Syria four years on: No end in sight

Mapping the situation for internally displaced Syrians and refugees after four years of civil war
After four years of war, there is **no real prospect of peace** in Syria.

**The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate** for Syrians across the region, and funding is not keeping up with the increasing numbers of people in need of assistance.

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August 2012: Fighting in northern Lebanon

March 2013: Egypt restricts access for Syrian refugees
August 2013: Chemicals weapons used in Syria
December 2013: USD 5.5 billion regional humanitarian appeal is the largest in history

1.55 million registered Syrian refugees at the end of 2014
Approximately 80% of refugees live in five provinces
Total population: 75 million

1.15 million registered Syrian refugees at the end of 2014
1 person in 4 is a Syrian refugee
Total population: 4.9 million

138,000 registered Syrian refugees at the end of 2014
70% of the refugee population live in four cities
Total population: 83 million

12.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance
More than 11.3 million people, almost half the population, displaced inside the country or abroad
210,000 people killed since 2011
4.8 million in hard-to-reach areas

Total population: 83 million
June 2014: Iraq situation declared Level 3 emergency after IS offensive
July 2014: Jordan tightens restrictions for refugees trying to enter the Kingdom
September 2014: US-led coalition begins airstrikes in Syria
October 2014: Lebanon announces new border restrictions for refugees
November 2014: Syrian refugees no longer have access to free healthcare in Jordan
December 2014: Underfunding threatens food assistance for 1.7m refugees
December 2014: Europe says it will accept 100,000 refugees
January 2015: Snowstorm and harsh conditions affect families across the Middle East

“380,000 people are currently extremely vulnerable and would be best served by resettlement to other countries”
UNHCR, 9 December 2014

622,000 registered Syrian refugees at the end of 2014
1 person in 11 is a Syrian refugee
Total population: 6.2 million

234,000 registered Syrian refugees at the end of 2014
Total population: 34 million

Syrian Refugees

120,000 - 405,000
60,001 - 120,000
30,001 - 60,000
10,001 - 30,000
< 10,000
People in need of humanitarian aid per sector in Syria 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>1.7M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livelihoods &amp; food security</td>
<td>9.8M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-food items</td>
<td>9.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation &amp; hygiene</td>
<td>11.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>12.2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>12.2M</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Regional appeals: Funding gaps per country per year

Syria appeal: Funding gaps per year

Regional appeals: Funding gaps per year

Source: Global Humanitarian Assistance
Overview

After four years of war in Syria, 12.2 million people, of approximately 18 million still in the country, need humanitarian aid this year, including 5.6 million children.

There have been 210,000 documented deaths due to violence since March 2011, nearly half of them civilians. 2014 was the deadliest year so far. Fighting has intensified, the funding gap for the humanitarian response has grown, and people’s access to aid has been severely restricted. According to the UN, deprivation of basic necessities and denial of humanitarian relief have become widely used tactics in the conflict. Many of the 7.6 million internally displaced people have had to escape violence more than once. Drought and harsh winter conditions have compounded the crisis. Indiscriminate violence, insecurity, and crime are the biggest threats to the safety of civilians. Next to the need for protection against violence, priority concerns are access to safe water, food, healthcare, and shelter.
Politics and security

From anti-government protests to multi-party civil war

Anti-government protests broke out in March 2011, in the context of the so-called Arab Spring. The government responded with violence. Opposition forces began to form armed organisations – the Free Syrian Army was founded by defected officers from the Syrian military and became a mainstay of the armed opposition. Gradually, the situation turned into armed rebellion and then full-fledged civil war.

2012 saw the rise of Jabhat al Nusra (JAN), linked to Al Qaeda, which led to decreasing Western support for the Syrian opposition. In the same year, the government withdrew forces from the Kurdish areas in northern Syria. Syrian Kurds took de facto control of these zones, aiming to secure control over predominantly ethnic Kurdish areas in northern and eastern Syria.

In 2013, Islamic State (IS) presence in Syria increased, and fighting between opposition groups grew. In August, chemical weapons were used in an attack on Ghouta, Damascus.

IS made large territorial gains in Syria over 2014, to take almost a third of the country, mainly in the north. It has been in full control of Ar-Raqqa governorate, its stronghold in Syria, since October 2014. IS is fighting government forces as well armed Syrian opposition groups. It has committed massive human rights abuses, war crimes, and large-scale ethnic cleansing.

Kurdish forces, aided by US-led airstrikes against IS, have recently been able to regain Kobane, on the border with Turkey, from IS. Other armed opposition forces hold territory primarily in Dara in the south, and in the northwest, in Idlib and Aleppo governorates. JAN is increasingly consolidating its control in the northwest, which was previously held by the collapsing moderate opposition. Mainstream Islamist groups have begun to strengthen relations with JAN.

The government has maintained throughout that it is fighting terrorism. Its forces have made extensive use of airstrikes and barrel bombs, indiscriminate weapons which are subject to an international ban. The government has vowed to eradicate all terrorist groups from Syrian territory in 2015.

International involvement

Since 2011, regional and international powers have influenced the conflict by providing support to warring parties.

As part of a multinational campaign against Islamist militant groups, a US-led coalition began airstrikes in mid-September 2014 on IS and JAN military installations. Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and a number of Western countries, including France and the UK, have participated in airstrikes. The US has also provided support to parts of the opposition alliances, including training, cash, and intelligence.

Iran has provided training to Syrian troops, while the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah has provided fighting support to the Syrian government. Russia is also a strong supporter of the Syrian government, and this has made UN Security Council action on the conflict impossible so far.

Following two unsuccessful Geneva-based initiatives to end the Syrian conflict, Russia recently initiated talks between warring factions, but these have failed to yield significant results. Neither has there been any tangible progress in the UN envoy for Syria’s continuing efforts to advocate for ‘freeze zones’ in Syria, where fighting would be suspended, to allow for humanitarian access.
Millions in hard-to-reach areas

4.8 million people, including up to 2 million children, are living in areas that are very hard to reach for humanitarian actors. One party often will not allow assistance to reach people perceived to be affiliated with opposing parties. IS areas are particularly hard to reach. The government restricts access in areas of Lattakia, Hama, and Idlib that are under its control.

212,000 people are living under siege:
in Nubul and Al Zahra in rural Aleppo; Eastern Ghouta, Daryya, and Moadamiyah in Rural Damascus; the Old City in Homs; and Yarmouk camp in Damascus, hosting Palestinian refugees. Siege tactics are being used by multiple parties to the conflict, and conditions are deteriorating every day. Health services are almost non-existent and food is scarce.

Tight and inconsistently applied border restrictions, even border closures, are dissuading people in life-threatening situations from seeking refuge abroad.

Humanitarian needs

Shelter

7.6 million people are displaced inside Syria; 1.2 million houses have been destroyed.

There are 147 internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in northern Syria and 175,520 IDPs are sheltering in camp settlements.

A 2014 assessment found that in 60% of subdistricts, shelters do not provide sufficient protection from the weather. The need for weatherproofing and heating is critical.

Between January and September 2014, the number of IDPs in informal settlements increased by more than 50%.

Continued violence and displacement over 2014 suggest this trend has continued.
Health

560 medical personnel have been killed since 2011, and 200 health facilities attacked. Only 43% of hospitals are fully functioning. The health system in Syria is stretched far beyond its capacities, and cannot meet needs.

Tuberculosis, typhoid, and scabies have become endemic in northern Syria, and cholera is reported to be spreading.

In 2013, Syria witnessed its first outbreak of polio since 1999 and, in 2014, a decrease in routine vaccination in hard-to-reach areas saw measles and pertussis outbreaks.

Low winter temperatures raise the risk of an increase in death and illness from respiratory infections.

1,480 women give birth in dire conditions every day.

Hospitals are unable to cope with the demand for surgery, due to the increase in the number of injured – averaging 25,000 each month – as well as a lack of (female) medical staff, severe supply shortages, and frequent power cuts.

Education

The Ministry of Education estimates that it has lost some 52,000 teachers from its ranks since 2011. More than 24% of Syrian schools have been damaged or destroyed, or are occupied by displaced people. Two million students, or 37% of students at all levels, dropped out of the education system between 2012 and 2014. Between 2.1 and 2.4 million children are now either out of school or attending classes irregularly. Some children have been out of school for two to three years. 4.5 million children are in need of some form of education support.

Food security

Bread and cereal prices are reported to have increased on average 300%, and prices in some areas are reported to have risen as much as 1,000%, from pre-conflict levels.

As of late 2014, an estimated 9.8 million people were in need of food and livelihood assistance, a 55% increase from the 6.3 million estimated in December 2013.

Water, sanitation & hygiene

One-third of Syria’s water treatment plants no longer function, and treatment of the country’s sewage has halved. Outbreaks of waterborne diseases are a main concern in densely populated areas and displacement camps.

The quantity of safe drinking water available has decreased to less than 50% of its pre-crisis level.
Detention

200,000 people are estimated to be in government detention, including 20,000 detainees who are unaccounted for. In 2014, 2,100 people in Syrian prisons died from torture, starvation, or lack of medical treatment; 27 were under the age of 18.

Opposition forces are holding some 7,000 government troops who are unaccounted for. Another 1,500 IS, other opposition, and Kurdish fighters were kidnapped during battle in the first six months of 2014.

Forced recruitment

Non-state armed groups and the government’s civil militias are increasingly recruiting children. Reports indicate IS runs training camps for children as young as 13.

Increasing threats to civilians

Islamist extremist groups, mainly IS but reportedly also other factions, such as JAN, practise human rights violations in their areas of control. These include beheading, stoning, lashing, and amputation, threats of mass killing, and enslavement. In IS-occupied areas, ethnic and religious communities have been targets of violence and abuse.

Sexual and gender-based violence

IS has sought to exclude Syrian women and girls from public life. Forced marriage of girls to IS fighters and the selling of abducted girls into sexual slavery have been reported. 2014 has seen an increase in adolescent girls used as ‘wives’ by armed groups, especially extremist groups.

Sexual violence against children, both girls and boys, has been reported throughout the conflict.
Overview

One in four people in Lebanon today is a refugee. The country hosts almost 1.2 million registered refugees; the number of unregistered is unknown. The number of poor in Lebanon has risen to 2.1 million since 2011, out of a population of around 4.5 million. Lebanon has a policy of no camps and pressure on the housing market has increased while income opportunities have dwindled. Unemployment among Lebanese nationals has doubled. The stress on markets and services has led to increasing tensions between host and refugee populations. Shelter is a high priority: a growing number of refugees are living in substandard and informal accommodation, such as tents and garages. Refugees also need access to safe water and health services.

Displacement

Number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon per district, 2012–2014

Funding

Funding gap refers to UN appeals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Refugees</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>122,154</td>
<td>-43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>798,247</td>
<td>-28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,137,209</td>
<td>-45%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources: OCHA COD, UNHCR
Growing tensions between communities

There have been sporadic clashes related to the Syrian crisis in Lebanon’s eastern border area, pre-existing sectarian and social tensions have degenerated into violence in the coastal Tripoli area, and social and communal tensions between host communities and refugees have grown across the country. The refugee influx has increased economic hardship in vulnerable communities. In some communities, the perceived or alleged support of some for either the Syrian government, the Syrian opposition, or groups such as Islamic State and Jabhat al Nusra, has aggravated social discord. Syrians across the country are feeling the impact of the growing sense of insecurity, and are at risk of raids, arrest, and harassment. In 2014, more than 60% of some 440 surveyed host communities reported tensions and events of violence related to the presence of refugees.

Reduced access to Lebanon

The number of Syrian refugees arriving in Lebanon began falling sharply in March 2014, and in October the government formally decided to stop receiving refugees, barring exceptional cases. This decision prompted a further drop in numbers. Frequent changes to entry and legal stay procedures make it difficult for refugees to access the assistance they need, and for agencies to plan assistance. Fears have grown for people unable to cross into Lebanon.

Humanitarian needs

Shelter

Lebanon has not provided camps for Syrian refugees. 55% of Syrian refugees live in substandard housing, and 17% in improvised informal settlements, like self-built tents or shacks.

All 446 host communities have reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities.

86% of Syrian refugees are living in Lebanon’s 242 most deprived locations.

Winterisation: Over 60% of Syrian refugees live in the north or the Bekaa Valley, winter conditions are more severe here than in the rest of the country.
Health

Lebanon has a private healthcare system, and cost is a major obstacle for refugees, despite UNHCR covering 75% of medical charges. Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access. Most primary health centres assessed by UNICEF in mid-2014 did not have enough essential drugs.

As of July 2014, surveyed refugees in need of antenatal care and over half of patients with chronic conditions reported difficulties in accessing healthcare, the large majority (over 80%) because they could not afford the fees.

In a 2014 survey, 89% of Syrian youth (18–25 years of age) described themselves as depressed, anxious, or afraid most of the time.

Livelihoods

78% of refugee households are not able to generate an income.

The proportion of Syrian refugee households resorting to emergency coping strategies, such as going hungry, selling income-generating assets, or early marriage, increased to 28% in 2014, from 22% in 2013. 68% of refugee households have reported that WFP vouchers are their main source of income. Approximately 80% of households borrowed money or received credit and/or money to buy food.

For those Syrian refugees who are employed, 88% are paid 40% less than the minimum wage. Female Syrian workers earn 30% less than male workers.

Newcomers arriving in 2014 are in general more vulnerable as they have been experiencing poor conditions in Syria: 39% of refugees surveyed in July were unemployed for over 12 months in Syria before fleeing to Lebanon.

Food security

As of August 2014, 13% of households had experienced food shortages, and 27% of new Syrian refugees had poor to borderline food consumption scores, meaning they lacked regular and sufficiently nutritious meals. The highest levels of food insecurity are found in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley.

Water, sanitation & hygiene

Demand for water has increased due to the refugee influx. 33% of refugee households lack access to drinking water. An estimated 55% of households reported storing water in containers at home, which can increase the risk of infectious disease transmission.

Almost a third of refugees do not have access to adequate sanitation. Approximately 12% of households (twice the percentage in 2013) did not have access to a place for washing in 2014. Of those who had access, over 7% were sharing bathrooms and latrines with 15 people or more. Only 8% of wastewater in Lebanon is treated.

Education

The number of school-aged children has increased by almost 480,000 as a result of the refugee influx. As of October 2014, there were 385,000 school-aged Syrian refugees. In 2013/14, 90,000, or 23%, were enrolled in school.
Evictions

There are now almost 1,400 informal settlements across the country, and up to 30% of the refugee population in Bekaa and Akkar live in such settlements. Eviction is a constant threat. According to UNHCR, 1,800 people were evicted by municipalities and the Lebanese army in August 2014, and more than 4,800 in September 2014.

In urban areas, refugees can be exposed to exploitation. An assessment in Beirut-Mount Lebanon found that only 10% of refugee households have a formal tenancy agreement, such as a written contract. More than 70% of interviewed households are in dispute with their landlords over rent, which suggests that eviction rates, which have remained relatively low until now, may rise in the near future, especially considering the continued depletion of savings and limited livelihood opportunities for refugees.

Legal stay

The overall policy towards refugee arrival and residence is ambiguous. A formal framework exists, but it can be interpreted in different ways. Regarding the issue of legal stay, the latest rules of September 2014 indicate that Syrians refugees who entered legally but failed to renew their legal documentation before 21 August 2014 can regularise their stay free of charge for six months. It is unclear what will happen after these six months. Refugees who entered unofficially may regularise their stay for free for six months once. They are likely to be banned from re-entry on any subsequent attempt.

Sexual and gender-based violence

Every day in 2014, an average of 130 Syrian refugee women and girls visited a network of centres and spaces to seek support and/or disclose violence. Approximately 40% of them were younger than 18.

25% of survivors of reported SGBV cases are under 18 years of age.

Child labour

Between 210,000 and 320,000 refugee children of school age are not in school and are involved in some form of child labour, according to ILO estimates. Child labour is reported to be increasing as displacement becomes more protracted, and refugees’ resources dwindle. As refugees are dispersed over a wide area, and the national child protection system is weak, it is difficult to address child protection risks.
Overview

Jordan has taken in 622,400 Syrian refugees, but access has been deteriorating since 2013. The number of entry points from Syria is now limited and they are hard to reach. In 2014, concerns also grew about refugees’ access to humanitarian aid and public services. Economic vulnerability is increasing as resources are depleted, and community resources, infrastructure, and social services are all overstretched. Rising rent prices and competition for jobs have led to mounting tensions between refugees and host populations.

Displacement

Number of registered Syrian refugees in Jordan per governorate, 2012–2014

Funding

Funding gap refers to UN appeals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Refugees</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>622,454</td>
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</table>
Mounting social tensions

Competition over housing, jobs, and to some extent, international assistance, is creating social tensions between refugees and host communities. Many Jordanians feel Syrians are responsible for reductions in their income and rises in rents. Refugees report widespread discrimination and harassment.

Fears of conflict spillover

Jordan has been increasingly concerned about the spillover of conflicts in Syria and Iraq into its territory and has taken several measures, including securing borders, arresting people with links to various Islamist groups and political opponents of the regime, and tightening control over mosques. Thousands of Jordanians are reportedly fighting for opposition groups with links to Al Qaeda, particularly Jabhat al Nusra (JAN), as well as IS, despite the military’s tight control of cross-border movements.

Deteriorating access to Jordan

Syrians continue to face increasing difficulty accessing Jordan.

The number of entry points from Syria are limited and hard to reach. Between October and December 2014, fewer than 33 people were entering Jordan from Syria each day, compared to 163 between July and September. More than 1,800 were arriving each day in early 2013.

On multiple occasions in the last quarter of 2014, there were reports of large numbers of asylum seekers stranded at the border between Syria and Jordan, with limited access to assistance. Although data uncertainty is high, fewer than 1,200 appear to have been transported to camps in Jordan, while the rest were obliged to remain in Syria.

Forced returns from registration centres in Jordan seem to be a regular practice.

Challenging living conditions for Palestinian refugees from Syria

There are 15,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) registered in Jordan.

The Government of Jordan announced a policy of non-entry to Palestinians fleeing the Syria conflict in early 2013, compounding the extreme vulnerability of Palestinians seeking safety in Syria, as well as that of those who managed to enter Jordan. PRS in Jordan struggle with limited income and livelihood opportunities and are at constant risk of being sent back to Syria. 183 PRS are held in Cyber City, a government-appointed holding facility near Ramtha, and there were 111 cases of deportation in 2014, a 40% increase on 2013. The actual number may be much higher.

Constraints on access to aid

Refugees living in camps are facing increasing difficulties relocating to urban areas. The only way for them to live in host communities legally is to obtain a “bail” certificate from the Government, which requires a Jordanian guarantor who is related to them and willing to sponsor their exit from camps. Agencies were asked in July to restrict assistance in urban areas to those refugees who have the required documentation. Forced returns to camps are increasingly being reported, contributing to a climate of fear around approaching authorities. This has a significant impact on refugees’ access to aid and public services in host communities.

Early marriage

Almost one-third of registered Syrian marriages were early marriages in 2014, with the bride aged 14–17, compared to 11% in 2011.

More early marriages may not have been registered due to lack of identity documents, concerns about approaching authorities, and cultural differences (early marriage is commonplace in parts of Syria but forbidden in Jordan). The children of unregistered marriages cannot obtain identity documents and are at risk of statelessness.
**Humanitarian needs**

### Shelter and NFIs

84% of refugees (almost 523,000 individuals) are concentrated around the major urban areas of the northwest, such as Amman and Irbid. 16% are in three camps in Azraq and Mafraq. Za'atari refugee camp became the second largest in the world a year after its construction in 2012, with 130,000 refugees. Numbers have significantly decreased since, to around 80,000 at the end of 2014. Inadequate shelters and NFIs for winter are long-term issues in camps.

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### Health

Since November 2014, Syrians can no longer access health services for free at state hospitals. Assisted childbirth costs USD 70, and a caesarean section USD 210, which is almost 1.5 times what the majority of refugees earn every month.

### Education

Only **3.5% of children** in informal settlements are in school, and more than 20% are working.

47% of the roughly 220,000 Syrian school-aged children in Jordan were not enrolled in schools in 2014, including 33% of those in camps. Barriers to enrolment include financial constraints, lack of space, and long distances. Lack of enrolment may also be related to high levels of mobility or child labour.

### Food security

In October 2014, a funding shortfall caused WFP to cut food assistance to 37,000 urban refugees. More than 4,000 refugees appealed and asked to continue receiving food assistance; it is likely that a significant proportion will have their assistance restored. In 2015, the value of WFP food vouchers was reduced. 85% of refugees told WFP they would be unable to meet the cost of basic needs without food aid.

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**Shelter and NFIs**

In April, one in ten refugees was living in an informal shelter, such as a tent or caravan, where living conditions are often worse than in formal shelters.

**Health**

Few refugees are able to obtain an official work permit, principally due to costs and administrative obstacles, limiting access to formal livelihood opportunities.

**2 in 3 refugee households** in host communities live below the absolute poverty line.

**Livelihoods**

Average expenditure is 1.6 times greater than income. The majority of refugee families living outside camps are in debt.

**Water, sanitation & hygiene**

Water and sanitation coverage in many refugee-hosting areas is insufficient; the proportion of households in these areas with access to municipal water networks varies from 55% to 99%. It may be lower for refugees, and lower still for refugees living in informal shelters.
Iraq has taken in at least 240,000 Syrian refugees since the start of the Syrian conflict. Around 95% are living in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). In 2014, offensives by Islamic State and other armed groups in Iraq resulted in a significant deterioration in the humanitarian situation. During 2014, the borders have been largely closed to new arrivals, although 26,000 refugees arrived from Kobane through Turkey between September and December. By the end of 2014, more than two million Iraqis had been internally displaced and 5.2 million were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Syrian refugees in Iraq are expected to feel increased hardship as a result of the crisis.
Islamic State offensive

The security situation in Iraq has most serious implications for the more than 2,000 registered Syrian refugees residing in Anbar, Kirkuk, Baghdad, and Ninewa. At the start of 2014, the humanitarian situation severely deteriorated as a result of offensives by the Islamic State (IS) in Anbar governorate. In June, the situation worsened further, with IS taking control of additional areas in five governorates. US airstrikes began in August and 30 additional countries pledged to support the fight against IS militants in September. Over 12,000 people have been killed and more than 23,000 injured in 2014 as a result of security incidents, such as car bombs and heavy fighting, involving IS, Iraqi armed forces, Kurdish Peshmerga forces, and irregular armed groups.

Internal tensions impacting KR-I’s response capacity

Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government have a longstanding financial dispute, mainly around oil revenues, but in November 2014 they reached a budget agreement. The details of the agreement need to be formalised in the coming months. However, any breakdown in talks will have immediate implications for financial resources in KR-I and, by extension, on capacity to respond to the refugee and IDP crisis.

Border restrictions & deportation

Border crossings have remained generally closed, and individuals crossing the border irregularly are arrested. Asylum seekers or refugees are reportedly being interrogated by officials and deported when they try to cross the border.

Constraints on access to services

Lack of documentation prevents Syrian refugees from taking residency in urban areas in Iraq. As of April, around 50% of Syrian refugee households in urban areas reported having a residency card.

Gender-based violence

Although difficult to document, incidents of SGBV remain widespread, including early marriage, domestic violence, emotional abuse, and other forms of sexual violence.

Refugees in Al Obaidi

Around 3,000 Syrian refugees in territory taken by IS in Anbar remain largely inaccessible, including almost 1,000 in Al Obaidi camp in Al Qa’im.

Several refugees from Al Obaidi camp were kidnapped by armed groups between September and December 2014. They were then released and instructed to return to Syria. It can be assumed that all Syrians residing in territories under IS control in Anbar, where Sharia courts were established and Sharia law strictly implemented, are at risk of grave protection concerns, including kidnapping, extortion, and restrictions on freedom of movement.

People with disabilities

Coping with limited access to resources in displacement can be particularly challenging for people living with disabilities, often dependent on a caregiver. Families with people with disabilities are also among the poorest. In April, almost one in ten families in camps in KR-I reported having a member with a disability; barriers to medical care access were significant, mostly due to travel costs and lack of specialised care.
Humanitarian needs

Shelter and NFIs

39% of registered refugees are living in nine camps across Erbil, Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah, and Anbar as of end December.

Overcrowding remains of concern, especially in Domiz, Dahuk. Two further camps (Basirma and Kawergosk) are at full capacity due to the influx of refugees from Kobane.

Around 4,300 refugees outside camps were in substandard housing in April. This proportion has likely increased with the arrival of more refugees. Improved shelter and household items are key priorities.

Health

Acute respiratory infections and acute diarrhoea, commonly linked to poor living conditions, are the leading causes of illness among refugees and IDPs, and cases rose in 2014.

Despite Syrian refugees being granted free access to public health services in Iraq, shortages of staff and essential medicine make for a fragile health system. The arrival of internally displaced people has added to the strain on health services in areas where refugees are already located.

Mental health and psychosocial care services are limited for refugees in urban areas.

Education

46% of 66,260 school-aged refugee children in Iraq were not enrolled in schools in 2014.

Children outside camps are particularly affected. The proportion of children enrolled in schools in camps varies widely, from 32% in Gawilan to 75% in Qushtapa.

The main challenges include very limited capacity in schools with an Arabic curriculum, lack of schools in camps, shortages of Syrian refugee teachers and delays in the extension of their work permits, and insecurity.

Syrian children outside of camps are expected to face additional difficulties accessing education due to the IDP influx. In Dahuk, the student-aged population has increased by 50%.

Livelihoods

Income sources, already reduced for refugee households, have shrunk further since the large-scale displacement of Iraqis. In April, 12% of refugee households in camps had no source of income and 5% had not enough income to afford basic needs. These numbers were higher outside camps.

Water, sanitation & hygiene

Almost 19,000 refugees in camps lack access to safe drinking water, latrines, and bathing facilities, while over 100,000 lack adequate waste disposal.

In May 2014, food security was stable for most refugees, but savings were being spent and debt incurred, indicating long-term vulnerabilities. It can be assumed that vulnerabilities increased for non-camp refugees in 2014, with the displacement crisis. In December 2014, WFP announced it had to cut food vouchers due to funding shortfalls. Reductions in the value of food vouchers are planned for 2015.
Overview

Turkey hosts 1,622,839 refugees of which 1,552,839 are registered. Their number is projected to rise to 2.5 million in 2015. 80% are in five provinces in the south, where they make up on average 10% of the population. Of these, about 221,000 are living in 25 government-run camps, which offer food and essential services. Two camps are opening in 2015. Only two official crossing-points to Turkey, staggering access and pushing some people to pay smugglers.

Syrians were originally considered guests and not granted legal asylum, though many have been able obtain legal residence. In October 2014 the government introduced a directive aimed at allowing registered Syrian refugees to stay without fear of forced return, and enabling access to services and the labour market.

Displacement

Number of registered refugees in Turkey per province, 2012–2014

Funding

Funding gap refers to UN appeals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>No. of refugees</td>
<td>148,441</td>
<td>562,658</td>
<td>1,552,839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding gap</td>
<td>-71%</td>
<td>-59%</td>
<td>-66%</td>
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Anti-Syrian protests

The number of Syrians residing in Turkey has had an impact on employment and public services: in the southern city of Hatay, wages had already been driven down by 2013, and hospital capacity had decreased.

Negative stereotypes have developed, associating Syrian refugees with violence.

In cities like Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Hatay, Killis, and Kahramanmaras, thousands of people have joined protests demanding Syrians be sent back.

Increasing border restrictions

Access to Turkey is growing more difficult. Only two official crossing-points are open to Syrian refugees along 900km of border, down from 19 points.

Refugees without travel documents have been turned away, and since 2015, those moving back and forth between the two countries face restrictions, and fines if they exceed their authorised stay. Between December 2013 and August 2014, Amnesty documented 17 cases in which Turkish border guards were believed to have shot and killed refugees attempting informal crossings.

Child protection

1 in 10 Syrian refugee children is working – in agriculture, restaurants and shops, as mobile vendors or begging.

Temporary Protection Regulation

The Temporary Protection Regulation extends to Syrians, with or without legal papers, including stateless persons and Palestinians from Syria. Under this regulation, refugees are granted access to basic services, including the labour market. However, there are geographical and labour sector restrictions determined by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The duration of this protection is determined by the Council of Ministers and expires once an individual leaves Turkey on his or her own will, is resettled into another country, or seeks protection in another country.

Turkish opposition to Assad government

Turkey is concerned about the impact of the Syrian conflict on its security. Its government openly opposes the Assad regime and has provided assistance for Syrians fleeing into Turkey since 2011. It has given refuge to the commander of the Free Syrian Army. In late 2012, at the request of the Turkish government, due to attacks on Turkish civilians and a Turkish jet by Syrian forces, NATO began providing air defence capabilities in major southern cities in order to boost defences against a potential Syrian missile attack. Fighting in the north Syrian region intensified in September 2014, causing 200,000 Syrians to flee to Turkey. As a result, the Turkish government has tightened border security in order to prevent local citizens from joining the battle.

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Humanitarian needs

**Shelter**

Only 15% of Syrian refugees reside in camps. The majority rent apartments along the southern border. Some have started to move north toward bigger cities like Istanbul.

64% of refugees live in cities, facing challenges obtaining services. A 2013 survey by AFAD noted that one in four refugees outside camps lived in make-shift homes.

The government is working to clear land to accommodate refugees, but resources and land are difficult to obtain. The high demand for housing drives costs up, some report them to stand between USD 200-USD 700 per month, in places that can be overcrowded and unsanitary.

**Food security**

While close to 220,000 of the camp population is receiving food assistance, those living outside the camps did not have this aid as of November 2014.

77.5% of Syrian women in Turkey found access to food items insufficient, according to an assessment by the Turkish government.

**Health**

The capacity of hospitals in border provinces is being overstretched, given the added demand of Syrian refugees.

**Water, sanitation & hygiene**

25% of the women living outside camps said access to drinking water was difficult, based on an AFAD study.

**Education**

There are 576,000 school-aged Syrian refugee children in Turkey. In camps, 73% attend school, whereas only 27% of refugee children in host communities have access to education.

Education is granted to all Syrians in Turkey, but refugee children still face challenges accessing education. Many cannot speak the language, others must help their parents work to earn a living.
Overview

The Egyptian government estimates that as many as 300,000 Syrians are in the country, although 137,000 Syrian refugees are registered, with the total 140,000 expected to reach by the end of 2015. Most are from Damascus and rural Damascus and are living in greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. There are numerous information gaps regarding the situation of Syrian refugees in Egypt, where there are no formal camps, but it is apparent that children lack access to formal education, refugees’ savings are being steadily used up, and tensions with the host community are rising. The scattering of the refugee population over a wide area and among a large host population poses a challenge for addressing their needs.

Displacement

Number of registered Syrian refugees per governorate, 2012-2014

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014

Funding

Funding gap refers to UN appeals

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
Politics and security

The overthrow of the Morsi Government in July 2013 resulted in stricter security regulations for Syrian refugees, requiring them to obtain visas before entering Egyptian territory. This affected Syrians’ access to work and overall livelihoods. Reports suggest the situation improved after the presidential election in June 2014, though restrictions on visas remain. Illegal detention and deportation of Syrians has made headlines. Both children and adults are being detained, often in poor conditions, and sometimes forced to sign deportation papers, which goes against international legal principles prohibiting forced returns.

Another side effect of the political change was the negative backlash toward Syrian and Palestinian refugees, who were associated with the Muslim Brotherhood. Hate speech and campaigns by local media have portrayed Syrians as terrorists.

Humanitarian needs

Protection

Syrians trying to escape to Europe

Heightened discrimination from the host population is driving Syrians to attempt the dangerous trip to Europe. Some have tried the journey as many as 11 times.

As of January 2015, more than 1,400 Syrians had been arrested attempting to depart Egypt. At the end of November 149 individuals were still in detention.

Gender-based violence

The most common forms of GBV reported among Syrian refugees are sexual harassment and assault, domestic violence and early marriage. An assessment found an overall reluctance to report GBV incidents.

An increasing number of Syrians are in detention for holding forged or expired passports, or because they have lost their passports. They cannot renew or obtain their passports while in detention, meaning they could face prolonged detention or return to Syria.

As of November 2014, 150 refugees had been deported by authorities to Syria or other countries.

At December 2014, there were 585 unaccompanied and separated children from Syria.
Egypt provides no camps for Syrian refugees. Syrians arriving in 2012 are relying on savings as their main source of income, which are significantly depleted. Syrians who arrived in late 2013 had no financial assets.

79% of those participating in an assessment had difficulties paying rent.

### Health

Based on a 2013 assessment, 42% of Syrians use public health facilities, 25.5% of refugees use private sector facilities, 13.5% depend on charity and friends’ support and 19% use UNHCR-supported health services.

### Food security

Food prices increased by 12% during the summer of 2014 due to a cut in fuel subsidies.

For Palestinian refugees fleeing from Syria, access to food vouchers or other services from organisations like UNHCR is impossible.

### Education

Although Syrian refugees are granted access to public schools, many children lack the necessary documentation, funds, or are placed on long waiting lists for a place.

83% of the 42,000 school-aged refugee children are registered in schools, based on UNHCR registration estimates.
Humanitarian needs in Syria have grown at more than six times the rate of funding. Since 2012, the number of people in need has grown more than 1,100% – from one million to 12.2 million – while funding increased by 180% – from USD 639 million to USD 1.8 billion.

The UN launched an Emergency Relief Fund for 2015 onwards, to provide rapid responses to critical lifesaving needs and underserved areas. At the end of January, the fund had received only USD 6.3 million of the USD 30 million required; it is expected to run out of funds by the end of February.

Aid convoys into Syria in 2014 reached 63% fewer beneficiaries than in 2013. One of the greatest challenges has been the targeting of humanitarian convoys and personnel. Around 100 national NGOs are authorised by the Syrian Government to partner with UN agencies operating within Syria, but administrative hurdles and limited capacity make such partnerships difficult in practice.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, with 14 branches and 84 sub-branches, is the largest implementing partner for UN agencies in Syria. It has a network of 5,000 volunteers throughout the country and is able to also operate in many, though not all, opposition-controlled areas.

Regional response

Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt host 3.7 million Syrian refugees, 95% of the total. Around 150,000 Syrians have been granted asylum in the EU since 2011, and over 60,000 resettlement places have been offered elsewhere in the world.

Humanitarian assistance to refugees and host communities is mainly coordinated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and the UNHCR (the UN refugee agency) through the Refugee Response Plan (RRP). The International Committee of the Red Cross is also providing support, in partnership with national Red Crescent societies. The RRP was only 62% funded in 2014 and the shortfall has led to cuts in assistance and services. In November 2014, the UN reduced food aid to 1.7 million Syrian refugees. The funding situation remains unclear, and the number of Syrians receiving food aid will likely decrease by 20%. In Lebanon, targeted assistance has been introduced to try to channel the available funding to those most in need. Other countries have not yet agreed on a framework that will enable such an approach.

In Jordan, international NGOs are required to seek approval by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation for all projects related to the Syria response.

In Iraq, consolidating the humanitarian response for IDPs and refugees has been difficult. Several organisations, including the umbrella body of local and international aid organisations, are advocating to base programmes on need rather than status.

In Turkey, civil society has helped bridge some gaps in services, especially when it was more difficult for international NGOs to gain official authorisations. Among the most active is IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, which has access to camps but also provides assistance outside camps.

Syria

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Information gaps

Syria

Information available on the humanitarian situation, specifically primary data, is extremely limited in Syria. There are also geographical discrepancies. Although in some places that are less affected, gathering information is a lesser priority, other governorates display critical humanitarian needs but data is still lacking.

Specific gaps:
• The situation of IDPs stranded at international borders
• The protection situation, the number of people missing, detained and limitations on freedom of movement
• The needs of IDPs in informal settlements
• The effect of the dry weather conditions on the availability of drinking water, crop production, and livelihoods
• The overall damage to homes and shelters by the conflict

Lebanon

There are significant gaps in information sharing regarding protection concerns and the situation of specific population groups, including:
• Public information on border restrictions
• Numbers turned away or stranded at the border
• Incidents of deportation and forced return
• Numbers, locations and needs of unregistered Syrian refugees
• Effects of the crisis on Lebanon’s Palestinian refugee camps, which host large numbers of Syrians, and have major pre-existing vulnerabilities
• Persons with specific needs
• Refugees in urban areas

Iraq

• There is a lack of comprehensive information on the current needs of refugees in urban settings: the results of the April Multi-Sector Needs Assessment of refugees are likely largely outdated since the marked change of context and the displacement crisis.
• Information is also lacking on the impact of the refugee and displacement crises on host communities.

Turkey

There is an overall lack of coordinated needs assessments by humanitarian organisations. For refugees in urban areas, an AFAD assessment from 2013 is the latest source of information. Specific information gaps include:
• Overall information sharing
• Secondary data review of needs among Kobane refugees and urban refugees in general
• Updated data on refugees per province
• Livelihoods of Syrian refugees
• The effect on the livelihoods of host communities

Egypt

Information gaps exist in most sectors relating to the situation of Syrian refugees, partly because the caseload is smaller and the regional response has not been prioritised. The following areas lack updated information:
• The locations where Syrian refugees reside, particularly remote areas
• Refugees’ access to basic services, including health, education, and protection
• The number of those whose legal status has lapsed and the underlying reasons
• The number denied entry, detained and/or deported
• The number of unregistered refugees, and reasons for non- or de-registration, including the recent decline in the number of registered refugees
• The numbers and intentions of refugees leaving Egypt, either in an irregular manner to attempt to gain asylum in Europe, to travel to other host countries, or to return to Syria

Jordan

• The major information gap concerns the sensitive issue of deportations of Syrians by the Government of Jordan, for which the numbers, trends and reasons remain unknown and limit humanitarian advocacy.
• Information is also lacking on the numbers, location and needs of Syrians in informal settlements, as well as on the reasons behind the voluntary returns of refugees to Syria and their destination.
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