

HIGHLIGHTS

- Increasing number of IDPs in precarious situation.
- UN agencies prepare winter relief efforts at the cost of US\$60 million.
- UN and humanitarian partners step up assistance despite challenges.
- More than 362,000 Syrian refugees have crossed to neighbouring countries, North Africa.

FIGURES

Population	22 million
Governorates	14
Affected population	2.5 million
Number of IDPs	1.2 million
Number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa	362,000

FUNDING (US\$)

348 million
requested by UN for activities inside Syria

45% funded

488 million
requested under the Regional Refugee Response Plan

29% funded



OCHA/ Ben Parker

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Humanitarian situation deteriorates as winter season looms

Civilians pay the price of deepening crisis in Syria

As the crisis deepens in Syria, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. An increasing number of Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance as at least 2.5 million people are affected. The UN estimates that up to 4 million people could be affected should the violence continue over coming months. Damage and destruction to medical facilities leave large parts of the population without access to health care. Many children are also denied an education as hundreds of schools serve as collective shelters for IDPs or have been damaged in the violence.

The indiscriminate use of explosive weapons, including cluster munitions, in densely populated areas leaves death, destruction and deep trauma among the civilian population. Ordinary men, women and children continue to be caught up in the violence with limited ability to flee to safer areas. All parties to the conflict must do more to protect civilians and respect international humanitarian law.

More than 360,000 Syrians have crossed the borders into neighbouring countries. UNHCR estimates that the number of Syrian refugees could reach 710,000 people by the end of the year. Inside Syria, an estimated 1.2 million people are now internally displaced, seeking shelter in schools, public buildings, unfinished private accommodation and public even parks.

Humanitarian mission to Homs highlights security, access constraints

A UN humanitarian mission visited Homs on 27-28 October. The mission included an assistance convoy consisting of 18 trucks of food supplies and NFIs such as mattresses, blankets and hygiene kits. Participating agencies included OCHA, UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF.

Assistance delivery was intended at locations that have been cut off from receiving humanitarian aid for a protracted period, including the Old City of Homs and Qusayr City. Willingness to allow aid through was expressed at the local level by all parties contacted. However, security constraints such as active conflict and lack of safe locations to unload goods prevented immediate delivery.

The UN continues to call for all parties to allow humanitarian access without pre-conditions and respect the impartiality and neutrality of humanitarian assistance. Immediate, full and unimpeded access of humanitarian personnel is required to assist those in need, regardless of location.

Winterization package targets at least 1.2 million people, requires US\$40 million in fresh funds

With the onset of the cold season, temperatures are expected to drop considerably and could go below zero degrees Celsius in parts of the country. The number of people in need of assistance is expected to rise. Assistance needs are also likely to deepen,

especially among IDPs and children affected by the conflict. Families will struggle to survive without essential clothing, adequate shelter and heating. Assistance to the most vulnerable among the affected population is critical.

To respond to the challenges of winter, UN agencies have designed a winterization package of prioritized activities under the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. Winterization interventions will focus on distribution of NFIs, light rehabilitation of up to 100 collective shelters for IDPs, and the provision of one-time cash assistance to affected families. In addition, health interventions and assistance, livestock support and support to collective shelters will be provided. The package also includes training for health professionals on neonatal resuscitation, procurement of baby blankets and warm clothing for children, as well as additional incubators for locations where hospitals and pediatric units have been destroyed. Programmes on health education for displaced mothers are being rolled out across the most affected governorates.

Agency	Target beneficiaries by agency	Funding shortfall (US\$)
UNHCR	200,000	14,084,000
UNICEF	350,000	9,088,000
WHO	1,200,000	2,107,000
UNFPA	510,000	2,500,000
UNRWA	130,000	5,976,904
UNDP	486,000	2,348,526
FAO	249,000	3,700,000
Total	3,125,000*	39,804,430

* Note: The aggregate figure does not necessarily represent the total number of beneficiaries assisted under winterization programming as many beneficiaries are likely to receive multiple types of assistance. The UN estimates that at least 1.2 million people will receive assistance.

The consolidated winterization assistance package targets at least 1.2 million people with some beneficiaries receiving multiple types of assistance. The total cost of such interventions amounts to about US\$60 million of which interventions accounting for US\$40 million are currently unfunded. Lack of funding constitutes a significant impediment to tailored assistance for vulnerable people facing both the impact of violence and harsh winter conditions. The overall funding requirements of the humanitarian response plan of which the winterization package remains an integral part total US\$348 million, of which 45 per cent has been received to date.

Growing number of IDPs in need of assistance

300,000 registered IDPs in Ar-Raqqa require assistance

About 300,000 IDPs have registered for assistance in Ar-Raqqa, according to the findings of an inter-agency assessment mission in October. Local authorities estimate that the number of IDPs could be as high as 500,000 people. About 30,000 people are staying across 150 schools. This represents more than 10 per cent of all public schools in Ar-Raqqa governorate. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) reports a daily registration rate of 1,400 to 2,100 new IDPs in Ar-Raqqa City. Most IDPs staying in Ar-Raqqa have fled the violence in Aleppo and Deir Ez-Zor.

The influx of IDPs is putting strains on public services, particularly in the health sector, where the system is overburdened. Many IDPs have left everything behind and have limited resources to support their daily needs. As a considerable number of IDPs are hosted by local families, community coping mechanisms are severely stretched. With winter approaching, humanitarian needs include warm clothing, blankets, mattresses, heating fuel, heaters and other essential items.



OCHA/ Ben Parker
Young girl staying in a collective shelter for IDPs.

Extensive humanitarian needs among 225,000 IDPs in Hassakeh

An estimated 225,000 IDPs are staying in Hassakeh Governorate, according to SARC. Most IDPs are unregistered, although many are staying in collective shelters in Hassakeh City and Qamishly. IDPs have generally fled from Deir Ez-Zor, Aleppo and Homs. Hassakeh is Syria's poorest governorate with limited resources to support the large IDP population. UNHCR and WFP are supporting the registration of IDPs and providing services and assistance. Urgent humanitarian needs include food, medicines, potable water and essential items.

Conflict has devastating impact on Syria's education and health services

2,137 schools used as IDP shelters whilst another 2,199 schools have been damaged

The Ministry of Education currently estimates that 2,137 of Syria's 22,000 public schools are hosting IDPs across the country. This number has emerged following assessments at governorate level and should be considered fluid due to rapid population movement. Plans exist to evacuate 587 of these schools in order to continue educational services. The Ministry of Education also estimates that the total number of damaged schools could be as high as 2,199. IDPs continue to seek shelter in schools and other public buildings as the security situation shows no signs of improvement and local community absorption capacity has been saturated.

Service delivery in 59 out of 88 public hospitals affected; 177 out of 520 ambulances out of service

WHO has condemned military attacks on health facilities and expressed deep concerns about the implications of such attacks on infrastructure, health staff and patients. The escalation of violence over recent months has brought an increase in damages to health facilities, including hospitals, clinics and ambulances. Compounded by insecurity, many Syrians find it increasingly difficult to access health services. According to WHO and the Ministry of Health, 67 per cent of public hospitals have been affected by the conflict, with 29 per cent of such hospitals out of service. Some 271 out of 520 ambulances have been damaged or affected, with 177 ambulances currently out of service. Damage to ambulances and their misuse for military purposes constitute serious obstacles to the safe transportation of patients requiring urgent medical, surgical and obstetric care. WHO calls for all parties to protect health facilities, staff and civilians seeking medical care.

Humanitarian response continues despite security, access challenges

WFP food assistance to 1.5 million Syrians across all governorates

About 1.5 million people are assisted by WFP on a monthly basis through the distribution of food parcels to all governorates of Syria. Between 5 and 25 October about 1,225,000 people have received such assistance. Food baskets include rice, bulgur, vegetable oil, sugar, dried pulses, canned pulses, pasta and salt. WFP is working to adjust the food basket provided in order to address the higher calorie needs during the winter season. WFP continues to monitor assistance delivery, household visits and market price data collection. Assistance delivery and monitoring activities in some areas are hampered by insecurity and access constraints.

UNHCR reaches 59,000 people with NFIs over last two weeks

Almost 59,000 people have received essential non-food items from UNHCR in co-operation with SARC, HELP, the Syria Trust and other partners over the last two weeks. Distribution of assistance has focused on the governorates of Dera'a, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus and Damascus. So far in 2012, UNHCR

has provided non-food items to more than 250,000 people, the majority of whom are IDPs. UNHCR also continues to provide one-off cash assistance to IDPs in An-Nabk and Hassakeh. More than 44,000 people have received such assistance to date.

UNICEF provides NFIs to more than 60,000 IDPs, continues educational support

Following the recent inter-agency assessment mission to Ar-Raqqa, UNICEF immediately dispatched relief items targeting vulnerable IDPs ahead of Eid al Adha. Assistance included family hygiene kits to cover 30,000 people, 4,000 baby hygiene kits, 1,000 food kits, 3,000 sets of children's clothes, 150 education bags, 30 recreation kits, lice shampoo and anti-scabies lotion.

IDPs in Aleppo have also received assistance, including family hygiene kits for 30,000 people, 2,000 baby hygiene kits and 2,000 sets of children's clothes.

UNICEF continues to support 104 school clubs in Dera'a, Rural Damascus, Latakia and Tartous. School clubs provide remedial classes, recreational activities and psycho-social support to more than 23,000 children. More than 13,000 school bags have recently been distributed to IDPs in Hassakeh and about 5,000 students in Damascus have received stationary kits. Through mobile child-friendly spaces set up at collective shelters in Rural Damascus, more than 1,000 children, adolescents and mothers have participated in psycho-social support activities.

As part of its expanded reach in the field in Syria, UNICEF has maintained presence in Tartous over the last four weeks. UNICEF in Tartous is coordinating with SARC, Government and non-governmental partners to provide assistance in the sectors of education, water and sanitation, health and nutrition and child protection. Assessments of needs are being finalized in the areas of water and sanitation as well as nutrition.

UNDP continues assistance efforts to IDPs in Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa

Assistance to IDPs continues to be provided by UNDP in close co-operation with local relief committees and NGOs. In the second half of October, an estimated 23,245 IDPs displaced from Dera'a, Deir Ez-Zor, Hama, Idlib, Homs, and Rural Damascus received assistance from UNDP. Recent assistance includes winter clothing for 2,000 children and 2,500 carpets for IDPs in collective shelters. About 2,300 IDPs in Dera'a have received blankets and heaters ahead of winter. Around 3,000 displaced families, totaling about 15,000 people have been supported through provision of electric stoves in 10 collective shelters. In co-operation with the Health Directorate and medical NGO partners, UNDP provided 20 wheelchairs to people with disabilities in Hassakeh.

Reproductive health services by UNFPA reach 130,000 women

UNFPA has supported reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care, maternal health and psychosocial support to about 130,000 women in Damascus, Homs, Rural Damascus, Ar-Raqqa and Hama.

Medical equipment delivered over the last two weeks included surgical instruments, midwifery kits, delivery kits and other supplies. A total of about 10,000 women have received emergency obstetric care and psychosocial support through UNFPA supported mobile clinics and teams over the last two weeks. UNFPA also distributed 28,000 emergency raising brochures on delivery in emergencies, post-partum depression and psychological first aid to affected people.

WHO supports health sector, provides essential drugs

To support and build local capacity, WHO has conducted training on the Early Warning and Response System. The workshop drew participation from all governorates. WHO has also provided the National Blood Bank with 15,000 blood diagnostic kits. Cancer and hepatitis medication has been provided to public hospitals in Damascus and Aleppo. Treatment for lice and scabies has also been delivered to the Ministry of Health.

FAO has reached more than 72,000 people; scales up assistance

The protracted crisis is having a major impact on small farmers and herders. As a result of the violence and insecurity, seasonal labour flows, access to critical inputs, as well as the overall market for agricultural produce have been disrupted. Increased costs of animal feed and limited access to grazing areas are compounding the challenges faced by Syria's farming communities. Herders and small farmers are diverting part of their livestock capital to meet increased fuel, fodder or feed prices. In October, FAO started the distribution of wheat (200kg) or barley (250kg) seeds to farmers in the governorates of Hassakeh, Deir Ez-Zor, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Idlib. About 5,100 farmers have received such assistance, benefiting a total of up to 36,000 people. Animal feed packages are under distribution to 2,000 poor pastoral families, supporting the livelihoods of up to 14,000 people, in Hama. Another 360 female-headed households in Rural Damascus have received livestock to support their livelihoods. FAO has assisted 9,050 vulnerable families in 2012, thereby providing support to about 72,400 people.

ICRC and SARC provide medical assistance to Homs and Harasta

Over the last week, ICRC provided medical supplies to treat between 50 and 100 injured patients to Al Birr private hospital in Homs. It also provided anaesthetic drugs, wound-dressing materials and intravenous fluids to Al Amin private hospital in the governorate. An assessment mission to a health care facility in Baba Amr was carried out with a view to provide future assistance. In co-operation with SARC, ICRC assessed needs in Jwalek, north-west of Homs City, where SARC provided assistance to around 400 people in need of food and essential items. It also provided educational materials to children.

ICRC food assistance to 150,000 people; more than 100,000 IDPs receive shelter, water and sanitation support

During the month of October, ICRC in co-operation with SARC has delivered assistance to cover the food needs of almost 150,000 people in Rural Damascus, Idlib, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Suweida, Tartous, Ar-Raqqa, Deir Ez-Zor, Lattakia and Damascus. Thousands of people have also received essential items such as mattresses, mats, towels, hygiene kits and candles. More than 40,000 blankets have been provided to IDPs hosted in public buildings.

Over 20,000 IDPs living in more than 35 schools and other public building in Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa were supported through shelter repairs and rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities. An additional 80,000 IDPs in Rural Damascus, Deir Ez-Zor and Homs have received clean water through SARC, supported by ICRC.

Since the beginning of 2012, ICRC and SARC have provided food for more than 1 million people and essential household items for about 250,000 people. They have also helped provide water for over 1 million people in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Homs.

International NGOs continue to assist IDPs across Syria

International NGOs continue to provide assistance to IDPs, despite access constraints in some areas. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has delivered 20,000 hygiene kits to Dera'a, covering up to 100,000 people. Terre des Hommes in cooperation with UNICEF has supplied five schools in Al Zahera district of Damascus with winter clothing, meeting the needs of up to 500 children. Secours Islamique Francais (SIF) is providing water and sanitation support to 15 collective shelters in Damascus, covering about 4,500 IDPs. HELP continues to provide water trucking for IDPs in Adra, north of Damascus. Two mobile clinics in Damascus and Rural Damascus operated by International Medical Corps (IMC) provide health services mainly for IDPs and assist up to 6,000 patients per month.

Outflow of refugees continues amid violence

More than 362,000 Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries, North Africa

The magnitude of the Syrian crisis is acutely felt among its neighbouring countries. In addition to Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon have now also seen the number of Syrian

refugees (registered and awaiting registration) go beyond the 100,000 people mark, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa to 362,719 individuals.

On average, about 2,000-3,000 Syrians arrive in neighbouring countries per day. Refugees also move further afield, as more than 7,500 Syrians have registered as refugees in North African countries and a number of European countries have seen an upsurge in the number of Syrian asylum applications. By mid-October, an estimated 18,000 Syrians had fled to countries such as Armenia, Georgia, Cyprus and Greece.

Country	Refugees registered and/ or assisted	Projected number of refugees by end of 2012
Iraq	44,772	60,000
Jordan	105,737	250,000
Lebanon	102,819	120,000
Turkey	101,834	280,000
North Africa	7,557	N/A
Total	362,719	710,000

Source: UNHCR as reported on 24 October. Refugee figures are based on estimates and may thus vary.

UNHCR prepares tailored interventions for winter season

As winter nears, UNHCR and humanitarian partners have consolidated a response plan targeting Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries. According to the plan, more than 380,000 refugees will receive such tailored assistance (110,000 in Jordan; 120,000 in Lebanon; 50,000 in Iraq; and 100,000 in Turkey). Other humanitarian partners involved in the response will respond to additional displaced populations in order to endure the widest possible coverage. Items required include thermal blankets and quilts, cooking/heating stoves, as well as winterization and hygiene kits. The financial requirements of the plan amount to US\$6.1 million.

More than 44,000 refugees hosted in Iraq

There are currently more than 44,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq, including more than 35,000 refugees in the northern Kurdistan region and more than 7,000 refugees in Al Qa'im in Anbar Governorate. About 22,000 refugees are hosted across three camps; one in Domiz, Dohuk Governorate and two in Al Qa'im. Remaining refugees live in the communities, including with local families, or in public buildings awaiting the establishment of new camp facilities. Over the past three weeks, more than 5,000 Syrians arrived in Iraq. Refugees mainly originate from the north-eastern Governorate of Hassakeh, with others arriving from Damascus, Rural Damascus and Aleppo.

Domiz camp remains congested despite intensive work to accommodate the large number of new arrivals. Land situated in the vicinity of Domiz has been allocated to provide space for an additional 4,000 single refugees. The new refugee camp of Kasak is also under construction in Ninewah, northern Iraq.

WFP prepares to distribute food to over 10,000 refugees in Domiz camp. UNICEF has started distribution of hygiene promotion kits in both Al Qa'im camps. All newly arrived Syrian families at Al Qa'im receive NFI packages from Islamic Relief Worldwide. NFI distribution has also resumed in Domiz camp.

The UNICEF/ Department of Health campaigns against MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and DT (diphtheria and tetanus) have covered over 5,000 Syrian refugees.

A total of 885 students are now receiving education in Al Qa'im with a new school to be opened shortly by UNICEF. A UNICEF-funded school in Domiz will have a capacity of 1,200 students in two shifts.

Number of refugees in Jordan reaches 105,000 people

More than 105,000 Syrian refugees have registered and/ or received assistance in Jordan. UNHCR has registered more than 60,000 Syrian refugees in urban areas and another 32,000 Syrians have received registration appointments. A number of refugees have left Za'atari camp to either live among host communities or to return to Syria.

About 17,000 Syrian refugee children have registered to attend Jordanian schools. While 13,000 children already attend school, the remaining 4,000 children are on waiting lists. To reduce overcrowding, UNICEF has installed 15 pre-fabricated classrooms in Ramtha. About 2,400 Syrian students attend school at Za'atari camp on a double-shift basis. Save the Children International is also providing access to educational programmes for children under the age of 6.

UNHCR is conducting training and awareness raising sessions on international refugees protection for Jordanian personnel involved in the refugee response. Since March 2012, the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Working Group has provided psychosocial services to over 13,000 children and family members, and specialized services for 1,600 children and their families. So far, 750 frontline workers, local authorities and health professionals have been trained on children and women's protection issues. About 4,000 community members have been reached through awareness raising activities. UNFPA in partnership with Nour Al Hussein Foundation and the Institute for Family Health have organized sessions on gender-based violence targeting male refugees at Za'atari camp.

Za'atari camp has 90 functional WASH centres and work is underway to set up over 2,800 pre-fabricated shelters to accommodate refugees during the winter season. Over 1 million litres of water are supplied daily to the camp.

More than 100 kitchens have been installed by UNHCR in the camp. WFP food assistance reaches over 18,000 people in Za'atari.

Lebanon becomes third country to host more than 100,000 Syrian refugees

More than 102,000 Syrians have registered as refugees or been assisted in Lebanon, making the Lebanon the third country in the region to receive more than 100,000 refugees. The majority of refugees originate from Homs, Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates.

A car bomb attack in a neighbourhood of Beirut on 19 October and the subsequent violence that erupted in some parts of the country caused UNHCR to temporarily suspend registration activities across the country. Activities were able to fully resume on 23 October.

Continued shelling from Syrian territory into Lebanon is affecting refugees and host communities in the border areas. Humanitarian agencies are concerned about the risk faced by these populations.

The Government of Lebanon recently announced that it will waive the fee for renewal of residency permits for Syrian refugees. This will assist vulnerable Syrians who have limited means to meet the costs of such renewals.

A report issued by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) highlighted the risk of sexual and gender-based violence among Syrian refugee women in Lebanon. UNHCR, UNICEF, Save the Children International, International Medical Corps (IMC), Caritas Migrant Centre and UNFPA have developed a response plan to identify survivors of sexual violence and ensure referrals to appropriate medical services. Humanitarian agencies are also concerned over reports of unaccompanied children.

Distribution of winter items has started in the Beka'a Valley, with humanitarian partners targeting 15,000 refugees. WFP distributes food vouchers to 65,000 refugees in the Beka'a Valley and northern Lebanon. Distribution of food parcels to new arrivals will continue in both areas through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education continues to ensure enrolment of refugee children into Lebanese schools. Tuition fees, school uniforms and supplies are provided by UNHCR and partners.

A growing number of refugees are approaching UNHCR and IMC for psycho-social assistance. The majority of cases are people who are suffering from depression and anxiety, effects of the trauma caused by conflict and displacement. Primary health care continues to be provided in the Beka'a Valley through medical mobile units and primary health care centres for those in the north.

Turkey continues to receive Syrian refugees in 14 camps across 7 provinces

UNHCR estimates that there are about 170,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey, over 100,000 of who reside in 14 camps across seven provinces. Camps are operated by the Turkish Government, with implementation of assistance through the TRCS and support from UN agencies at the request of the authorities. The remaining 70,000 refugees live in towns and cities, mostly in provinces close to the Syrian border. The Turkish authorities estimate that the number of refugees could increase to 280,000 Syrians by the end of the year, the majority living in camps. Two additional camps in Sanliurfa-Akcaale and Gaziantep-Nizip are reportedly under construction with a capacity to host an additional 16,000 refugees.

Over the past three weeks, the Government of Turkey has registered close to 10,000 new refugees. Government reports indicate that more than 10,000 Syrians have gathered on the Syrian side of the border opposite both Kilis and Hatay provinces. The Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) is providing assistance to people on the border 'zero-point'. A fifth relief reception centre was recently opened in Akcaale. The centre will provide basic assistance at zero point of the border to vulnerable women, children and the elderly.

Instances of Syrian shelling of rural areas along the Turkish border continue. The provinces of Yayladagi, Hatay and Akcaale are particularly affected. Last August, four reception centres opened in Hatay, Gaziantep and Kilis.

WFP has introduced its "food card system" in cooperation with the TRCS. Each card will be loaded with US\$43 per person per month for purchase of food from local supermarkets in Kilis. The programme will target up to 25,000 refugees once rolled out to other locations.

Limited funding hampers humanitarian response

Humanitarian response plan remains only 45 per cent funded

Despite growing and deepening humanitarian needs, especially among IDPs, UN agencies and humanitarian partners continue to face considerable funding constraints. The revised Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan seeks US\$348 million for 57 projects targeting beneficiaries in all governorates of the country. The response plan includes a winterization package which amounts to US\$60 million, of which US\$40 million remains unfunded. The overall humanitarian response plan is currently 45 per cent funded.

Regional refugee response has received 29 per cent of required funds

The current Regional Refugee Response Plan seeks US\$488 million to assist Syrians who have crossed into neighbouring countries. The plan targets up to 710,000 Syrian refugee beneficiaries by the end of 2012. So far, the response plan has received only 29 per cent of required funds, severely hampering efforts to deliver timely and adequate assistance to the growing number of refugees.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Aurelien Buffler, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, buffler@un.org, Tel. (+1) 917 680 8315

Ms. Yasmine Rockenfeller, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, rockenfeller@un.org, Tel. (+41) 79 945 4327

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