



# SYRIA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In the past several weeks fighting in Syria has intensified, particularly in Dayr az Zawr, Aleppo, Damascus, and Dar'a governorates. The fighting has resulted in increased displacement within Syria, including displacement of some Syrians for a second or third time. Approximately 45,000 Syrians fled to neighboring countries during the first three weeks of September, according to the U.N. Fighting near Syria's borders with Turkey and Jordan has increased, in some cases hindering vulnerable populations from fleeing to safety across international borders.
- The humanitarian situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, according to the U.N. Checkpoints, roadblocks, road closures, and insecurity—both directly related to the conflict and as a result of an upsurge in criminal activity—are constraining humanitarian access. The U.N. has observed an increase in kidnappings and car-jackings in recent weeks, compounding the threats to humanitarian workers, particularly local staff.
- The U.N.—in conjunction with the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)—released a revised Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (SHRP) at the Syria Humanitarian Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, on September 7, requesting \$348 million to support humanitarian programs inside Syria. The U.N. released a revised version of the Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) on September 27, requesting approximately \$488 million to support scaled-up relief efforts to address the needs of people displaced from Syria to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.
- On September 28, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that the United States is providing nearly \$30 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help those affected by the conflict in Syria. This assistance includes \$14.4 million to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide medical supplies, emergency medical care, shelter materials, blankets, and basic household necessities; \$8 million to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to assist Palestinian refugees affected by the violence; \$4.76 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist displaced and conflict affected Syrians inside Syria; \$1.3 million to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO); and \$1 million to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	Source	
Estimated Total Number of IDPs <sup>1</sup> in Syria	1.2 million	OCHA <sup>2</sup> – 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	87,774	GoT <sup>3</sup> – September 27, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Lebanon	80,482	UNHCR – September 27, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Jordan	101,880	UNHCR – September 27, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Iraq	29,441	UNHCR – September 21, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq	299,577	UNHCR, GoT

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 <sup>4</sup>	
USAID/OFDA <sup>5</sup> Assistance to Syria	\$32,858,946
USAID/FFP <sup>6</sup> Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$47,000,000
State/PRM <sup>7</sup> Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$52,360,000
<b>Total USG<sup>8</sup> Humanitarian Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries</b>	<b>\$132,218,946</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

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

<sup>4</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. FY 2012 figures represent committed or obligated amounts as of September 28, 2012. FY 2012 figures are subject to fluctuations due to end-of-fiscal-year financial review and reconciliation activities.

<sup>5</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>6</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Government (USG)

## 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. In mid-September, the U.N. reported approximately 19,000 deaths, mostly civilians, due to the conflict. According to public reports by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the conflict had killed approximately 30,000 people—including civilians, armed insurgents, defectors, and members of the SARG security forces—as of late September.
- 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.

## Population Displacement

### *Internal Displacement in Syria*

- The U.N. estimates that 1.2 million people remain displaced inside Syria. As of late September, many of these IDPs were residing in 607 schools and other public buildings across Syria, compared to 470 schools in August, according to the SARG Ministry of Education. OCHA reports that the ability of local communities in Syria to support people who have fled their homes has been exhausted, leading to large outflows of Syrians to neighboring countries in recent weeks.
- A U.N. inter-agency assessment mission to the city of Homs and surrounding areas during the week of September 3 found that approximately 490,000 displaced people are located in Homs Governorate, scattered across 100 locations, according to OCHA. The assessment also indicated that approximately 550,000 people in Homs Governorate, including the displaced, are in need of humanitarian assistance, ranging from health care to food assistance.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and UNRWA reported in mid-September that Syrians and Palestinian refugees were moving to nearby governorates to avoid conflict in Rif Damascus, Aleppo, and Dayr az Zawr governorates. New arrivals from Damascus and Rif Damascus governorates constituted a significant percentage of the approximately 22,000 people registered with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in Al Qunaytirah Governorate. Ongoing fighting in Aleppo and Dayr az Zawr displaced people to Ar Raqqa and Al Hasakah governorates, with new arrivals forming the majority of the approximately 115,000 people in Ar Raqqa and the estimated 70,000 people in Al Hasakah, according to WFP.
- Most partially completed public and private buildings hosting IDPs in Syria lack heating systems, sewage systems, and access to electricity, according to humanitarian agencies. While schools hosting IDPs generally are equipped with heating systems, OCHA reports that reduced access to fuel may affect schools' ability to remain heated. Humanitarian agencies have identified items that displaced populations need in order to prepare for the winter season, including building materials, carpets, heaters, heating fuel, and blankets.
- The USG is supporting an implementing partner to provide 38,500 IDPs and other vulnerable people with hygiene kits, blankets, and carpet for heat insulation during the coming winter. Hygiene kits include hand soap, shampoo, washing powder for clothes, dish washing liquid, sponges, and other essential items.

### *Palestinian Refugees in Syria*

- 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. UNRWA estimates that 225,000 Palestine refugees are directly affected by the conflict.
- Since the conflict began, more than 42,100 new Palestinian refugee families in Syria have requested cash assistance from UNRWA—more than double the number of requests received prior to the conflict. In addition to assisting Palestinian refugees, UNRWA schools and facilities are sheltering more than 7,000 Syrian IDPs.
- In September, UNRWA worked to identify methods to continue providing education—one of the organization's largest programs—despite the deteriorating security situation. UNRWA's efforts included preparing materials for home-learning for children who would normally attend schools that are currently sheltering IDPs; negotiating with the

authorities and communities in Dar'a to obtain assurances that the school environment will be sufficiently safe; and working with displaced individuals residing in schools in Homs to identify alternate shelters.

- UNRWA continues to provide humanitarian assistance—including food, health services, education, and basic relief supplies—to Palestinian refugees who have fled the conflict in Syria for Jordan and Lebanon. Approximately 5,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have relocated to Lebanon, while more than 1,260 have entered Jordan.
- The USG is providing \$11 million to UNRWA to address the increased needs of Palestinian refugees affected by the conflict in Syria.

#### *Turkey*

- As of September 28, the number of displaced Syrians seeking refuge in Turkey stood at 87,774 people, according to the GoT. The GoT operates fifteen camps and one temporary processing center for displaced Syrians and is planning construction of additional camps to increase the total camp capacity in Turkey to 130,000 people. In response to the ongoing flow of displaced Syrians into Turkey, the GoT's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) continues to coordinate the delivery of emergency relief supplies through the Turkish Red Crescent to support conflict-affected Syrians.
- The Turkey–Syria border remains open, and Syrians continue to cross into Turkey, although the surge in arrivals beginning in late August has caused delays at the border while the GoT prepares new camps. Reports indicate that, as of September 28, an estimated 8,000 Syrians waited on the Syrian side of the border with Kilis and Hatay governorates. These populations are receiving food, water, and medicine and are being admitted into Turkey in groups and transferred to camps as quickly as processing allows. However, as new arrivals are processed and placed in Turkey, additional displaced Syrians are arriving at the border.
- 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. The USG supports UNHCR's activities in Turkey as well as IOM's provision of humanitarian coordination and information management assistance.

#### *Jordan*

- The number of displaced Syrians residing in Jordan's Za'atri camp, located in Mafraq Governorate, continues to grow, with more than 31,000 individuals entering Za'atri to date. In addition to supporting displaced Syrians in Za'atri camp, UNHCR and other international and local humanitarian organizations are assisting more than 60,000 people from Syria residing in Jordanian host communities. UNHCR estimates that at the current rate, the number of Syrians in Jordan could reach 250,000 by the end of the year. According to the Jordanian government, more than 200,000 Syrians have entered Jordan since the conflict began in March 2011.
- UNHCR, other U.N. agencies, and NGOs—with support from the USG and other donors—continue to work with the Jordanian government to provide assistance in Za'atri camp and in host communities. More than 17,000 Syrian children living in host communities have registered for school, and a school for children in Za'atri camp began classes on September 26.

#### *Lebanon*

- Nearly 80,000 displaced Syrians in Lebanon have approached UNHCR for assistance in the Bekaa Valley, north Lebanon, and south Lebanon. Most displaced Syrians in Lebanon reside with host families or rent apartments. UNHCR has established multiple registration sites—in Tripoli, south Lebanon, and the Bekaa—to reach these groups. Most families who were residing in schools have moved to apartments and other alternative shelters, allowing school to commence.
- In addition to Syrians arriving in Lebanon, some Lebanese families who had been living and working in Syria are returning to Lebanon and are in need of assistance. IOM, WFP, and UNHCR are in discussions with the Lebanese High Relief Commission on ways to provide assistance and services to this population.
- WFP continues to provide assistance through food rations and vouchers, targeting more than 33,000 displaced Syrians, while UNICEF and partners are conducting remedial classes and other educational activities to help Syrian children integrate into Lebanese schools. In addition, UNHCR and partners are providing health care, including critical psychosocial services, to displaced Syrians in need throughout Lebanon. WHO, in cooperation with the Government of Lebanon's Ministry of Health, is strengthening surveillance systems for early disease detection and management, according to OCHA.

## *Iraq*

- More than 32,000 Syrians have sought refuge in Iraq since the beginning of the Syria crisis, with over 27,000 arriving 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 that hosts more than 8,500 Syrians at Domiz. UNHCR is working with the government to expand the capacity of the Domiz camp. On September 6, WFP began distribution of in-kind food aid regionally procured from Turkey in Domiz camp. The KRG has offered six-month renewable 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) established a refugee camp near the al-Qaim border crossing in Al Anbar Governorate, which currently accommodates 2,650 Syrians. The GoI Ministry of Displacement and Migration is finalizing a second camp.
- 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. The GoI reopened the border on a limited basis on September 18 to families with children 15 years of age and below, women, elderly, sick, and injured persons. Between September 18 and 28, approximately 120 Syrians were admitted to Iraq via al Qaim per day.
- In addition to displaced Syrians, approximately 39,000 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, Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya, continues to rise. At least 5,000 arrivals in these countries are expected to require assistance. In addition, more than 15,000 Syrians have sought asylum in Europe so far this year.

## **Health**

- The early September U.N. mission to Homs Governorate found that only half of the governorate's public hospitals—6 out of 12—and one-quarter of the private hospitals—8 out of 32—were functioning, according to WHO. The conflict has destroyed the National Hospital, which had the largest capacity, as well as 25 of 210 health centers, the remainder of which provide minimal services. WHO reports that at least 50 percent of medical doctors have left Homs Governorate, leaving volunteers without formal medical or health training to staff many health facilities.
- The USG is providing \$1.3 million to WHO and \$725,000 to UNICEF to support health interventions in Syria. UNICEF has vaccinated 285,000 children in Syria against measles to date. In late September, WHO finalized and launched the Early Warning Alert and Response Systems to quickly identify and respond to disease outbreaks in Syria with the participation of 104 health facilities across the country. U.N. agencies, including WHO and UNICEF, are increasing partnerships with local Syrian organizations to reach a broader group of those in need.
- The USG is also providing more than \$17.5 million to NGO partners and \$500,000 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support health interventions in Syria. Additionally, the USG has provided \$8 million to ICRC, part of which supports health interventions in Syria.

## **WASH**

- Conflict has damaged or destroyed essential infrastructure, including water and sanitation systems, in Syria, according to OCHA. In addition, large-scale displacement is resulting in overcrowded shelters with insufficient sanitary facilities. Humanitarian agencies are working to address these water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and SARC have improved drinking water in 37 schools in Aleppo, Damascus, and Rif Damascus governorates, assisting 70,000 people, while upgrades to water and sanitation facilities in Homs Governorate have benefitted 300,000 people, according to OCHA.
- Clashes between SARG and opposition forces damaged multiple water pipelines in Aleppo city on September 8, exacerbating the city's shortage of safe drinking water, according to international media. The damaged infrastructure included a main pipeline in Aleppo's district of Bustan al-Basha, which provided water to a significant portion of Aleppo's pre-conflict population of nearly three million people. The Aleppo municipality provided free water trucking in most areas of Aleppo city affected by the damage, according to OCHA.
- To date, UNICEF has distributed approximately 17,800 hygiene kits in Syria, sufficient to reach an estimated 107,000 people. As of September 20, UNICEF had provided 100,000 people with access to improved hygiene and 6,000 people with access to drinking water. UNICEF works with the SARC and approximately 40 local Syrian organizations to provide humanitarian relief in Syria. The USG has contributed \$350,000 to UNICEF for WASH activities in Syria.

## **Food Security**

- The U.N. reports that three million people in Syria are food insecure. The conflict has aggravated existing vulnerabilities, especially among the urban and rural poor, with unemployment increasing in the formal and informal sectors and inflation and depreciation of the currency negatively affecting purchasing power, according to OCHA. The conflict is also straining the capacity of host communities to support displaced people, as host communities confront food, medicine and water shortages. OCHA reports that blockades and curfews imposed on conflict-affected cities have prevented residents from obtaining water, food, and medical care.
- Beginning the second week of September, WFP increased overall food assistance in Syria from a target population of 850,000 people to a target population of 1.5 million people. The expansion of assistance included significant upward revisions to the number of food rations distributed in governorates affected by violence, including Dar'a, Idlib, Hamah, and Homs, as well as in areas where IDPs have concentrated, such as Al Hasakah, Ar Raqqa, and Latakia governorates. WFP nearly doubled the number of people targeted for food assistance in Homs Governorate from 125,000 people in August to 223,500 people in September.
- The USG has provided \$47 million through WFP to address the food needs of populations affected by the Syria crisis, including \$32.3 million for assistance inside Syria. To reach the greatest possible number of people in need, WFP plans to channel 10 per cent of food rations through local NGOs, targeting 150,000 people. WFP also continues to work with SARC branches throughout Syria to deliver food assistance in every governorate.

## **Logistics and Relief Commodities**

- UNHCR increased its target for providing relief items to conflict-affected populations in Syria from a June planning figure of 125,000 people to a current target of 500,000 by the end of 2012. Since March 2012, UNHCR has delivered relief items to more than 170,000 people inside Syria.
- The USG is providing nearly \$350,000 to an implementing partner to support the distribution of hygiene kits and household items, including sheets and blankets, in an area of Damascus.

## **Other Humanitarian Assistance**

- The U.N.—in conjunction with the SARG—released the revised SHRP at the Syria Humanitarian Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, on September 7. The revised SHRP outlines approximately \$348 million in humanitarian programs extending until the end of 2012 and has received \$130 million in funding to date.
- The U.N. released the revised version of the RRP on September 27. Led by UNHCR, the revised appeal requests approximately \$488 million to support scaled-up relief efforts by 52 organizations to address the needs of people displaced from Syria to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. The U.N. now anticipates up to 700,000 people displaced to neighboring countries by the end of the year.
- On September 7, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) announced a planned contribution of an additional €50 million—nearly \$64 million—for humanitarian assistance in Syria and neighboring countries hosting displaced Syrians. The additional funding brings ECHO's total contribution for Syria and for displaced Syrians throughout the region to €119 million—nearly \$152 million.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2012<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<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	\$25,772,080
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Syria	\$500,000
U.N. Department of Safety and Security	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		\$736,866
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$32,858,946</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	\$8,360,000
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	\$11,000,000
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>\$52,360,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$132,218,946</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. FY 2012 figures represent committed or obligated amounts as of September 28, 2012. FY 2012 figures are subject to fluctuations due to end-of-fiscal-year financial review and reconciliation activities.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 28, 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.
- 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).

*USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [http://transition.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://transition.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)*