



SDC - Syria crisis

State as of 5 September 2012

Context

Since the outbreak of violence in Syria in March 2011, the humanitarian situation has continuously deteriorated. The civilian population is suffering from armed violence, human rights violations and lack of access to food, water and direly needed medical assistance. Thousands of people have been killed, hundreds of thousands are trapped and over 1.5 million people are displaced. UN-Agencies estimate that 2.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Around 9 million people live in the conflict areas and are directly or indirectly affected. Food prices having tripled, food insecurity has constantly risen since the crisis began and goes well beyond the areas directly affected by hostilities. Worsening conditions and deepening violence is making it increasingly difficult for displaced civilians to find refuge. Humanitarian agencies, such as ICRC, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) are scaling-up their assistance. WFP distributes food aid to some 850'000 people and will expand to target 1, 5 million people during September. ICRC has brought assistance to over 750'000 people.

A major challenge of the humanitarian agencies (UN-organizations and their partners) is financing their humanitarian operations, which currently remain only 52% funded for Syria and 54% funded for the region.

The number of people seeking refuge in neighbouring countries is increasing dramatically. Tens of thousands of people have fled into neighbouring Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, where more than 192 000 refugees are registered and assisted by UN-agencies and their partners (see map). More than 75% of refugees are women and children. A large number of the refugees, especially in Lebanon, found shelter with host families whose coping mechanisms have been drained. In Turkey, Jordan and Iraq, camps have been established. Many of the arriving refugees, particularly the children, are deeply traumatized and in urgent need of a protective environment, basic services and psycho-social support.

Syria is the country with the third largest number of refugees worldwide. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that Syria had hosted 300'000 Iraqis of which 30 000 are estimated to have returned back to Iraq due the crisis in Syria. Furthermore, Syria hosts approximately 510'000 Palestine refugees registered with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

SDC assistance

Due to the deteriorating security, SDC's office in Damascus has temporarily been closed and programs are coordinated from SDC's office in Amman.

SDC focuses its efforts on the protection and assistance of the affected population in Syria and those fleeing their home to the neighboring countries.

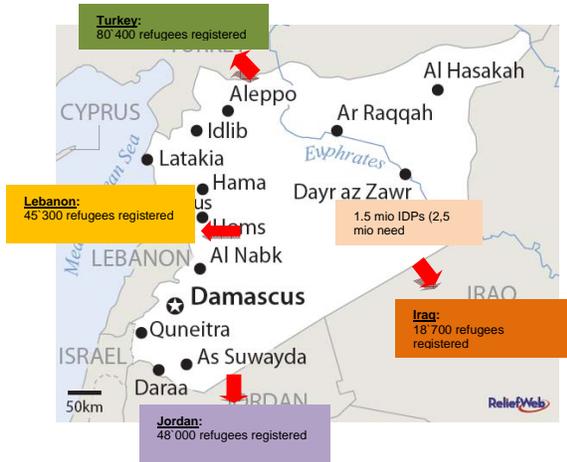
For the population in Syria:

- ICRC: CHF 1.75 Mio allocated for the 2011 and 2012 Syria Appeals
- WFP: CHF 1 Mio for emergency food assistance
- FAO: CHF 792'000 for emergency assistance for poor herder families in Syria.
- UNHCR: CHF 500'000 for cash assistance to internally displaced people
- UNICEF Syria: CHF 165'000 earmarked contribution for psycho-social and physical rehabilitation for refugee and displaced children in Syria
- UNRWA: CHF 1 million for cash assistance to Palestinian refugees

For Syrian refugees in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey:

- UNHCR: CHF 1.55 Mio for the assistance to Syrian refugees (including cash assistance), and deployment of two Swiss shelter experts in Lebanon and Iraq for 6 months each
- ICRC: CHF 1 Mio for supporting Syrian refugees in Lebanon
- WFP: CHF 190'000 for food assistance
- OCHA: deployment of a Swiss Humanitarian Affairs Officer seconded to OCHA Regional Office in Egypt for 3 months supporting OCHA operations in Syria
- UNICEF: CHF 500'000 for child protection and psycho-social support for Syrian refugee children in Jordan
- Direct Action SDC: CHF 290'000 for a SDC feasibility study for cash assistance and quick impact projects to support communities in Jordan and Lebanon hosting Syrian refugees
- Direct Action SDC: CHF 1.3 Mio for supporting families and communities in Northern Lebanon hosting Syrian Refugees (cash for shelter)
- Direct Action SDC: CHF 300'000 for the rehabilitation of 8 public schools in the North of Jordan where Syrian refugee-children are enrolled.

Syria crisis (map)



Budget

SDC has increased its budget for the Syrian Crisis to CHF 11 million and is continuously monitoring the situation in view of required additional resources.

Further Information

SDC Regional Cooperation Office in Amman, Jordan oversees the Swiss Confederation's projects in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

SDC Regional Cooperation Office
Amman/Jordan
Phone: +962 6 585 60 20
Fax: +962 6 581 59 56
E-mail: amman@sdc.net