

### HIGHLIGHTS

- UN estimates that nearly one in three Syrians require assistance.
- Cross-line inter-agency convoys bring aid to 300,000 people in Talbiseh and Aleppo.
- About 550,000 children receive vaccinations.
- Number of Syrian refugees could reach 3.5 million by end-2013.

### FIGURES

Population	21.4m
# of people in need	6.8m
# of IDPs	4.25m
# of children in need	3.1m
# of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa	1,381,481

### FUNDING

**\$519 million** requested for humanitarian assistance inside Syria (January-June 2013)

**62%** funded (as of 22 April 2013)

**\$1 billion** requested under the Regional Response Plan (January-June 2013)

**55%** funded (as of 22 April 2013)



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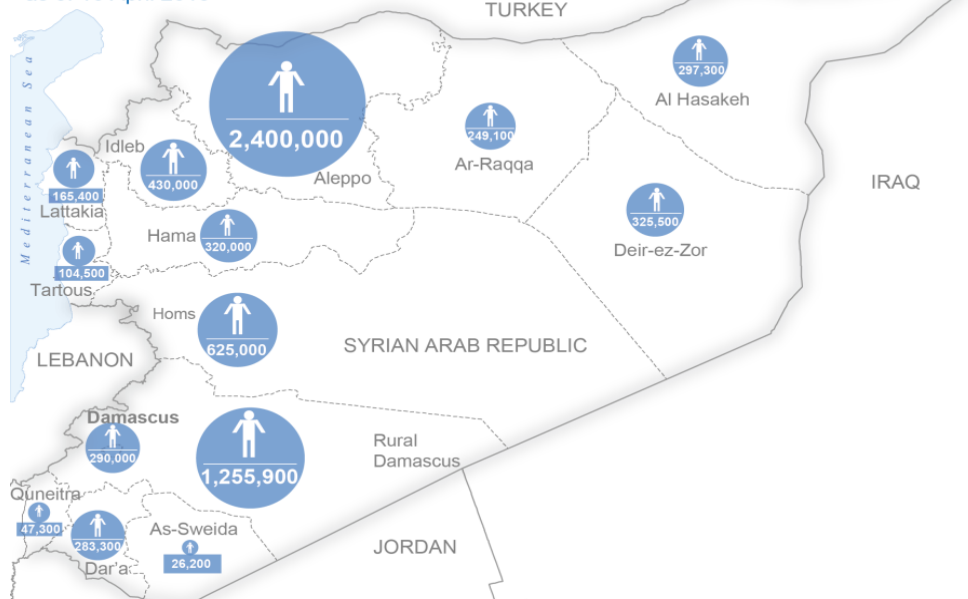
## Humanitarian catastrophe in Syria

### 6.8 million Syrians require assistance, 4.25 million are internally displaced

The humanitarian situation in Syria continues to deteriorate at a rapid pace. Fierce fighting across large parts of the country has led to massive displacement and mounting refugee outflows. The UN now estimates that 6.8 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance, and that 4.25 million people are internally displaced, many of them driven from place to place as the front lines move. While the situation is particularly precarious in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Homs, Rural Damascus, Hama, Idleb and Dera'a, all of Syria's 14 governorates are affected.

Speaking to the UN Security Council on 18 April, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC), Valerie Amos, outlined the dire and deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Syria. "The situation in Syria is a humanitarian catastrophe, with ordinary people paying the price for the failure to end the conflict. The parties to the conflict have become increasingly entrenched in the rhetoric and reality of war with a total disregard for the impact on people's lives," she noted.

### Syrian Arab Republic: People in need by governorate as of 16 April 2013



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

According to a new UN estimates, 6.8 million people inside Syria require humanitarian assistance. More than 60 per cent of those who need assistance are internally displaced people.

### Access urgently required to all people in need in all areas of Syria

Humanitarian partners continue to expand humanitarian assistance delivery. Assistance to areas held by armed opposition groups, as well as the dispatch of joint inter-agency

*UN humanitarian chief calls for safe and unimpeded access to those in need, including across international borders if other routes are not safe.*

convoys have been stepped up, despite restricted access and bureaucratic impediments. The deteriorating security situation also impacts aid delivery. The fragmentation of armed opposition groups poses considerable challenges, as access negotiations must be conducted at a series of levels and with a wide variety of actors, further limiting the ability to deliver effective life-saving assistance to those in need.

Briefing the UN Security Council on 18 April, USG/ERC Amos noted that humanitarian workers continue to come under attack whilst bringing relief to people. She asked Members to request the parties to ensure the safe and unimpeded access of aid organizations to those in need in all areas of Syria. In the event that some routes are not safe, the parties have the responsibility to identify alternatives, including across international borders.

### **UN leaders call for political solution to the crisis**

In a joint appeal on 16 April, the heads of OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO requested that political leaders meet their responsibility to the people of Syria and the future of the region. While humanitarian partners have helped provide shelter to more than a million refugees, access to food and other basic necessities for millions of displaced people, water and sanitation to over 5 million affected people, and ensured basic health services for millions of Syrians, the support has not been nearly enough. (To watch the video link of this appeal: [Enough: Syria Crisis Appeal](#))

### **Human Rights Watch research documents civilian deaths**

According to the Human Rights Watch (HRW) report, "Death from the Skies: Deliberate and Indiscriminate Air Strikes on Civilians," at least 152 civilians have been killed in indiscriminate, and in some cases deliberate, attacks by the Syrian Air Force. Such alleged attacks are serious violations of international humanitarian law (the laws of war). Individuals who commit violations of the laws of war willfully are responsible for war crimes. HRW's report is based on visits to 50 sites of air strikes by Government forces in areas controlled by armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Idlib, and Latakia governorates. (Source: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/04/10/syria-aerial-attacks-strike-civilians>)

## **Cross-line joint aid delivery despite operational, bureaucratic constraints**

### **Inter-agency supplies delivered to 55,000 people in Talbiseh**

On 17 April, a UN inter-agency aid convoy delivered aid to Talbiseh, north of Homs City. The UN team included UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNFPA, UNHCR, OCHA and UNDSS. The convoy carried emergency medical supplies, food aid, hygiene kits, schools supplies and a variety of essential items to assist 55,000 people. The team met with the Governor of Homs and security agencies on the ground to brief them about the challenges faced by the convoy, including delays due to detailed inspection of supplies and restrictions in delivery of items, such as surgical kits. A common understanding was reached to facilitate upcoming convoys.

### **UN convoy to Aleppo goes through 50 checkpoints, bringing assistance to almost 250,000 people**

On 13 April, a UN inter-agency mission led by OCHA's Director of Operations, John Ging, delivered urgent humanitarian assistance across the front lines in Aleppo. The joint convoy included UNHCR, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNRWA, IOM, as well as UNDSS and represented the second such delivery in two weeks. On the way from Damascus to Aleppo, the convoy encountered more than 50 checkpoints, of which many were run by armed opposition groups. In Aleppo, cross-line field visits were conducted to the neighbourhoods of Bustan Al Qasr and Salaheddin, where the mission visited a local hospital and a SARC warehouse. Assistance delivered included food aid and essential non-food items for 71,000 people, as well as medical supplies and surgical kits for up to 172,000 people.

*Insecurity continues to endanger humanitarian workers in Syria.*

## **Death of Aleppo relief worker highlights security challenges**

Overall insecurity continues to endanger the lives of humanitarian workers in Syria. On 14 April, a member of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) was killed as a result of mortar fire whilst on duty at a SARC Aleppo warehouse in Mashahad, an area under armed opposition control. A SARC volunteer was also wounded in the attack. So far, eighteen SARC members have been killed in the conflict.

## **Overwhelming health needs across Syria**

### **50 out of 88 public hospitals out of service or partially functional**

The Syrian health system has been severely damaged and disrupted. Some 57 per cent of all public hospitals have been damaged or destroyed, with 37 per cent currently out of service, WHO reports. Many health professionals have fled the country, leaving health facilities with fewer staff with the necessary expertise to treat trauma, anesthesia and undertake specialized laboratory functions. For health workers who remain, it is often difficult to report to work. In Damascus, Aleppo and Homs, an estimated 70 per cent of health workers live in rural areas and are frequently unable to travel due to insecurity.

### **Hospitals forced to perform surgery without anesthetics for lack of supplies**

Lack of fuel and electricity has forced many hospitals to operate with reduced capacity, despite being overburdened with patients. For example, the main referral hospital in Lattakia receives an emergency patient every 32 seconds on average, far exceeding their capacity, according to WHO.

Health staff also lack basic supplies. During a visit to a hospital in Aleppo City in mid-April, humanitarian partners witnessed such shortages first-hand. While the hospital had treated a reported 3,500 war wounded patients so far, it had no blood bank and at times performs surgery without anesthetics or even suture thread. Similar conditions have been reported from other areas. The most urgent needs highlighted by medical staff included medicines for hypertension, asthma and diabetes, Leishmaniasis medication and supplies for trauma injuries, IV fluids and sodium chloride. Spare parts for medical equipment and hemodialysis machines are also needed.

### **Increasing number of women opt for C-section to avoid unattended birth**

An increasing number of women are reportedly opting for C-sections, in order to avoid the risk of unattended births. Many women make the choice based on security concerns. Covering the last few months, health data show a high percentage of C-sections of total deliveries in Homs (66 per cent), Aleppo (60 per cent) and Damascus (52 per cent). In other affected areas, an increase in the number of deliveries at home has been reported. In the absence of any skilled birth attendant, such deliveries may endanger the lives of both mothers and infants.

## **Humanitarian assistance targets IDP families**

### **UNHCR, international NGO partners provide NFIs to vulnerable IDPs**

During the reporting period, UNHCR dispatched essential non-food items to assist about 65,000 people in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Aleppo. Overall in 2013, UNHCR has reached 452,000 people through such assistance.

The Danish Refugee Council provided more than 22,000 people in Rural Damascus and Dera'a with essential non-food items and hygiene kits. Secours Islamique France supported some 5,350 IDP households (about 27,000 people) living in unfinished apartment building with similar assistance. Meanwhile, Premiere Urgence distributed hygiene kits covering 177,000 people, as well as non-food items to 77,000 people in Homs, Hama and Tartous governorates.

So far during the month of April, UNDP distributed non-food items and hygiene kits to about 33,000 people in Hassakeh, Deir Ez-Zor, Hama, Damascus and Rural Damascus. The distribution targeted IDP families.

*About 550,000 children get vaccinated against polio and measles, mumps and rubella.*

### **UNRWA assisted more than 30,000 Palestine refugees**

Over the reporting period, UNRWA assisted more than 30,000 Palestine refugees with essential items and food assistance. Assistance focused on Palestine refugees who are currently displaced from their place of residence in Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Dera'a and Lattakia.

### **UNDP starts cash-for-work programme in Hassakeh**

UNDP has commenced a cash-for-work programme in Hassakeh, generating much-needed job opportunities for IDPs. Workers under the programme will manufacture clothing for distribution to other IDPs and affected host communities.

## **Health sector support includes vaccines for 550,000 children**

### **550,000 children reached in current phase of national vaccination campaign**

A national vaccination campaign against mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) and polio is underway in schools and shelters hosting internally displaced people. Initial reports from six governorates indicate that around 550,000 children have received the vaccinations so far. The total figure is expected to be higher, as some districts have not yet reported results. The vaccination campaign will continue until the end of April.

### **Aleppo task force preparing contingency plans for epidemics**

A task force has been established in Aleppo in order to prepare contingency plans for possible epidemics during the upcoming summer months. UN staff in Aleppo have reported that almost the entire city of Aleppo is without electricity. Power outages in turn impact the provision of water, which remains very limited in large areas of the city. Lack of safe water and accumulation of solid waste in areas affected by the violence and areas of large IDP concentrations have raised considerable public health risks.

### **UNFPA delivers critical health, reproductive health services support**

In response to urgent needs in the health sector, UNFPA delivered four ambulances, two ventilators, and medical equipment to health facilities in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Aleppo over the reporting period. Access to ambulances remains challenging throughout many areas of the country as about 55 per cent of 520 ambulances have been damaged or destroyed. Around 7,500 women received reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care through UNFPA-supported maternal hospitals and mobile teams in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs. About 400 women received standard or caesarean-section delivery services through the use of reproductive health vouchers enabling them to access health care free of charge.

### **Mobile health teams have reached about 45,000 IDP children**

Since the beginning of the year, almost 45,000 children have been assisted through 50 mobile health teams operational across 12 governorates. About 40,000 children have received assistance from the Syrian Association for Health Promotion (SAHPD), while some 5,000 children have been assisted by the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA). These national NGOs aim to reach about 270,000 children who are internally displaced by the end of the year.

## **Water and sanitation support amid public health concerns**

### **WASH support by UNICEF and partners assists more than 5 million people**

The significant reduction in sanitation services and solid waste management that directly affects people's hygiene is raising serious health concerns, especially in view of the upcoming summer season when the risk of outbreak of communicable diseases is

*Refugee total nears 1.4 million with projections of 3.5 million refugees at the end of 2013 if flow continues at current pace.*

highest. UNICEF and partners are working to maintain critical WASH support. To date, UNICEF and partners have reached more than 5 million people with safe water and aim to reach an additional 5 million in the coming months through chlorination of water and repair of urban and rural water supply systems.

During the reporting period, the UNICEF-supported NGO Al Aoun reached 2,700 people with sanitation activities whilst SARC reached 1,350 beneficiaries in 6 collective shelters. Meanwhile, Secours Islamique, supported by UNICEF raised awareness among IDPs on hygiene promotion, reaching 3,200 beneficiaries

## Respite for children through school clubs

### UNICEF education support to 110,000 children across nine governorates

Some 20 per cent of Syria's schools are currently non-operational due to damage or usage as collective shelters. School attendance has declined drastically, with hundreds of thousands of children missing their education. In Aleppo for example, only 140,000 out of 1.2 million children (6 per cent) are able to go to school.

UNICEF provides remedial classes and psycho-social support to children through 330 school clubs in the governorates of Dera'a, Rural Damascus, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs, Quneitra and Deir Ez-Zor. Over 85,000 children benefit from such activities.

Delivery of schools supplies, recreation kits and music kits by UNICEF to the Ministry of Education in Aleppo will assist almost 25,000 children. Countrywide, a total of 154,000 children have received schools supplies from UNICEF.

### School repairs continue despite insecurity

The Danish Refugee Council has rehabilitated three schools in Damascus. Another nine schools were provided with educational equipment. Meanwhile, Action Contre la Faim-Spain has completed the rehabilitation of five schools in Hassakeh. In total, these projects by international NGO partners will benefit more than 5,000 children.

## Refugee numbers could reach 3.5m end-year

### 400,000 new Syrian refugees over last seven weeks

Speaking to the UN Security Council on 18 April, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, noted that some 400,000 refugees had fled Syria in the last seven weeks. This brings the total number of Syrians registered or awaiting registration to almost 1.4 million people. If the current pace of flight continues, there will be an estimated 3.5 million Syrian refugees by the end of the year. Meanwhile the number of people requiring urgent assistance inside the country has already reached 6.8 million. Guterres therefore warned the Security Council that without an end to the fighting, almost half of the Syrian population could be in need of humanitarian assistance by the end of 2013. These figures are "terrifying", Guterres underlined.

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 22 April 2013
Egypt	50,416
Iraq	134,915
Jordan	441,756
Lebanon	431,110
Turkey	313,232
North Africa	10,052
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,381,481</b>

Source: UNHCR as of 22 April 2013. For updated figures and more information, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrian-refugees>. Above figures are based on numbers registered in each country and/or those who are assisted while waiting for registration. In addition to the above figures, around 28,000 Syrians have fled to various European countries.

*Humanitarian funding for the Syria crisis has increased over recent weeks; Kuwait is now the biggest donor.*

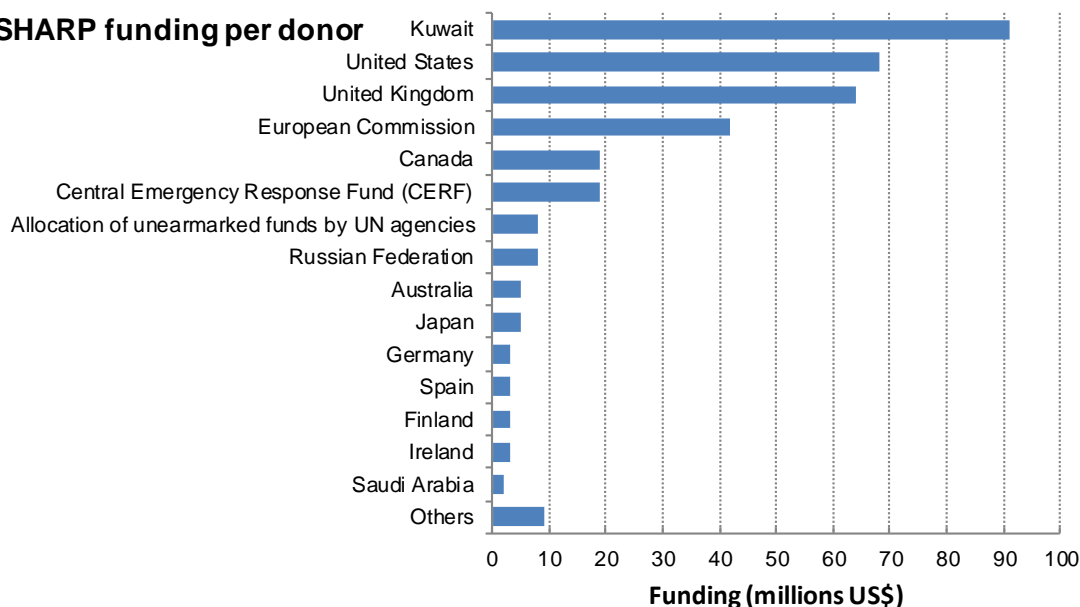
## Positive trend in humanitarian funding

### Kuwait converts US\$300 million pledge for Syria crisis

The funding situation for humanitarian action in Syria and neighbouring countries has improved. The Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP), covering activities between January and June is now over 62 per cent funded, up from 40 per cent two weeks ago and only 21 per cent mid-March. Last week, a pledge of US\$300 million by Kuwait was converted into funding commitments. Most of the funds will be channeled through UN agencies and target inter-sectoral work, such as in health and education, as well as interventions by the ICRC and IOM. Just above US\$90 million of the total Kuwait contribution has been allocated to the SHARP.

The total pledges made at the January Kuwait conference amounted to more than US\$1.5 billion. So far, donors have committed more than US\$700 million. This leaves about US\$800 million, or more than half of the January Kuwait Conference pledges, uncommitted.

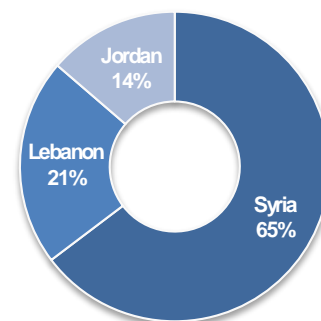
### SHARP funding per donor



Funding received against the SHARP by donor, as registered by 22 April 2013. (Source: Financial Tracking Service)

### Emergency Response Fund set to increase allocations

Two additional pledges to the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) were recorded during the reporting period. This includes a contribution of US\$7 million from Kuwait (second contribution). The total amount for the ERF (paid and pledges) is now US\$43.8 million. As of 22 April, the ERF has allocated US\$19.1 million to 66 projects. Some 65 per cent of allocations have been made to projects inside Syria, with 21 per cent to Lebanon and 14 per cent to Jordan, respectively. There are currently 24 project proposals, values at US\$7.7 million at different stages of the review and approval process.



For further information, please contact:

**Raul Rosende**, Head of Office Syria, [rosende@un.org](mailto:rosende@un.org), Tel. (+963) 953300075

**Aurelien Buffler**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, [buffler@un.org](mailto:buffler@un.org), Tel. (+1) 917 680 8315

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