The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors. Coordination Saves Lives
Humanitarian funding flows out of the region

During the reporting period, only Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan provided some aid. Azerbaijan remained loyal to supporting the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), giving $20,000 in regular contribution. Since 2006, Azerbaijan gave $90,000 through the CERF to enable timely and adequate response to both forgotten and new sudden-onset crises worldwide.

Kazakhstan’s total aid contributions in 2006-2013 (in $)

In May, Kazakhstan provided in-kind bilateral aid (vegetable oil and buckwheat) to Afghanistan. Kazakhstan also supported relief operations in Lebanon, where over half a million Syrian refugees are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Contributions from Kazakhstan this year so far ($728,000) exceeded the country’s total outgoing aid in 2012 ($495,000) but still remain significantly lower than in 2008-2011. Kazakhstan’s humanitarian activities were at their peak in 2010 when $24 million were given in response to various crises. 2010 was extraordinary with some 74 million people in need globally. As of July 2013, 73 million people are in need of assistance but, unlike in 2010, most of the affected are victims of man-made crises.

Although Kazakhstan aspires to become an emerging donor, its contributions are still reactive (in response to major sudden-onset crises) rather than strategic. From all countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia, Kazakhstan remains the largest humanitarian donor.

$13 billion is needed to help 73 million people in 24 countries

The global humanitarian community has revised funding requirements for 2013, appealing for $13 billion to help some 73 million people affected by crises in countries such as Afghanistan, Chad, Haiti, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. It is a significant increase from the beginning of 2013, when the UN and partners were seeking $8.5 billion to help 51 million people.

The growth in needs is largely attributed to the worsening crisis in Syria, where 6.8 million people within the country are affected and another 1.6 million have become refugees in neighboring countries.

To date, donors have given $5.1 billion (40 per cent of the required amount) towards humanitarian relief operations worldwide, but more is urgently needed to help people affected by natural and man-made disasters.

Credit: UNICEF / I. Morooka
Syria – A girl carries her brother at the basement of a building in Homs where families displaced by the conflict have taken refuge.

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