

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mounting concerns that public health crisis may aggravate Syria humanitarian situation.
- 420,000 Palestine refugees unable to meet basic needs.
- UN inter-agency cross-line assistance to almost 1 million Syrians despite security and access challenges.
- Syrian refugee population up by nearly 1 million people since January.

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	1,528,924

FUNDING

\$563 million

requested for humanitarian assistance inside Syria (January-June 2013)

66% funded (as of 20 May 2013)

\$1 billion

requested under the Regional Response Plan (January-June 2013)

73% funded (as of 20 May 2013)



In this issue

- Public health risks up in summer season P.1
- Health sector on brink of collapse P.2
- Cross-line assistance to Homs and Idlib P.3
- Donors step up funding P.6

Public health concerns amid deepening humanitarian needs in Syria

Public health risks increase with onset of summer

With the onset of summer, temperatures are expected to soar across Syria. The rise in temperatures takes place amid shortages of safe water and accumulation of solid waste, raising concerns of an impending public health crisis. Contaminated water supplies pose a major risk in several affected governorates. Poor hygiene practices in densely populated areas, as well as in collective shelters increase the risk of epidemic disease outbreaks. Solid waste collection and disposal has also been severely disrupted, including in parts of Aleppo, Homs, Deir Ez-Zor, Idlib and Rural Damascus, where solid waste management represents a growing health concern.

Inter-agency assessment in Homs and Hama reveals deep needs

An inter-agency mission to Homs and Hama governorates on 13 May visited Bourj Al Kha'l, Kafr Laha, Al Houla and Talaf. Participants included WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, OCHA and UNDSS, in addition to IOM and SARC. An estimated 70,000 people reside in these areas, including around 35,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The humanitarian situation has deteriorated significantly in these areas over the last three months as people have exhausted their coping mechanisms. In locations visited by the team, food availability has diminished, access to adequate water and sanitation remains limited, and access to medical supplies and health care is constrained. Many residents have lost livestock and been unable to tend to their agricultural land out of fears of violence. Initial assistance included food, supplementary food, medicines, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and other essential items, as well as educational materials.

Safe access for humanitarian aid workers must be ensured

The continuation of violence continues to impede access to many localities in need of humanitarian assistance. Access to areas of Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Idlib, Dera'a, Deir Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Quneitra, Al Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa is particularly challenging.

On 20 May, a staff member of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) was shot dead on his way to work in Al Hassakeh governorate. A total of 20 SARC staff members have been killed since the onset of the crisis. Last week, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) reported that one staff member was killed in Dera'a. Since March 2011, six UNRWA staff have been killed, while eleven staff have been injured.

All parties to the conflict are reminded of their obligations under International Humanitarian Law and the need to provide access for humanitarian workers to reach those in need, whoever they are and wherever they are located.

Assistance to 10,000 IDPs who fled from Baniyas in Tartous

UN agencies based at the humanitarian hub in Tartous City provided immediate assistance to people who fled the recent violence in Baniyas district of Tartous

Over 420,000 Palestine refugees unable to meet basic needs; more than 60,000 have left for Lebanon, Jordan.

Governorate. Thousands of families left Baniyas for nearby villages, such as Zamrin, Breej and Mrah. IDPs have also been able to access Tartous City. Among an estimated 6,000 IDPs who have sought refuge in Zamrin, about 90 per cent are women and children. The UN inter-agency team reported that many families had been separated from male members. So far, WFP has provided food assistance to 10,000 people. Another 3,000 people have been provided with essential non-food items from UNHCR, Premiere Urgence and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA). UNICEF will be providing water and sanitation support to IDPs in collective shelters and two camps located in Tartous City.

Health services on brink of collapse

Health sector increasingly unable to provide services

The Syrian health system has been severely disrupted due to the conflict. A collapsed health care infrastructure, reduced workforce and lack of essential medicines, supplies and health professionals seriously undermine the capacity to deliver primary and secondary health care. Health facilities and local pharmacies are increasingly unable to provide medicines for patients who require treatment for chronic diseases. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, a Washington think tank, an estimated 30,000 Syrian doctors have left the country and that medical personnel and facilities continue to come under attack.

Requests for C-sections spike as reproductive health care deteriorates

According to UNFPA, the reproductive health care system in Syria continues to deteriorate. An increasing number of pregnant women in conflict-affected areas are requesting an elective C-section due to concerns that they will be unable to reach clinics and hospitals in time for delivery. In many affected areas, the C-section rate now accounts for over 50 per cent of all facility deliveries, as compared to less than 30 per cent prior to the conflict.

UNRWA services to Palestine refugees undermined

Operations of UNRWA schools and clinics severely disrupted

UNRWA health centres continue to face closures and interruptions to services due to the on-going violence. Of 23 UNRWA clinics in Syria, 10 are closed and five are only partially operational. Agency schools suffer similar interruptions. On 14 May, only 36 per cent of UNRWA students were able to attend school. Out of 118 schools across Syria, only 47 were operational. Some 21 schools are housing displaced refugees and the remaining 50 schools are completely closed. In Damascus alone, only 15 out of 82 schools are currently operating. To enhance access to displaced Palestine refugee children, the Agency has secured the use of 20 non-UNRWA schools from the Ministry of Education.

420,000 Palestine refugees unable to meet basic needs

According to UNRWA, over 420,000 Palestine refugees hosted in Syria are now unable to meet basic food needs and require urgent assistance. Difficulties in accessing drinking water, food, electricity and essential items continue to increase deprivation among the Palestine refugee community across the country. Approximately 235,000 refugees are displaced within the country. UNRWA is providing shelter to 8,200 displaced refugees as well as some Syrian IDPs in 21 of its 200 facilities.

North of Aleppo, the Ein Al Tal camp remains deserted due to violence in and around the camp. In the Damascus area, Yarmouk, Sbeineh, Husseinieh, Khan Eshieh and Qabr Essit continue to be heavily affected with many UNRWA facilities closed and the majority of refugees displaced. To date, some 52,000 Palestine refugees have fled to Lebanon, while another 8,200 refugees have left for Jordan.

Inter-agency cross-line convoys have reached hard-to-access areas with assistance for nearly 1 million people.

Cross-line convoys to hot spot areas continue

Assistance to 100,000 people in hard-to-access areas of Homs and Idlib

Despite insecurity and operational challenges, food and other relief items reached hot spot areas in Homs and Idlib governorates over the reporting period. On 7 May, food assistance, hygiene kits and NFIs to cover 5,000 people were delivered for distribution in Jaboren, Krad Dasnin, Kafr Nan and Tasnen in Homs Governorate. On 8 May, inter-agency assistance to cover up to 70,000 people was provided to Al Houla, west of Homs City. The convoy included the participation of WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNDSS, OCHA and IOM and carried food, hygiene kits and non-food items. On 16 May, relief items reached Sarneem (food assistance for 6,000 people) and Idlib City (food, NFIs and children's clothes for 20,000 people) in Idlib Governorate.

Almost 1 million people have received aid from inter-agency convoys

Starting from the end of January, 14 inter-agency humanitarian assistance convoys have assisted a total of 975,000 people. Assistance has reached hard-to-access areas in Homs, Idlib, Aleppo and Deir Ez-Zor. While about 500,000 children in these areas have been vaccinated against Mumps, Measles and Rubella (MMR), another 475,000 people have been assisted through the provision of food, essential non-food items and health supplies, including medicines.

UNICEF steps up WASH support across Syria

1.6 million people benefit from UNICEF water purification

UNICEF continues to support water purification through provision of sodium hypochlorite. During the reporting period, more than 160 tonnes of chlorine were provided by UNICEF to As-Suweida, Damascus, Deir Ez-Zor and Al Hassakeh governorates. An estimated 1.6 million people benefitted from this intervention.

Humanitarian partners are providing water trucking and distribution of hygiene kits to affected areas. In Al Hassakeh, Action Contre Faim has completed the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities with the support of UNICEF. Around 5,000 children have been assisted through the project.

Clean water to an estimated 2.1 million people in multiple governorates

UNICEF continues the distribution of generators to governorates across Syria. The project will enable water pumping stations to function without long interruptions and thus reduce the risks of outbreaks of water borne diseases. Over the last two weeks, generators were dispatched to Homs, Rural Damascus, Hama and Quneitra. Per capita availability has decreased to one-third of pre-crisis levels in all affected areas. UNICEF estimates that a total of 2.1 million people will benefit from the intervention.

Hygiene kits from Premiere Urgence to almost 210,000 people

Since the beginning of the year, Premiere Urgence has distributed more than 40,000 hygiene kits in Homs, Hama and Tartous governorates. Such distributions have covered a total of almost 210,000 people.

Health interventions include vaccinations to more than 1 million children

MMR vaccine to 725,000 children; polio vaccine to 505,000 children

A total of 725,000 children have received Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccines, while another 505,000 children have been vaccinated against polio, according to reports received from 8 out of 14 governorates. The national vaccination campaign is run by the Ministry of Health and supported by UNICEF and WHO. The campaign targets an overall number of 2.5 million children, mainly in IDP shelters, schools and health facilities. Due to

UNCHR has provided NFIs to 860,000 Syrians so far in 2013.

access constraints, especially in Ar-Raqqa, Homs and Rural Damascus, the national campaign has been extended until the end of May.

WHO medical supplies to more than 30,000 people in hot-spot locations

Over the last two weeks, WHO provided medical supplies to locations in Homs, including Al Houla, to cover a total of more than 30,000 people. Supplies included emergency health kits for 10,000 people for three months; health kit supplementary units for 20,000 people for 3 months; and other kits and supplies covering 2,600 people.

Over the reporting period, UNHCR delivered urgently needed relief items to 300 mental health patients in Ibn Khaldoun Hospital in Aleppo.

UNFPA reproductive health support to 5,800 women

Through UNFPA-supported programmes, around 4,600 women received reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care. Mobile health teams supported by UNFPA continued to deliver reproductive health and psycho-social support services. Over the reporting period, the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) and the Syrian Association for Health Promotion and Development (SAHPAD) provided reproductive health services assistance to 1,200 women in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs and Hama. The expansion of the UNFPA reproductive health voucher system in Homs, Damascus and Aleppo continues in order to support enhanced access to services free of charge.

WFP assistance targets 2.5 million Syrians

WFP May distribution to assist 2.5 million people across all governorates

WFP completed the April food distribution cycle in early May, reaching approximately 2.25 million people across the country out of a 2.5 million target. The discrepancy between the target and those reached was due to suspension of operations for a full week in April due to access constraints. In May, WFP continues to target 2.5 million people, dispatching assistance to all 14 governorates of the country.

55,000 small-scale farmers and herders have received FAO assistance

FAO is implementing emergency programmes to support small-scale farming and herder households in the crisis-affected governorates of Al Hassakeh, Deir Ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Idlib, Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Dera'a and As-Suweida. Since January this year, FAO has been able to reach around 6,850 families, assisting approximately 55,000 people.

NFIs from UNCHR to 860,000 people in 2013

UNHCR provided NFIs to 150,000 people; has reached 860,000 this year

During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to distribute much-needed relief items to almost 150,000 people. Recent distributions have mainly targeted IDPs in Tartous, Damascus, Homs, Hassakeh and Aleppo. Since January this year, UNHCR has provided essential non-food relief supplies to nearly 860,000 people.

70,000 IDPs assisted in Lattakia, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Idlib and As-Suweida

Other humanitarian partners also continued the delivery of NFIs. IOM distributed essential items to cover over 13,000 IDPs in Lattakia, Damascus and Rural Damascus. UNICEF in cooperation with NGOs completed distribution of shelter kits, cooking kits and clothes in support of 27,000 IDPs living in unfinished buildings in Rural Damascus. Meanwhile, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provided clothes, mattresses and blankets to 30,000 people in Idlib and As-Suweida governorates.

More than 1.5 million Syrian refugees, as outflow continues unabated.

UNRWA NFIs, food and cash assistance to 11,000 Palestine refugees

Over the past two weeks, UNRWA distributed essential non-food items, food assistance and cash assistance to more than 11,000 beneficiaries in Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Dera'a and Lattakia. In 2013, more than 215,000 Palestine refugees have received UNRWA cash assistance. Since the onset of the crisis, such assistance has reached more than 400,000 Palestine refugees.

Humanitarian partners support struggling education sector

104,000 children received remedial classes, psycho-social support

Remedial education and psycho-social support continued to be provided in 355 schools clubs with the support of UNICEF. Schools clubs are currently operational in the nine governorates of Dera'a, Rural Damascus, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs, Quneitra, Damascus and Deir Ez-Zor. A total of nearly 104,000 children benefited from these interventions. Following current school exams, additional clubs are expected to commence activities in Al Hassakeh and Idlib.

Distribution of schools supplies to 24,000 children in Aleppo

School supplies, recreation kits and music kits provided by UNICEF have been distributed to children in 81 schools across Aleppo Governorate. Five of the schools were located in hard-to-access areas. Some 24,000 children have benefited from the delivery. The school attendance rate in Aleppo has been particularly low, at a reported 6 per cent earlier this year. Many children struggle to access schools given the violence.

Community support amid the violence

Humanitarian partners continue rehabilitation of collective shelters

While the violence continues, humanitarian partners remain engaged on shelter rehabilitation. DRC has rehabilitated 18 collective shelters in Rural Damascus, Homs and Tartous, benefitting more than 1,500 IDPs. An agreement to rehabilitate an additional 40 collective shelters has been agreed with the Ministry of Local Administration. These shelters are located in Damascus, Homs, Dera'a, Aleppo and Rural Damascus. Premiere Urgence is also in the process of completing shelter rehabilitation works, including seven collective shelters in Tartous and five such shelters in Homs.

IOM resettlement and repatriation assistance to refugees, migrants

During the reporting period, IOM organized the transportation for more than 150 refugees from Damascus. Travel arrangements are being finalised for an additional 670 refugees. Over 12,500 non-Syrian refugees have been resettled since the onset of the conflict, primarily to the United States, Canada and Australia. Moreover, some 60 vulnerable migrants have been evacuated from Syria over the past fortnight. This brings the total of such IOM evacuations to over 3,500 since the start of these activities in December 2011.

Syrian refugee total now beyond 1.5m people

Refugee population up by almost 1 million from January 2013

The flow of Syrian refugees to neighbouring countries and North Africa continues unabated. An estimated 1 million people have fled Syria in 2013 alone and the total number has now passed 1.5 million. Some 51 per cent of refugees are children and 76 per cent of refugees are living in urban areas outside camps. UNHCR has highlighted the unprecedented strain placed on communities, infrastructure and services in host countries. In response, humanitarian actors are focused on alleviating the burden on host Governments and mitigating tensions between refugee and local communities. Response

Despite recent contributions, Syria Humanitarian Assistance Plan remains only 66 per cent funded.

partners are planning to expand cash-based interventions in order to fulfill multi-sectoral needs and address challenge such as limited access to livelihoods and rising living costs.

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 20 May 2013
Egypt	68,865
Iraq	148,028
Jordan	474,405
Lebanon	476,838
Turkey	350,736
North Africa	10,052
Total	1,528,924

Source: UNHCR as of 20 May 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.

New refugee camps under construction amid congestion

Around 350,000 Syrian refugees are staying in 17 camps in Turkey, two camps and two transit camps in Jordan and two camps in Iraq. To address congestion challenges, the authorities in all three countries are in the process of new camp construction to accommodate additional arrivals.

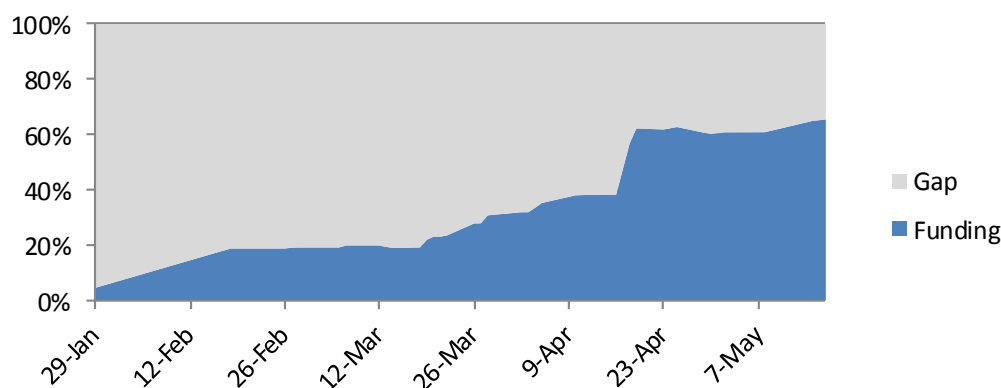
Revised regional response plan to be launched on 7 June

The Syria Regional Response Plan is under revision by UN agencies, humanitarian partners and host Governments. The new appeal (RRP5) will cover the period until the end of December 2013 and will be launched on 7 June; at the same time as the launch of the revised Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP).

Donors step up humanitarian funding

SHARP 66 per cent funded ahead of revision, expansion of appeal

Donors are stepping up funding allocations to address humanitarian needs of the Syria crisis. Contributions in recent weeks include an additional \$100 million from the United States of America; €65 million from the European Commission; and £30 million from the United Kingdom. Despite such contributions, the humanitarian response inside Syria is only 66 per cent funded as per the original requirements covering the period from January to June 2013. As needs continue to outpace resources, the gap between available funds and the requirements on the ground are likely to continue to grow.



Funding trends of the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) from late January to mid-May 2013. Source: Financial Tracking Service.

Emergency Response Fund allocations reach more than \$27m

Last week, the Syria Emergency Response Fund (ERF) received a contribution of \$10 million from Kuwait, bringing overall contributions to nearly \$47 million. As of 20 May, the

ERF had allocated more than \$27 million to 91 projects in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. Recent allocations include 15 projects in Jordan at a combined value of more than \$4 million. Approved projects address priority interventions of the response in refugee camps as well as in host communities, particularly in urban areas that are still largely underserved. There are currently 18 project proposals at different stages of the review and approval process, amounting to a combined value of \$5.3 million. Additional project proposals to address needs in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq are expected to further increase ERF funding allocations in the short term.

For further information, please contact:

Raul Rosende, Head of Office Syria, rosende@un.org, Tel. (+963) 953300075

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

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org/crisis/syria | www.reliefweb.int