan	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq	\$16,677,000
UNICEF	Support for the Regional Response Plan	Jordan	\$3,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$20,400,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2013			\$76,974,598

TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012 and FY 2013	\$196,030,462
--	----------------------

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. FY 2012 figures are subject to fluctuations due to end-of-fiscal-year financial review and reconciliation activities.
² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 21, 2012.
³ \$12.8 million in funding was committed in FY 2012 and were obligated in FY 2013.

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 or +1.202.821.1999.
 Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.