

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Civilians trapped in sealed off areas have no access to food supplies and other basic commodities.
- One-third of Palestine refugees currently displaced within Syria and the region.
- More than 1.8 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa
- \$2.8 billion needed for the SHARP and RRP until the end of the year.

### 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	

### FUNDING

**\$1.4 billion**  
requested for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

**36%** funded

**\$3 billion**  
requested for under the regional Refugee Response Plan

**35%** funded



Photo: OCHA

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## Increased humanitarian needs in sealed-off areas

### Thousands in urgent need of relief in sealed off areas in Aleppo, Idlib, Rural Damascus and Homs

The escalation of violence throughout the country is resulting in growing vulnerability among the population, especially as civilians remain trapped in areas besieged by Government forces and armed opposition groups. For instance, in Aleppo, the Western part of the city encircled by opposition groups continues experiencing chronic shortages in food, fuel and other basic necessities. The free movement of the civilian population and safe passage of relief convoys remain difficult. Similarly in Idlib city, the siege by opposition forces, which has been going on for more than thirty days, is impacting on 400,000 people who face severe shortages of food, water, electricity and medicines for treatment of chronic diseases.

In Rural Damascus, several locations are increasingly difficult to access, leaving 1.2 million people in hard-to-reach areas in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Meanwhile, about 2,500 people are trapped in the Old City of Homs which has been under siege by Government forces for over a year. People lack food, safe drinking water and their health status is deteriorating rapidly. Despite the attempts made by humanitarian agencies to assist or evacuate civilians from the Old City, no safe passage has been offered by the parties to the conflict.

In a statement issued on 24 July, the International Committee of the Red Cross warned of possible tragic consequences if aid does not reach people in sealed off areas. It reminded all parties of their international humanitarian law obligations to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians and allow civilians in areas besieged by fighting to leave for safer areas should they wish to do so.

### Syrian children at risk of becoming a lost generation

Children constitute about half of the people in need in Syria and continue bearing the brunt of the conflict. According to the OHCHR, at least 6,500 of the estimated 93,000 people killed between March 2011 and April 2013 are minors, including over 1,700 below the age of ten. Children have been injured, detained, tortured, executed and forced to witness or commit atrocities. Many have been recruited as armed combatants with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic reporting 86 child combatants being killed in hostilities since March 2011. Hundreds of thousands of children have fled with their families to seek safety abroad.

With 16.5 per cent of Syria's 22,000 schools either damaged or used as shelters for internally displaced people, children's opportunities for education are also severely constrained.

During her visit to Syria and the region from 28 June to 18 July 2013, co-hosted by UNICEF, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, drew attention to the negative impact of

*Two out of three Syria's Palestine refugees displaced within Syria and to Lebanon and Jordan*

the Syria crisis on children. She stressed that Syria will face a generation of children who lost their childhood, have a lot of hate and are illiterate.

### **Emergency Relief Coordinator calls on the Security Council to help address the humanitarian challenges in Syria**

On 16 July, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Valerie Amos, together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Antonio Guterres, and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Ivan Šimonović, briefed the United Nations Security Council on the humanitarian and human rights situation in Syria as well as the situation faced by Syrian refugees in the region. They highlighted the humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Syria as well as the regional impact of the Syria crisis.

ERC Amos drew the Council's attention to the measures which would be required to address the challenges faced by the humanitarian community in providing aid to Syrians in need. These include, inter alia, the lifting of bureaucratic constraints, the use of humanitarian pauses in fighting, the designation of priority humanitarian routes, including across conflict lines, to allow safe passage of convoys, and, as appropriate, cross-border operations.

## **Palestine refugees increasingly caught up in violence**

### **Two in three Syria's Palestine refugees currently displaced**

The situation of Syria's 525,000 Palestine refugees continues to deteriorate as Palestine refugee camps come under increasing attack. UNRWA estimates that 420,000 Palestine refugees throughout Syria are currently in need of urgent assistance with 67 per cent of the total Palestine refugee community having been displaced since the onset of the crisis – 50 per cent within Syria (about 235,000) and 17 per cent to neighbouring Lebanon (about 85,000) and Jordan (over 8,000).

During the reporting period, the escalating violence in Damascus has severely impacted the Palestine refugee community living there. In particular, heavy bombardment and shelling in the area around Yarmouk, Qabr Essit, Sbeineh and Husseiniyah camps has led to destruction and a number of casualties. Intense clashes and shelling also persist in the vicinity of the Dera'a refugee camp whilst fierce hostilities in Homs have resulted in a number of shells and stray bullets impacting the refugee camp there.

Ongoing violence continues to claim lives of UNRWA workers. On 14 July, an UNRWA staff member died after having suffered injuries from an exploded shell in Yarmouk, bringing to seven the total number of UNRWA staff members who have been killed as a result of the conflict.

## **Overview of the humanitarian response**

### **Twenty-one cross-line convoys realized in 2013, reaching nearly 1.8 million people**

From 31 January 2013 to date, United Nations agencies - with the support of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the Logistic Cluster, UNDSS and OCHA - have organized twenty-one cross-line relief convoys to hard-to-reach areas in Aleppo, Dera'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs and Idlib governorates, benefiting 1,781,600 people in Government-controlled, opposition-controlled and contested areas. Assistance included food, essential non-food items, health and wash supplies, high energy biscuits, as well as vaccines against Mumps, Measles and Rubella.

The United Nations and partners continue organizing cross-line convoys to hard-to-reach areas, complementing the agencies' regular programme delivery, including across conflict lines. However, challenges remain in terms of security, access, shifting frontlines and administrative procedures.

*WFP food aid dispatched to 2.4 million people throughout the country.*

### **3 million people targeted with food assistance**

WFP continues providing food assistance throughout the country working in partnership with twenty-two local non-governmental organisations. 2.4 million people have been reached during the July dispatch cycle which targets a total of 3 million beneficiaries. The July dispatches, which commenced on 23 June in anticipation of a decline in transport services during the Holy Month of Ramadan, have been completed in five of Syria's fourteen governorates. They have been delayed due to road insecurity in some areas of Hassakeh, Idleb, Deir-ez-Zor, and Rural Damascus.

### **UNRWA provides essential assistance to Palestine refugees**

UNRWA continues providing food, essential non-food items and cash assistance to Palestine refugees throughout the country. Over the past two weeks, a total of 15,464 food parcels and 77,933 units of canned foods were delivered. The agency also distributed food for about 17,300 displaced Palestine refugees staying in 19 UNRWA facilities and 10 non-UNRWA collective shelters. Moreover, non-food items were delivered to displaced refugees. A total of nearly 164,400 refugees have received such essential items since the beginning of the crisis, including 142,600 people during the course of 2013.

In July, UNRWA provided cash assistance to about 93,000 refugees in Damascus, thus bringing to over 277,800 the total number of people who benefited from cash assistance in 2013. In view of the growing needs and the rising exchange rate of the Syrian pound to the US dollar, UNRWA has raised the level of cash assistance to SYP6,000 per person. Cash distribution since March 2011 has reached about 401,000 people, to the value of more than 2.1 billion Syrian Pounds.

### **Life-saving medical equipment and supplies airlifted to Qamishy by UNHCR**

Humanitarian partners continue providing essential health supplies and support to address the increasing needs of the population. Given the increasing difficulties in accessing Syria's north-eastern cities by land, on 24 July, UNHCR in coordination with the Ministry of Health, airlifted life-saving medical equipment worth more than \$260,000, including eight incubators, two ultrasound machines one hemodialysis machine and other relief items to Qamishy airport. From there, the items were subsequently delivered to health facilities in Hassakeh whilst relief supplies will be distributed to vulnerable families in the governorate. The hemodialysis machine airlifted to Qamishy is one of 19 hemodialysis machines that UNHCR brought into Syria this year for hospitals in Damascus (5 machines), Rural Damascus (3), Deir-ez-Zour (3), Dara'a (2), Sweida (2) and Hassakeh (4).

### **Essential medical interventions provided by WHO and UNICEF**

WHO, working in partnership with thirty-six local NGOs, provided primary health care services throughout the country. Medical interventions and supplies were provided to about 55,200 people in Aleppo (35,000), Damascus (4,200), Homs (4,500), Hassakeh (7,500) and Lattakia (4,000) whilst health kits were delivered to 214,350 people in the same governorates (Damascus: 80,000; Homs: 124,000; Hassakeh: 10,000; and Lattakia: 350).

More than 153,000 children have been reached with medical checkups through 51 UNICEF-supported mobile medical teams in Syria's fourteen governorates and the fixed centres in Damascus, Quneitra and Rural Damascus. The aim is to reach a total of 570,000 IDP children by the end of this year. UNICEF also provided 30 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to cover the needs of 30,000 people and dispatched high energy biscuits for 17,500 children and diarrhea kits for 1,800 cases in Lattakia, as well as first aid kits for 5,000 people in Homs.

Meanwhile, 4,000 people benefited from health and nutrition awareness sessions through UNHCR-supported Community Centres opened in late May/early June in Dera'a, Sweida and Tartous. The work of these centres has quickly expanded in the first five weeks of operation and is set to accelerate further before the end of the year.

### **11,600 women receive reproductive health support through UNFPA and partners**

During the reporting period, UNFPA through the Syrian Family Planning Association and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent supported women's access to reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care. A total of 11,600 women benefited from UNFPA initiatives in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, and Rural Damascus. Another 3,800 women were provided with emergency care services, including normal and C-section deliveries, in maternal hospitals in Aleppo and Damascus. UNFPA also delivered 10,000 intra-venous fluids to the main hospital in Damascus under the Ministry of Health serving vulnerable people and IDPs.

### **WASH assistance provided to thousands of people in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus and Tartous**

Thousands of people continue receiving safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation services through initiatives supported by United Nations agencies and partners. About 40,000 people have benefited from a UNICEF-supported water and sewage system rehabilitation project and water tracking activities in Homs governorate whilst nearly 5,400 people received drinking and washing water from Premiere Urgence in Rural Damascus. Moreover, the Danish Refugee Council completed the rehabilitation of eleven communal shelters in Aleppo (6) and Homs (5), including the rehabilitation of WASH systems, reaching close to 3,000 beneficiaries.

During the reporting period, UNICEF and UNDP provided soap and hygiene kits as well as hygiene awareness raising sessions to cover the needs of more than 125,000 people in Aleppo, Damascus, Dera'a, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, and Tartous. Premiere Urgence continued distributing hygiene kits in Hama, Homs, Damascus and Tartous reaching 388,440 people since the beginning of the year.

### **More than 55,000 displaced people benefit from shelter rehabilitation**

The Shelter Working Group partners have completed the rehabilitation of 76 collective shelters in Aleppo, Damascus, Hassakeh, Homs, Rural Damascus, and Tartous. In addition, Premiere Urgence rehabilitated seven communal shelters in Tartous and three in Homs, the Danish Refugee Council rehabilitated eleven shelters in Aleppo and Homs and IOM completed the rehabilitation of 28 shelters in Aleppo.

### **Over 1.5 million people reached by UNHCR and partners with urgently needed relief items and cash assistance**

During the reporting period, UNHCR's delivery of urgently needed relief items focused on hard-to reach-areas in Aleppo. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has reached more than 1.4 million with essential items in all Syria's fourteen governorates. UNHCR also continued providing cash assistance to IDPs, reaching 19,000 people in Qamishly. In total, UNHCR has provided cash assistance to nearly 48,800 people in Damascus, Homs, Qamishly and Tartous.

UNDP, through partners, distributed relief items to 11,900 people, Premiere Urgence distributed winterization kits to nearly 93,000 people and IOM provided NFIs for over 22,200 people.

### **More than 156,000 children reached through 457 UNICEF-supported school clubs**

UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and other partners, continues protecting children's right to education through the support of 457 school clubs in Damascus, Dara'a, Deir ez-Zour, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Quneitra, Rural Damascus, and Tartous. The clubs offer remedial classes and recreational activities to 156,461 children - about 50 per cent of them girls. UNICEF has also delivered remedial classes to 5,500 adolescent students in the Al-Waer area of Homs. Over 2,800 boys and girls in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Homs have also been assisted with various types of vocational training courses offered by UNICEF, UNHCR and other educational partners,

*“We have not seen a refugee outflow escalate at such a frightening rate since the Rwandan genocide almost twenty years ago”*

*Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

including the Danish Refugee Council, Premiere Urgence, and the Syrian Society for Social Development.

United Nations agencies and partners continue supporting schools with teaching and learning materials. During the period under review, UNICEF distributed supplies for 2,000 children in Aleppo whilst a local partner, the Syrian Society for Social Development, provided stationary for 180 children in Rural Damascus.

### **Psycho-social support provided to survivors of Gender Based Violence**

With UNFPA’s assistance, 3,400 women residing in shelters in Aleppo, Damascus, Homs, Idlib, and Rural Damascus psycho-social support services and referrals for reproductive health services. Moreover, 2,300 people residing in violence affected areas received assistance from UNFPA community and youth volunteers. During the reporting period, 60 women were screened for GBV in a comprehensive reproductive health facility and, as a result, 40 women received medical counseling, community support, legal counseling, and referrals services.

International Medical Corps, in coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, provided psychosocial support to more than 1,200 beneficiaries in Damascus and Rural Damascus, bringing to nearly 7,000 the number of people it assisted since the beginning of the crisis. Furthermore, IOM, in collaboration with the Syria Trust for Development, trained 30 shelter managers in the area of mental health and psychosocial support.

During the reporting period, two new Syrian Arab Red Crescent clinics were opened in Damascus and Rural Damascus under the UNHCR psycho-social support Mental Health Programme. These clinics will join two existing clinics aimed at providing a variety of psychosocial assistance to IDPs and refugees from a multidisciplinary team fully equipped with psychologists and psychiatrists.

### **Children cared for in absence of their parents**

On 23 July, IOM began the 6-month technical supervision of 35 caregivers from the SOS Children’s Village who are responsible for looking after 180 children, including 90 children who have recently fled from Aleppo.

### **Nearly 6,000 IDPs receive free legal assistance**

The Syrian Woman’s Union and the Danish Refugee Council continue providing legal counselling and awareness-raising on documentation and personal status law in Damascus and Rural Damascus. Since the beginning of the year 3,877 people were provided with legal advice/ assistance on personal status law, documentation and family law issues. A further 680 individuals received assistance with their legal interventions before courts, the Directorate of Civil Registry and police stations. Moreover, 1,311 IDPs received legal awareness sessions.

## **Over 1.8 million Syrians have fled to countries in the region**

### **An average of 6,000 people a day have fled Syria during 2013**

The number of people fleeing violence in Syria has reached over 1.8 million, escalating to an average of 6,000 a day during 2013, a rate that, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, had not been seen since the Rwandan genocide almost twenty years ago. As of 29 July, the number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa has reached 1,863,113.

*An additional \$2.8 billion needed to meet the needs of people in Syria and the region for the rest of 2013.*

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 29 July 2013
Egypt	101,418
Iraq	160,335
Jordan	505,804
Lebanon	653,329
Turkey	428,227
North Africa	14,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,863,113</b>

Source: UNHCR as of 29 July 2013. For updated figures and more information: <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.

## Limited funding seriously hampers the response

### Humanitarian response plan for Syria 36 per cent funded

The Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) remains seriously underfunded. So far, only 36 per cent of the required \$1.4 billion has been received, thus seriously hampering the ability of the humanitarian community to respond to the growing needs. Due to limited funds, humanitarian agencies might not be able to provide planned assistance after September. For instance, WFP has warned that, if no new contributions are received, its food stocks for Syrian IDPs will run out in the third week of September. Already this month, due to inadequate resourcing and the late arrival of some commodities, WFP had to reduce the ration of some supplies including pasta, vegetable oil, bulgur, and sugar.

### Regional refugee response interventions only 35 per cent funded

The regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) requires a total of \$2.9 billion to address the needs of 3.5 million Syrian refugees and 1.9 million host country nationals by the end of December 2013. So far, the plan has received only about \$1 billion, or 35 per cent, of required funds, which is insufficient to provide the necessary support to Syrian refugees and host communities whose coping capacity is seriously overstretched. An additional \$1.9 billion would be required to cover projects until the end of this year.

### 103 projects receive ERF funds in Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon

The Syria Emergency Response Fund (ERF), which was established in March 2012 and managed with OCHA's support, has received a total of \$49.5 million contributions for the implementation of projects in support of victims of the Syrian conflict. To date, \$31.6 million have been allocated for 103 projects in Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon. Nine additional project proposals with a value of \$2.8 million are currently under review.

During the reporting period, a new call for proposals for Lebanon was issued, prioritizing projects addressing needs in the health, WASH and shelter sectors. In this call, the ERF is expected to allocate \$5 million.

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