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HIGHLIGHTS

- Funding shortfalls are undermining the ongoing humanitarian response in Pakistan, with aid agencies cutting critical life-saving assistance.
- Needs in Syria increased to an estimated 2.5 million people and the number of refugees has doubled since July. Whilst humanitarian agencies have scaled up, these efforts are being undermined by funding shortfalls.
- The government of Iran led the humanitarian response to two earthquakes that left 300 dead, 2600 injured and over 150,000 affected.

FUNDING

- Consolidated and flash appeals in the MENA region are currently 41% funded, with additional requirements totalling over US\$ 1.1 billion.
- Ten countries from the MENA region have contributed funds to appeals in 2012. These total US\$65 million with Somalia, Lebanon, Yemen and oPt the largest recipients.



Pakistan: Funding constraints affect relief and recovery

Humanitarian partners in Pakistan are grappling with funding constraints as they provide basic relief assistance to an estimated 742,000 people displaced in the north-western region of the country due to insecurity. In addition, aid agencies are trying to assist the 5.2 million people affected by last year's floods in the south, who are desperately in need of early recovery support.

Partners seek funds to continue life-saving services in the north-west

To continue essential and life-saving services for displaced people in and outside of camps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in north-western Pakistan until the end of the year, humanitarian aid agencies urgently require at least US\$140 million.

Funding shortfalls are undermining the ongoing humanitarian response and will have a serious and negative impact on the well-being of vulnerable populations in the coming months. At the same time, Government authorities in KP have predicted that humanitarian needs will persist until the middle of 2013.

Humanitarian partners operating in KP and FATA have already cut critical life-saving services several months back due to dwindling resources. In addition, there has been an influx of more than 260,000 IDPs since January which is likely to continue, accompanied by a slower rate of returns than was anticipated. Security operations and sectarian violence have caused these displacements in KP and FATA since 2008.

The immediate effects of inadequate funding on humanitarian services includes an additional reduction in food rations, after they were already reduced in May; primary health care posts will face closure; life-saving treatment for malnourished children and pregnant women will end; basic items will not be available to help keep people warm as winter approaches; and education for many children will cease.



A woman carries her possessions through floodwaters in Hyderabad, Sindh province; © UNICEF Pakistan/2011/Warrick Page

Humanitarian partners operating in North West Pakistan have cut critical life-saving services due to dwindling resources.

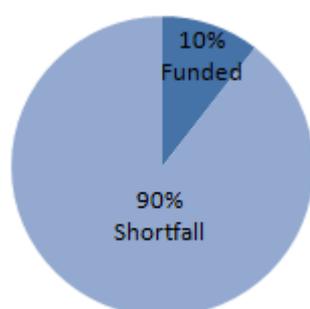
The table below illustrates the funds required by clusters to continue crucial relief activities in KP and FATA until December and the potential humanitarian impact of current funding constraints.

Cluster	Funding gap (US\$)	Potential humanitarian impact of under-funding	Target beneficiaries
Food Security	\$58 m	Food insecurity, erosion of coping mechanisms	1.1 million people
Health	\$17.3 m	Increased risk of morbidity and mortality	1.5 million people
Nutrition	\$7 m	Malnutrition, increased risk of death, stunting, developmental delay or infectious diseases	144,000 children; 98,000 pregnant and lactating women
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$14.6 m	Lack of access to safe drinking water and poor sanitation, which may result in outbreaks of fatal diseases	742,000 IDPs
Shelter	\$9.6 m	Lack of shelter and negative coping mechanisms by potential returnees, including selling assets, taking loans and prolonged displacement	168,000 families
Camp coordination and management; Non-food items	\$20 m	Lack of camp coordination and basic items for survival, resulting in negative coping mechanisms	168,000 families
Education	\$3.9 m	Gaps in schooling and termination of education, which may increase the risk of child abuse, trafficking and child labour	47,000 children in camps and 76,000 in host communities
Protection	\$8 m	Reduced protective services; limited psychosocial support; lack of referral services for domestic violence cases and disruption of reproductive health services	742,000 IDPs
Coordination	\$1.23m	Lack of coordination of humanitarian assistance	Humanitarian agencies
Total	\$140m		

Sources: Humanitarian partners in KP and FATA

Severe funding shortages hamper early recovery in flood-affected areas

Pakistan is also experiencing monsoon rains although they were below the seasonal average in July. In preparation for any emergency, humanitarian partners continue disaster management and disaster risk reduction capacity building activities for provincial and national civil society organizations, NGOs and government departments. These partners are regularly updating their contingency plans, ensuring they are prepared for potential humanitarian emergencies.



Funding Status – Pakistan Early Recovery Framework 2012

February to raise \$439 million for early recovery projects remains poorly funded at 10 per cent, with many of the disaster risk reduction activities in the Framework not being implemented.

However, following the previous floods of 2010 and 2011, there is immense outstanding disaster mitigation work, but limited resources to carry out much-needed initiatives. The Floods 2011 Early Recovery Framework jointly launched by the Government and the UN in

Critical activities that contribute to people's resilience have been left unfunded, with little indication that funding for preparedness, mitigation, and recovery is coming.

In addition, projects seeking to re-establish livelihoods and restore communities in areas affected by the 2011 floods in Sindh and Balochistan provinces in the south of the country have not received much funding, leaving humanitarian partners with severe funding shortages as they seek to build people's resilience and break the cycle of flood and recovery.

Critical activities that contribute to the overall resilience of the people have as yet been left unfunded, with little indication that funding for preparedness, mitigation, and recovery is coming. Humanitarian agencies need more support for these areas as they prioritize disaster risk reduction in the flood-affected areas.

The lack of funding for activities to prepare communities for disasters and protect them against risks is yet another major concern, seeing that Pakistan has a history of relentless humanitarian emergencies caused by floods, drought, cyclones and earthquakes.

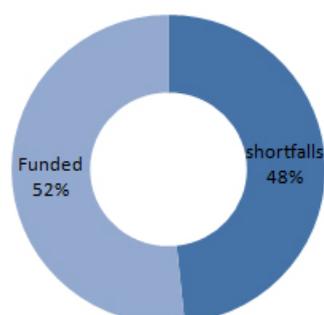
Syria: funding shortages hamper the response to a deteriorating humanitarian crisis

Over the last two months, the humanitarian situation in Syria has significantly deteriorated. An increase in fighting in Damascus and its suburbs and in Aleppo, Dera'a, Idlib, Homs, Hama, Lattakia and Deir Ezzor governorates has put ordinary civilians at risk. Many have been killed or injured by the fighting and over a million people have been forced to flee, either inside Syria or to neighbouring countries. Between July and the end of August, the number of registered refugees has more than doubled, rising from 100,000 to over 230,000, with 80,410 being hosted in Turkey, 72,402 in Jordan, 57,482 in Lebanon and 18,682 in Iraq. Overall, there are an estimated 2.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside of Syria.

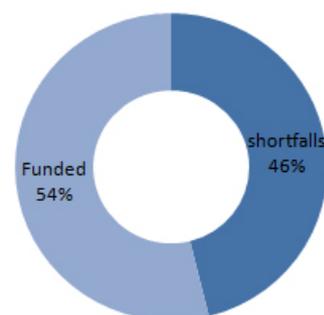
UN and INGOs, working with local partners, have been able to increase their response efforts. WFP has assisted over 535,000 people in the last three weeks of August and is aiming to reach 850,000 by mid-September. Other UN agencies and their humanitarian partners have provided basic items to 310,000 internally displaced persons and the eight International NGOs (INGOs) that have been authorized by the Syrian Government to provide assistance have significantly increased their distributions over recent weeks.

However, there is a danger that these efforts will be hampered by a lack of funding. UN agencies and humanitarian partners are seeking US\$180 million for 44 projects under the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan. And whilst the levels of funding have steadily increased over the last two months (see graph below), it is still only 52 per cent funded (as of 2 September), which has left important gaps in the areas of health, water, sanitation, shelter and the provision of basic items. As the plan is revised to cover the increasing level of needs inside of Syria, these gaps are likely to widen. Similarly, the Regional Refugee Response Plan, which seeks US\$193 million, has also seen an increase in funding over the last two months but is still only 54 per cent funded (as of 15 August), with the increasing number of Syrian refugees requiring a revision of the plan.

Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan 2012



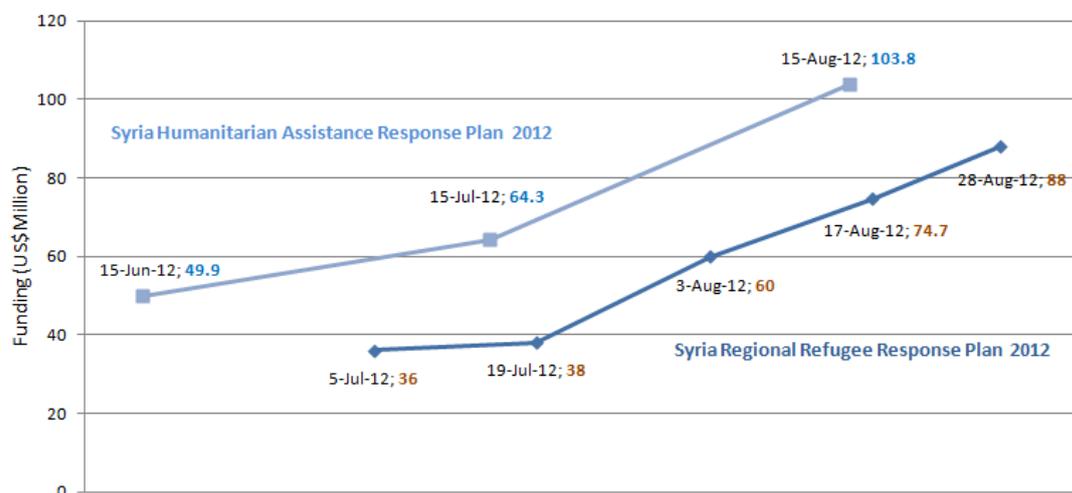
Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan 2012



There is a danger that current response efforts, both inside Syria and in neighboring countries, will be hampered by a lack of funding.

OCHA's Emergency Response Fund (ERF) has received US\$6.3 million to cover some of the funding gaps, with most of its funds allocated across 20 projects to assist an estimated 800,000 people inside Syria and 40,000 people in neighbouring countries. These projects are implemented by UN agencies, INGOs and local organizations, including the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Renewed funding for the ERF is necessary for it to continue supporting such activities.

Funding trend since 15th June 2012



Iran: earthquakes in East Azerbaijan leave hundreds dead and thousands displaced

Two earthquakes heavily impact the main cities and villages of East Azerbaijan province, affecting 155,000 people.

On the 11 August 2012, two earthquakes with a magnitude of 6.4 and 6.3 on the Richter scale hit the East Azerbaijan province of Iran. The earthquakes heavily impacted the cities of Ahar, Varzaghan and Heris and to a lesser extent Tabriz; over 360 villages were heavily damaged (50% to 80%), with 46 completely devastated. The death toll reached over 300 and more than 2600 people were injured. There were over 1,800 aftershocks during the two weeks following the earthquakes. According to official estimates, 155,000 people were affected with close to two-thirds having to be temporarily resettled in tents due to damage to their homes.



View of a house destroyed during the earthquake in East Azarbayejan province; © OCHA Iran/Hamid Nazari Tajabadi

The governmental National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) led the humanitarian response in partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), which is the national focal point for relief and rescue operations. Search and Rescue teams were dispatched to find and support trapped survivors. Shelter was provided to those that had lost their homes or were forced to stay outdoors due to recurrent aftershocks. As hospitals in the main three affected cities were

damaged, many of the wounded were sent to hospitals in Tabriz and mobile health clinics were also set up. Relief items including food and non-food items were dispatched to the affected areas by the IRCS, the government and also by the population in nearby provinces.

The government felt it was able to cope with the scale of the disaster and did not request international assistance.

Waste disposal and sanitation facilities were established in resettlement sites soon after the disaster.

The government felt it was able to cope with the scale of the disaster and did not request international assistance. However, government authorities subsequently announced that it would welcome international assistance if offered. Thus, a United Nations delegation led by the Resident Coordinator, UNICEF and OCHA visited the affected areas to monitor needs and the response and express solidarity with the government and the affected population. UNHCR and *Medecin Sans Frontieres* provided some relief items to the government and IRCS.

As the emergency response phase came to an end, government efforts have focused on recovery and reconstruction efforts. Officials have announced the availability of US\$162 million in soft loans to support the repair and reconstruction of 17,000 damaged houses. Soft loans are also being provided to help affected households restore their livelihoods, particularly in the agricultural sector. The prompt release of these funds is critical in order to allow people to prepare for the upcoming winter. The international humanitarian community will continue to monitor events and work closely with government authorities to provide assistance where needed.

Real security in Afghanistan depends on people's basic needs being met

Unless funding for Afghanistan's security forces is matched by investment in meeting people's basic needs, the money being spent on security could be wasted.

At NATO's Chicago Summit in May, the international community pledged over \$4bn a year for Afghan security forces beyond 2014. Whilst this represents a considerable amount of support, it is not enough. Unless funding for Afghanistan's security forces is matched by investment in meeting people's basic needs, and by robust efforts to protect civilians and human rights, the money being spent on security could be wasted.

For Afghans, particularly women, security is not only about protection from external threats and insurgents, critical as these are. It is also about protection from unaccountable officials and security forces in the course of daily life. It is about equal opportunities for jobs, respect for property rights, addressing injustices and stemming abuse of authority.

The imperative now is to ensure that the efforts and gains made over the last decade are not reversed, that they yield a sustainable security dividend. What is needed is a partnership that focuses on meeting Afghans' practical needs. Aid and development alone cannot deliver peace, any more than security forces. An inclusive intra-Afghan political process is a must, supported by neighboring countries, both to bring the country's long conflict to a close, and to reduce the need for costly security.

The bedrock of longer-term security and stability is sustained improvement in the quality of life, authorities that are accountable, institutions that function, and jobs. Despite the decade of progress in areas as diverse as freedom of expression and political participation, infrastructure and mine clearance, healthcare and girls' education, there is still considerable anxiety among Afghans about the future.

Five million still live as refugees or undocumented migrants. Conflict-induced displacement has risen steadily over the last five years and now amounts to over



Afghanistan: Photo: Rebecca Conway/IRIN

Humanitarian needs remain significant. In 2011, a quarter of the population received food support, and over a million people got emergency drinking water. 55% of Afghan children under five are stunted and female illiteracy and maternal mortality are amongst the highest in the world.

500,000 people. Women and children suffer disproportionately from the conflict. In 2011, a quarter of the population received food support, and over a million people got emergency drinking water. 55% of Afghan children under five are stunted, and their chances later in life of being self-reliant and contributing to economic growth are impaired. Female illiteracy and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world.

Land, soil, forests, water resources, and mineral deposits are degraded by over three decades of conflict, and are prey to illicit exploitation. The incidence of disasters, including floods, earthquakes, avalanches and droughts, is increasing. Drug production is responding to international demand, as farmers seek incomes to survive. About half the population is under 18, with few prospects, particularly in rapidly growing cities.

These are not the ingredients of stability. A long-term partnership is needed to tackle problems that are now inter-generational. First, this should include the protection of civilians. Accountability and the rule of law must be hardwired into plans for the transition; strengthening a police force that is professional, answerable and responsive to civilians is essential.

Second, funding for security must be matched by funding of a practical, needs-based development agenda that focuses on what Afghans want, especially jobs, functioning institutions and basic services. They also need help to deal with urgent and extensive humanitarian needs.

This must go hand in hand with support for public-private partnerships to generate revenues that will increase the country's self-sufficiency – infrastructure, services, and responsible management and exploitation of the country's vast natural resources.

Third, there needs to be clarity on respective roles and responsibilities between the Afghan government and the international community and for there to be agreement on a mutual accountability mechanism. Stronger and more accountable governance must be at the heart of the deal. That is what local people want, entrepreneurs need, and what western politicians must have if they are to obtain funds.

The price tag of continued support will be significant. But this will be modest compared to the vast sums now spent by the west on security – currently over \$2bn a week - and the cost both to Afghans, the region and the international community if social tensions and a sense of injustice go unchecked. Getting it right will pay enormous dividends – for Afghans, the region and the world.

This article is based on an op-ed by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan, Michael Keating. It can be accessed at: <http://mpwiis07-beta02.dfs.un.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1783&ctl=Details&mid=1882&ItemID=17149>

Consolidated Appeal: Afghanistan 2012

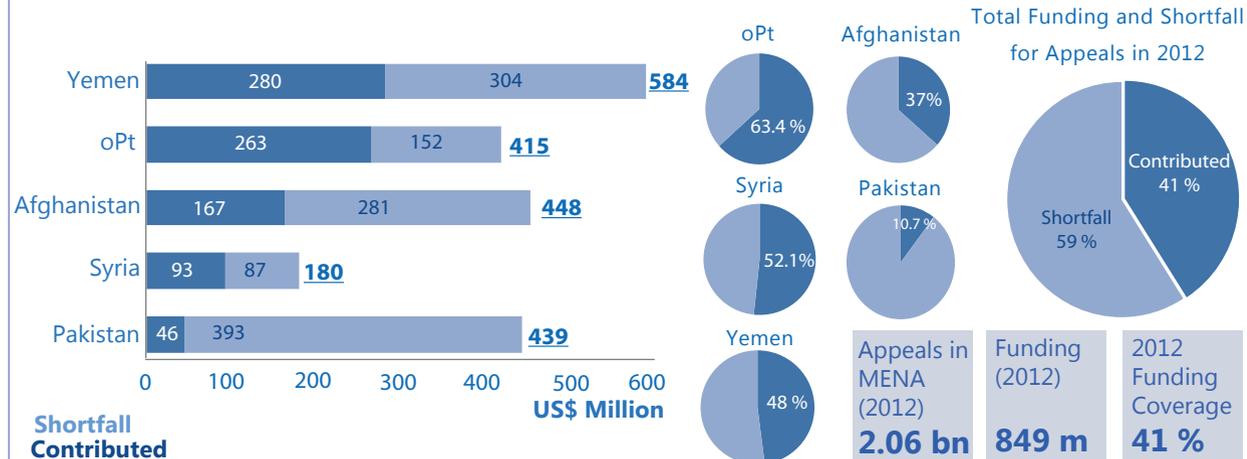


Afghanistan Appeal Facts	
Requested	448 US\$ Million
Funded	167 US\$ Million
Shortfall	281 US\$ Million
<small>(as of 4th September 2012)</small>	

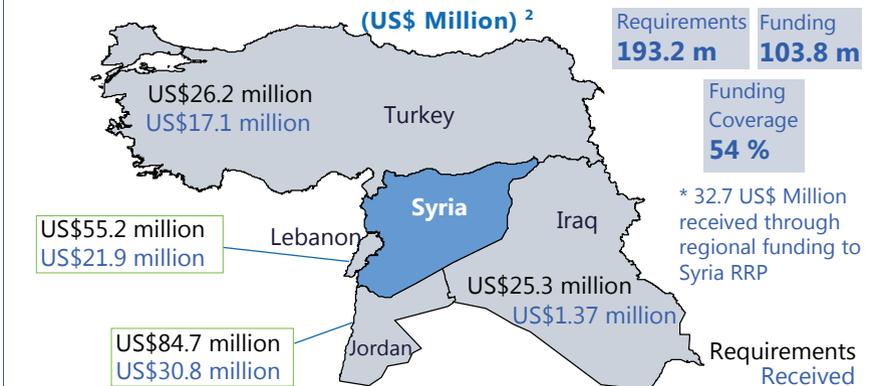
SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Consolidated and Flash appeals in the MENA region received US\$849 million. The largest recipient was Yemen, with US\$280 million, followed by oPt with US\$263 million. In total, the appeals are 41% funded with a shortfall of 59%.
- The requirements for the Syria Regional Response Plan total US\$193.2 million. The plan includes Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq and is currently 54% funded. Given the rapid rise in the number of refugees, the plan is being revised by UNHCR.
- Ten countries from the MENA region contributed funds in 2012 for humanitarian appeals worldwide. The amount totaled US\$65 million and went to 24 countries. The largest donors were UAE and Saudi Arabia, with contributions of over US\$43.5 million combined. The largest recipients were Somalia, Lebanon and Yemen, all three receiving over US\$32 million combined.
- The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) distributed funds to six countries in the MENA region in 2012. The largest recipient was Syria with US\$34.5 million, followed by Pakistan with US\$26.8 million. Nine countries from the MENA region made contributions or pledges to the CERF in 2012. These include Afghanistan, Egypt, Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Israel and UAE.

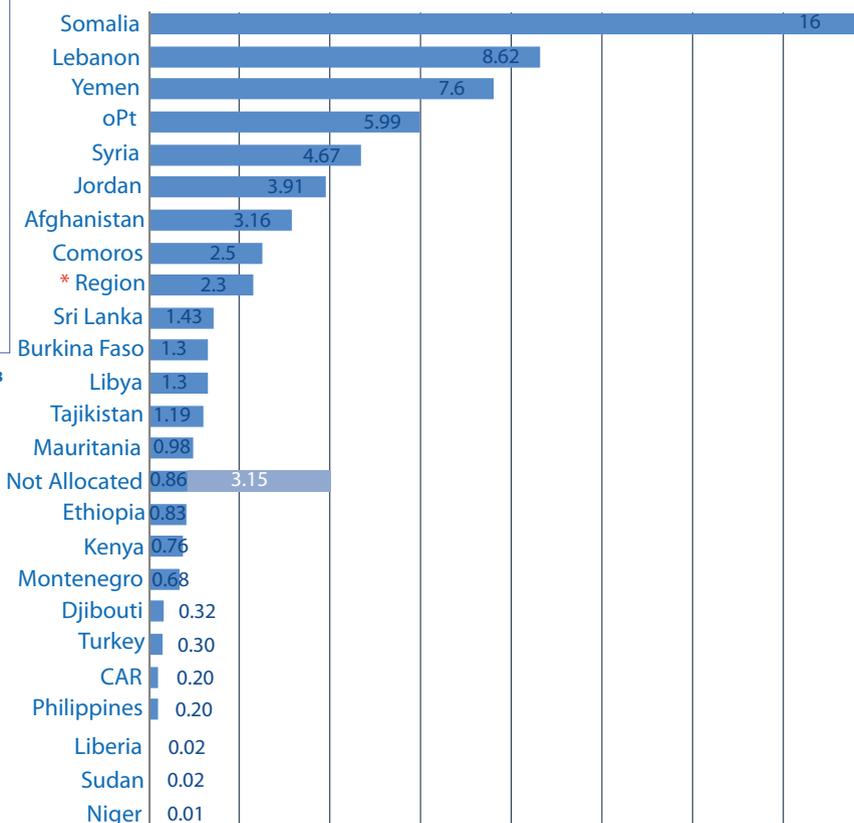
OVERALL FUNDING AND GAPS PER APPEALS IN MENA REGION - 2012¹



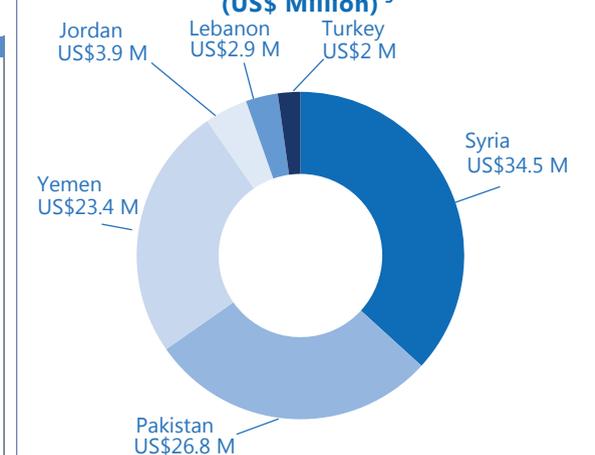
SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING AND GAPS - 2012 (US\$ Million)²



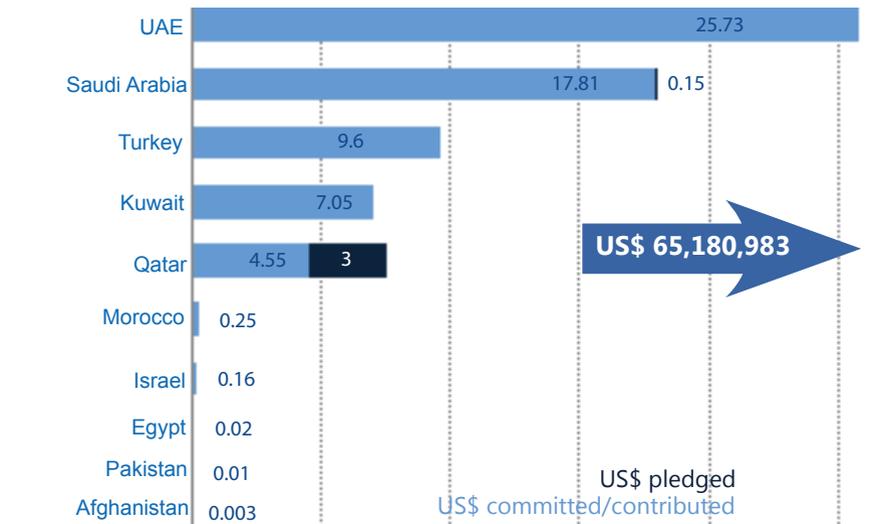
AID FLOW FROM MENA REGION - BY DESTINATION COUNTRY, 2012 (US\$ Million)⁴



DISTRIBUTION OF CERF TO MENA IN 2012 (US\$ Million)⁵



AID FLOW FROM MENA REGION - BY DONOR, 2012 (US\$ Million)³



MENA CONTRIBUTIONS TO CERF IN 2012 (US\$)⁶

Member States	Contributions	Pledges
Qatar	-	3,000,000
Kuwait	1,000,000	-
Turkey	200,000	-
Saudi Arabia	-	150,000
UAE	-	50,000
Israel	20,000	-
Egypt	15,000	-
Pakistan	10,000	-
Afghanistan	1,000	-

Notes: 1. Funding information: OCHA FTS, as of 2nd September 2012, all changes are reflected on <http://fts.unocha.org>
3 - 4. OCHA FTS

2. Revised Syria Regional Response Plan August 2012
5. <http://www.unocha.org/cerf/our-donors/funding/pledges-and-contributions/2012>

6. <http://www.unocha.org/cerf/cerf-worldwide/2012>

League of Arab States: training on the International Humanitarian System

UN and the League of Arab States (LAS) co-organized a two day training session on the International Humanitarian System on 4-5 July 2012 in Cairo. The training focused on the architecture of the humanitarian system, information management tools, humanitarian reporting and health, gender and protection in emergencies. A simulation exercise was also carried out with different scenarios (floods, earthquake and armed conflict), which provided participants with an opportunity to ground the theory in practical situations.

The training was convened jointly by OCHA, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNDP and WHO with participation from over 30 staff from 8 different LAS departments. The training was conducted in accordance with the recommendations that came out of the UN-LAS Sectoral Meeting on Cooperation on Humanitarian Assistance, which took place in Cairo on 22-23 February 2012.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at <http://ochaonline.un.org/romenaca> | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int