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HIGHLIGHTS

- At least 1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria.
- Over 78,000 Syrians are living as refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Assistance is being provided but does not match the needs. WFP plans to reach 500,000 people with food assistance in June.
- The modalities for scaling-up the response have been agreed with the Syrian Government.
- Additional funding is urgently required for the response, both inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.

FIGURES

People in need in Syria	At least 1 million
Refugees in neighbouring countries	78,137

FUNDING

- 180 million** sought by the UN for activities inside Syria
- 37 million** received so far for UN activities inside Syria
- 84 million** requested under the Regional Refugee Response Plan
- 30.7 million** received so far for Regional Refugee Response Plan

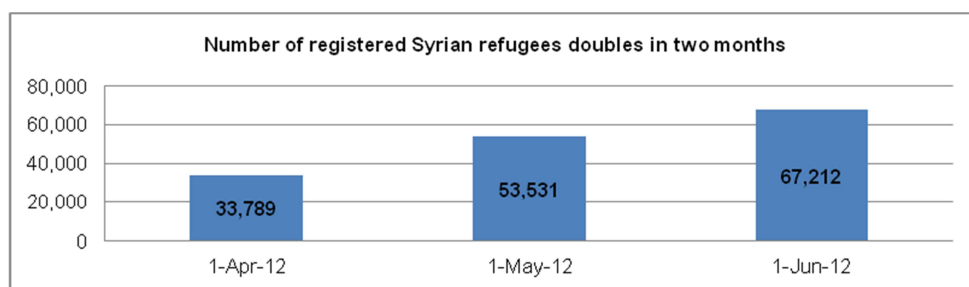
Humanitarian situation

At least one million people need humanitarian assistance inside Syria

According to a humanitarian assessment conducted from 18 to 26 March - in which the Government, United Nations and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) participated – at least one million people in Syria are in need of urgent assistance. This includes people injured during fighting; families who have lost their breadwinners or left their home areas; host communities; and those whose vulnerability has increased due to the impact of the unrest on livelihoods and access to essential services.

Over 78,000 Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

UNHCR reports that, as of 31 May, 78,137 Syrian refugees were being assisted in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, of which 67,212 had been registered with UNHCR. This marked an increase of 4,822 people from the previous week and was more than double the number at the outset of April. UNICEF estimates that around half of all displaced Syrians are children and adolescents, who are faced with interruption to schooling, limited access to basic services and psychosocial distress.



Source: UNHCR

Response inside Syria has been scaled-up but remains inadequate

Food assistance is stepped up; WFP aims to reach 500,000 people in June

Food prices have risen by 30 to 60 per cent over the past year and access to food in some areas has been severely reduced. In coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), WFP has scaled-up its food assistance in Syria, reaching 110,000 people in March and 250,000 people in each of April and May. In the first week of June, WFP will double its caseload to reach 500,000 people. Over the past month, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in

Current response efforts do not meet existing needs and significant gaps remain.

cooperation with SARC, has supplied 15,000 food parcels for 74,500 people in Hama, Homs, Idlib and Rural Damascus. As of June, ICRC is planning to provide food assistance to 100,000 people per month.

More than 50,000 people receive basic household items; more urgently require support

Families who have relocated as a result of the unrest are in urgent need of non-food items (NFIs), including hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets and mattresses. Host families are also experiencing shortages of NFIs due to limited livelihood opportunities. UN agencies have distributed NFIs to approximately 52,000 people since the beginning of 2012, including to 12,000 people in rural Damascus over the past month. The ICRC has provided sleeping mats, blankets, hygiene kits and other items to people in Hama, Homs, Idlib and Rural Damascus, while the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has delivered 22,400 hygiene parcels, 11,388 kitchen sets, 18,100 mattresses and 36,700 blankets (winter and summer) to people in need.

Health services in affected areas are bolstered

Healthcare services in the areas most affected by the unrest have suffered disruptions and are facing shortages in essential medicines. In May, a mobile health clinic, equipped by WHO and staffed by local physicians, provided medical treatment to more than 1,200 people in Homs; the ICRC donated four mobile health units to SARC branches in Hama, Homs, Idlib and Rural Damascus; and the IFRC supported 11 health clinics and three mobile health units. WHO and UNHCR have provided medical equipment, including X-ray machines, ventilators, defibrillators, surgical tables and beds for intensive care, to SARC referral hospitals and UNICEF has distributed 3,500 first aid kits to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and SARC, which will assist 17,500 people. WHO has also provided MoH with 71 surgical kits and 70 first aid kits – covering the basic health needs of 710,000 people for three months and trauma care for 350 severely injured patients – and SARC with two emergency kits, 16 trauma kits and two surgical kits – covering the basic health needs of 200,000 people for three months, as well as surgical care for 1,600 severely injured patients and post-operative care for 400 patients.

To increase health response capacity, IFRC has purchased 20 emergency health kits (200,000 people) and 20 surgical kits (200,000 people) and delivered 22 ambulances to SARC and the ICRC has set up a medical contingency stock in Damascus for the treatment of 500 wounded patients.

Reproductive health support reaches 9,500 women

In order to support the provision of reproductive healthcare, UNFPA has provided post-natal services to 4,500 pregnant women through the Syrian Family Planning Association and delivered essential reproductive health supplies to more than 5,000 women in the governorates of Homs, Idlib and Rural Damascus through MoH and NGO facilities. It is estimated that 80 women per day receive reproductive services in SARC clinics. In addition, UNFPA has procured two mobile clinics to provide reproductive health assistance for some 3,000 people per month in Dayr Az Zor and Hama.

Support reaches 6,500 small herder families and women-headed households

More than twelve months of unrest have resulted in a decrease in household income and expenditure and strained the agricultural sector. To support livelihoods, FAO has delivered animal feed and chickens to some 6,500 small herder families and women-headed households in Dayr Az Zor, Hassakeh, Homs

and Idlib. To maximize the upcoming planting season, FAO is procuring seeds and other agricultural inputs. In order to ensure that water reaches remote areas for people and their livestock, ICRC water engineers have delivered supplies to the local authority (al-Badia Commission) in charge of water projects in nine governorates affected by drought.

Agreement is reached with Syrian Government regarding modalities for the response in Syria

UN to establish field presences in four initial locations

Following extensive discussions between the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (RHC) and government officials, the United Nations and the Syrian Government have reached agreement on modalities to scale-up humanitarian operations. The United Nations will establish field presences in four initial locations – Dara'a, Dayr Az Zor, Homs (also covering Hama) and Idlib. Reconnaissance missions for the establishment of these presences were deployed on June 3. Once established, UN teams in these locations will work closely with SARC to assess needs, deliver relief items and monitor the impact of the response. The immediate focus will be on the delivery of food, medicine, hygiene kits, blankets, kitchen sets and school repairs.

Government to allow more NGOs to work on the humanitarian effort

The Government has agreed to allow more local NGOs and community-based organizations to work with United Nations agencies. In addition, international NGOs currently assisting Iraqi refugees in Syria are coordinating with SARC to expand their operations to support Syrians affected by the ongoing fighting.

Governments and UN agencies work together to support refugees in neighbouring countries

Regional Refugee Response Plan to be revised at the end of June

On 23 May, an inter-agency regional coordination meeting with the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator and the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator took place in Beirut to discuss the response to the situation in neighbouring countries. Given the increasing refugee caseload, it was agreed that the Regional Refugee Response Plan would need to be revised and extended until the end of 2012. The revised document will be presented in late June in Geneva.

Syrian Refugees	Jordan	Lebanon	Iraq	Turkey	TOTAL
Registered and assisted	21,432	17,041	4,413	24,326	67,212
Assisted (awaiting registration)		10,500	425		10,925
TOTAL	21,432*	27,541	4,838	24,326	78,137

* An additional 2,500 persons are awaiting registration while some 30,000 have been identified by local organizations as in need of assistance, some of whom have been registered by UNHCR.

Source: UNHCR – Figures are based on estimates and thus might vary

Number of refugees in Jordanian transit sites surpasses absorption capacity

The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan stands at 21,432. An additional 2,500 people are awaiting registration. On 22 May, the number of refugees in Jordanian transit sites surpassed absorption capacity. To mitigate this situation, UNHCR, the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) and UNICEF/ACTED have accelerated construction work on the King Abdullah Park (KAB) site.

Refugees in Jordan are primarily located in the cities of Amman, Irbid, Ma'an, Mafraq, Ramtha and Zarqa. WFP is distributing dry rations and hot meals to refugees, while UNICEF and ACTED are providing from 20 to 40 m³ of water to Bashabsheh border transit site on a daily basis.

Assistance to refugees in Lebanon continues but is impeded by security incidents

Some 27,541 Syrian refugees are being assisted in Lebanon. More than half of them (17,041) have been jointly registered by UNHCR and Lebanon's High Relief Commission (HRC) in the north of the country, while UNHCR and partners are assisting an additional 3,000 in Tripoli and 7,500 in Bekaa, who are awaiting registration.

The security situation in Tripoli and recent unrest in Akkar impeded the delivery of assistance over the past week. However, the response continued: Caritas Migrant Center (CLMC) distributed food and non-food items to more than 1,000 people in Tripoli; the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) distributed mattresses in the Bekaa Valley; International Medical Corps (IMC) was granted permission to provide medical services in 'Markaz Allrshad' in Berkeyel; and free primary health care consultations began in three health centers with support from Medecins du Monde (MDM). In addition, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) procured gas stoves and cookware for families living in 18 renovated mosques in Aarsal. The IFRC is supporting the Lebanese Red Cross emergency medical services to treat wounded people crossing the border from Syria.

New tents constructed at Domiz camp in Iraq

To date, UNHCR has registered 4,413 Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. An additional 425 Syrians are awaiting registration. Over the past week, 254 tents for families and 35 tents for individuals were set up in Domiz camp and ACTED installed a tent for child-friendly activities. Fayda Water Department continued to provide potable water and the Directorate of Health distributed chloride tablets for water storage tanks. The Department for Displacement and Migration (DDM) Dohuk continued to provide three meals per day to Syrian singles in Domiz camp during the month of May. However, DDM is expected to stop distribution by the end of May and WFP is exploring ways to ensure continued food assistance to refugees in Iraq.

The Government of Turkey and the Turkish Red Crescent Society continue to provide assistance to Syrians in border provinces

The number of Syrians in Turkey now stands at 24,326. The Government of Turkey and the Turkish Red Crescent Society continue to provide exemplary assistance to Syrians in the border provinces of Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis and Sanliurfa, with the support of UNHCR and the UN Country Team.

Response efforts are maximized through coordination

Regional Humanitarian Coordinator oversees the response

The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Radhouane Nouicer, oversees the response to the impact of the crisis both inside Syria and in the region. In fulfilling this role, the RHC works closely with the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator, Mr. Panos Moumtzis, as well as with the Resident Coordinators (RCs) and Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Syria.

In Syria, sector working groups have been established for Food, Health, Logistics, NFIs/Shelter, and Psychological Support, and working groups are being established for Community Services/Protection, Education, Livelihoods and WASH. In Jordan, an inter-agency task force meets on a bi-weekly basis, a site coordination group is convened every week, and working groups coordinate cash assistance, education, food, health, protection, and WASH. In Lebanon, inter-agency coordination meetings take place every two weeks in Beirut, Quobayat and Bekaa, and sectoral meetings (Distribution, Health, Education, Protection, Shelter, and WASH) take place twice a month in Quobayat and Bekaa. In Iraq, UNHCR holds monthly coordination meetings with the Government Emergency Cell (GEC), local departments and agencies, as well as sub-working group meetings on education, health, food and nutrition on a regular basis. In Turkey, the United Nations Country Team remains (UNCT) the main UN coordination forum.

Funding urgently required to sustain and scale-up the response

United Nations agencies and their partners have sought US\$264 million to respond to humanitarian needs inside Syria (\$180 million for 44 projects over six months) and in neighbouring countries (\$84 million for the Regional Refugee Response Plan). As of 4 June, the humanitarian response inside Syria was only 20 per cent funded and the Regional Response Plan was only 36 per cent funded. An Emergency Response Fund (ERF) established for the response in Syria and neighbouring countries, and managed by the RHC, had received a total of \$2.1 million, with a further \$3.3 million reported in pledges. More funds are urgently required to sustain and scale-up the response.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has played a key role in the swift disbursement of funds for the response in Syria: \$13.8 million has been allocated for life saving activities inside Syria and a total of \$8.5 million has been contributed to the refugee response in neighbouring countries, including \$2 million in Turkey, \$4 million in Jordan and \$2.5 million in Lebanon, with a further \$450,000 under consideration.

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