

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Civilians trapped in areas of Homs City as violence continues to escalate.
- Ability of aid agencies to deliver assistance undermined by insecurity, bureaucratic impediments.
- More than 1.7 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries, North Africa.
- Unmet requirements of the SHARP amount to \$905 million; sustainability of aid delivery in jeopardy.

### 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	1,717,871

### FUNDING

**\$1.4 billion**

requested for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

**36%** funded

**\$3 billion**

requested under the Regional Response Plan

**34%** funded



### In this issue

- Deepening concerns about Homs situation P.1
- Health risks increase over summer months P.2
- Supply shortages impact reproductive health P.2
- Funding fails to keep up with needs P.5

## Access constraints limit humanitarian response

### Humanitarian situation worsens as violence escalates in Homs

Heavy bombardment and shelling during the last week of June have raised concerns about the humanitarian situation in several areas of Homs, including the Old City. An estimated 2,000 civilians are trapped in the Old City and no safe passage has been offered by the parties to the conflict. Mediation efforts between the Government of Syria and armed opposition groups have so far been unsuccessful.

Government forces are also deployed in the Al Housm area, where an estimated 1,000 people are currently located. This area has been inaccessible to humanitarian partners for a prolonged period of time and people staying there have not received assistance for more than one year.

UN humanitarian agencies maintain a permanent presence in Homs City and continue to call for access to affected areas, as well as safe passage for civilians wishing to leave, in line with obligations under international humanitarian law. To meet an upsurge in needs, UN humanitarian stockpiles to cover the needs of 40,000 people have been pre-positioned across different locations of Homs City, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC).

### Humanitarian operations face severe access constraints

The access situation in Syria remains challenging as a result of insecurity and bureaucratic impediments. Such constraints are increasingly hampering the dispatch of emergency assistance and the importation of essential supplies.

During the last week of June, an inter-agency convoy intended for Idlib was diverted to Hama, due to security constraints. In Hama, the supplies were distributed to 2,000 newly displaced people from Homs and rural Hama. As previously reported, planned inter-agency convoys have not been able to access Moadamiyeh in Rural Damascus, where 25,000 people have been left without assistance for months. During a seven day period of negotiated access to the area, WFP made two unsuccessful attempts to deliver food and non-food items. On both occasions, the humanitarian convoy was accompanied by WFP staff up to the last checkpoint before entry to the town, but had to turn back due to ongoing hostilities. WFP reports that armed attacks on trucks carrying food assistance continue to disrupt deliveries to other areas in need.

UNICEF reports that mobile health teams in Rural Damascus, Homs and north-eastern governorates are facing increasing access challenges. Thousands of families in these governorates are known to be in urgent need of emergency health services and medicines. Agencies are also increasingly faced with obstacles and delays in getting approvals to dispatch medical supplies.

Lengthy customs procedures for imports of humanitarian goods and equipment continue to undermine the efficiency of the aid operation.

*Humanitarian partners coordinate response plans across sectors for potential communicable disease outbreaks.*

## Health concerns during hot summer months

### Heightened risks of communicable disease outbreaks

Risks of communicable disease outbreaks, including water-borne diseases such as watery diarrhea, typhoid, cholera and hepatitis are high, according to WHO. Population movement coupled with deterioration in environmental health conditions leave areas prone to such disease outbreaks during the hot summer months. An increase in measles cases and other infections has already been detected among people who have been displaced. There has also been a steady increase in the cases of acute diarrhea, especially in Rural Damascus, Idlib, Homs, Aleppo and Deir Ez-Zor. Meanwhile, national immunization coverage has dropped, from around 95 per cent in 2011 to 45 per cent this year.

WHO has pre-positioned supplies, including medicines and health kits in order to address a surge in infections. It has also developed a preparedness plan, devised to ensure a rapid response to any disease outbreak. Such preparedness and contingency planning activities are taking place in coordination with partners in the WASH sector.

## Insecurity, bureaucracy and sanctions impact women's reproductive health

### UNFPA reports shortages in reproductive health supplies and equipment

UNFPA and implementing partners are concerned by the implications of current insecurity, delays in transfers of payments in foreign currencies, bureaucratic banking procedures, and economic sanctions, which are causing shortages in the availability of reproductive health supplies and equipment in the market. Such challenges are affecting the timely delivery of reproductive health services for affected women.

An increasing number of pregnant women are opting for C-sections in order to avoid the risk of not reaching health facilities in time and thus having to give unattended birth. Another concern is self-reported induced abortions by women who are staying in collective shelters; an indication of the unmet needs for family planning.

Over the reporting period, UNFPA supported the provision of reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care to 7,300 women in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs. In addition, 3,600 women delivery services through reproductive health vouchers, ensuring access to services free of charge. Around 1,000 women received psycho-social support through UNFPA-assisted mobile teams in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Idlib and Hama. In order to improve delivery of reproductive health services and psycho-social support, UNFPA has expanded its field presence to the UN humanitarian hub in Tartous.

## Further currency devaluation limits access to basic commodities

### Currency devaluation leaves many Syrians unable to meet basic needs

The exchange rate of the Syrian pound to the US dollar has reached a record high. The Syrian pound now trades at 210 against the dollar, while the exchange rate in the informal sector has fluctuated between 185-225 pounds to the dollar. As a result of such depreciation, the Syrian pound has lost around 77 per cent of its value since the onset of the violence. Price hikes on basic food and fuel over the last two weeks have negatively affected the ability of many Syrians to access adequate food for their families.

On 25 June, WFP reported that families in Syria are increasingly resorting to begging for food to cope with shortages and high food prices in the market. Among respondents in a WFP survey, 9 per cent had turned to begging for food, up from 4 per cent in March. Respondents identified begging as the only remaining option to cope with the

*WFP food aid dispatched to 2.25 million people in all governorates of the country.*

deterioration in living conditions. Many Syrians are also reported to have switched to lower-quality food products in order to cut back on spending.

## WFP accelerates food aid dispatches

### **Food assistance to 2.25 million people dispatched across 14 governorates**

WFP has accelerated food dispatches across the country in anticipation of a decline in commercial services, including transport capacity, during the upcoming Holy Month of Ramadan. As a result, food dispatches for both the June and July distribution cycles are taking place in parallel. So far, WFP has dispatched food parcels for 2.25 million people across all 14 governorates of the country in partnership with SARC and 22 local charities. In addition, more than 5,600 metric tonnes of wheat flour, sufficient to cover 1.12 million people, have been dispatched for distribution in over the June cycle across 13 governorates. Such wheat flour distribution targets areas where availability of bread is considered insufficient.

Renewed fighting in Quneitra has resulted in renewed population displacement. In response, WFP increased its provisions to the governorate in order to reach an additional 10,000 people in need. In Aleppo, WFP has pre-positioned emergency food rations to support 25,000 people in anticipation of potential additional displacement as a result of hostilities. Such supplies have been pre-positioned in addition to regular food dispatches to Aleppo governorate, which already target 563,000 people.

## Partners respond to urgent health needs

### **Emergency supplies, equipment to Dera'a, Tartous, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hassakeh and Aleppo**

Through a delivery of medical supplies to Dera'a, WHO provided life-saving and essential medicines to more than 2,500 people. Health kits to cover a total of 45,000 people, as well as surgical supplies for 400 surgical interventions were also delivered. Emergency health kits to cover the needs of 10,000 people for one month have been provided to Tartous, in addition to supplies to treat 600 diarrhea cases. In Damascus, WHO supported the Ministry of Health through the delivery of essential and communicable disease medicines to cover more than 64,000 people.

UNHCR provided life-saving medicines to the amount of \$1.4 million to hospitals across the country. Supplies target primary health care services, especially treatment of acute and chronic diseases. UNHCR also provided 18 incubators to health facilities in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Hassakeh. At the end of June, UNHCR with the support of SARC delivered life-saving medicines and medical supplies to Zar Zour hospital in Aleppo. Such supplies will cover the needs of more than 6,100 people. Despite such deliveries, access to hospitals in hard-to-reach areas remains a significant challenge due to government restrictions.

### **IMC static and mobile clinics provide consultations to 7,840 people**

In the first three weeks of June, IMC in co-ordination with SARC provided more than 5,000 consultations at two static clinics in Barzeh and Jaramana in the Damascus area. Two mobile medical teams covering nine collective shelters in Damascus and two mobile units in the suburbs of Damascus provided a further 1,500 and 1,340 consultations, respectively.

## Drinking water provided to communities, IDPs

### **Safe drinking water to more than 52,000 people in Homs and Hama**

UNICEF continues to provide safe drinking water and sanitation services through the rehabilitation of water and sewage networks. In Homs governorate, more than 40,000 IDPs were provided with access to safe drinking water over the reporting period. Safe drinking water was also provided to more than 10,000 IDPs staying across 48 collective

*More than 200,000 people reached through NFI distribution over reporting period.*

shelters in Homs and Hama. Water trucking services to serve 2,000 IDPs in Albir in Homs continues.

### **Hygiene items to more than 542,000 IDPs across seven governorates**

During the reporting period, a total of more than 542,000 IDPs in Homs, Dera'a, Rural Damascus, Suweida, Aleppo, Tartous and Ar-Raqqa received hygiene kits and other hygiene items.

## **Support to children, vulnerable groups**

### **UNICEF support to 315,000 children through school clubs and supplies**

In cooperation with UNICEF, the Ministry of Education has established 60 new school clubs for 25,000 children in Deir Ez-Zor. This brings the total number of school clubs to 445, benefiting nearly 140,000 children across nine governorates. During the reporting period, more than 108,000 children in Aleppo, Hassakeh, Homs, Quneitra, Damascus and Rural Damascus received school supplies. Over 60,000 children staying in collective shelters in Homs, Tartous and Damascus received recreational kits in cooperation with a local partner. In Homs, UNICEF supports local NGOs, which are providing remedial classes to 7,500 students.

### **Psycho-social support provided in five governorates**

UNICEF and partners continue to provide psycho-social support services to children, adolescents and mothers. During the reporting period, psycho-social support was provided to nearly 2,000 children, in Tartous, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Lattakia. UNHCR also continues to provide psycho-social support, targeting displaced people in collective shelters. Over the reporting period, such assistance reached 655 people in Damascus and Rural Damascus.

## **UNWRA assistance to Palestine refugees**

### **UNWRA continues to provide food and essential supplies**

Palestine refugees continue to be affected by the crisis. More than 410,000 Palestine refugees used to live in Damascus, of whom almost half have now been displaced. Over the reporting period, UNRWA distributed food assistance to 12,500 refugees hosted in 21 Agency facilities and 11 non-UNRWA collective shelters. The Agency also distributed essential non-food items to displaced Palestine refugees in Damascus and Aleppo.

### **Assistance reaches Palestine refugees in Dera'a**

A cross-line inter-agency convoy to Dera'a on 19 June carried supplies for Palestine refugees in the governorate. People in Dera'a have been subjected to months of heavy fighting and the impact on the Palestine refugee community has been considerable. Assistance targeted refugees in two camps: Dera'a City and Mziereeb. In total, medical supplies to cover the needs of more than 30,000 refugees over the coming three months, as well as food assistance benefiting 3,000 Palestine refugees for the next six months were delivered.

## **NFIs to IDPs across multiple governorates**

### **NFI distribution to more than 200,000 people**

UNHCR delivered 12,000 family kits, covering a total of 60,000 people over the reporting period. Deliveries focused on affected areas in Aleppo where UNHCR has recently established new local partnerships. So far this year, UNHCR has provided essential items to more than 1,188,800 people across all 14 governorates of Syria.

During the reporting period, Premiere Urgence distributed relief items to more than 33,500 people. IOM reached more than 15,000 IDPs through cross-line assistance in Aleppo and Dera'a. More than 48,000 IDPs in Lattakia, Suweida, Hama, Homs, Quneitra,

*Number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa above 1.7 million.*

and Damascus also received assistance. IMC distribution of non-food items covered more than 1,500 women staying in collective shelters in Damascus. In addition, more than 3,600 people across eight collective shelters received community hygiene kits. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) distributed non-food items, food and hygiene kits to more than 29,000 people in Hassakeh between 12 and 24 June. To complement WFP assistance in the food sector, UNDP distributed kitchen sets to 10,000 displaced families across 12 governorates.

### On-going rehabilitation works in 99 collective shelters

UNHCR and implementing partners continue rehabilitation works in 99 collective shelters in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Tartous, Lattakia, Homs, Aleppo, Hassakeh, Hama, Dera'a and Quneitra. Some of the shelters are close to completion.

## More than 1.7 million Syrian refugees

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 28 June 2013
Egypt	87,527
Iraq	159,286
Jordan	494,021
Lebanon	572,224
Turkey	392,481
North Africa	12,332
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,717,871</b>

Source: UNHCR as of 28 June 2013. For updated figures and more information, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. The 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.

## Funding fails to keep up with needs in Syria

### Humanitarian response inside Syria only 36 per cent funded

While needs continue to grow and deepen across many areas of Syria, humanitarian funding is failing to keep pace. To date, the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) has received nearly \$505 million, leaving more than \$905 million in unmet requirements. If adequate funding is not received in a timely manner, the sustainability of life-saving assistance delivery will be in jeopardy by September.

### 100 projects have received ERF support

The Syria Emergency Response Fund (ERF) has witnessed rapid growth in contributions. Since its inception in March 2012, the Fund has received \$47.3 million in contributions. To date, the ERF has allocated \$31.6 million to 100 projects in Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon. Projects currently under review amount to around \$4.7 million.

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