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HIGHLIGHTS

- Almost one-third of the population of Syria has been forcibly displaced; at least 4.25 million inside Syria and 2 million to countries in the region.
- Almost 2 million children drop out of school since the last academic year.
- Humanitarian aid workers continue to be at risk; the number of SARC volunteers killed rises to 22.
- UN response plans remain underfunded.

FIGURES

Population	21.4 m
# of people in need	6.8 m
# of IDPs	4.25 m
# of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries & North Africa	2 m
Population	21.4 m

FUNDING

\$1.4 billion

requested for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

45% funded

\$3 billion

requested for the Regional Refugee Response Plan

42% funded



More Syrians forcibly displaced than people from any other country

Almost one-third of the population in Syria is forcibly displaced

Across Syria, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate as new and shifting frontlines imperil communities. People in Syria flee violence, insecurity and lack of basic services, moving to new locations internally or seeking refuge outside the country.

Though the fluid humanitarian and security situation makes it very challenging to maintain up-to-date numbers, close collaboration with national and local partners informs existing and emerging needs, including displacement. Over the past weeks, a reported 20,000 people have been displaced to Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli. Towards the end of August, approximately 70,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) arrived in Adra Oumaliya, reportedly from surrounding settlements and villages and nearby urban areas of Damascus and Rural Damascus. Approximately 25,000 people have uprooted to Lattakia City from 30 villages in response to clashes in Lattakia over the past few weeks in response to violent conflict. Reports of on-going sectarian violence and destroyed homes in Al Maloula have forced families to relocate within the same community. Moreover, since mid-August, over 55,000 people are estimated to have fled to the Kurdish region of Iraq as clashes continue in the northern areas of Al-Hasakeh. The SHARP confirmed 4.25 million people displaced within Syria as of April 2013, and all recent indicators show that this number has grown by significantly.

With an estimated 5,000 Syrians fleeing their homes every day, more than 2 million people have become refugees, the United Nations refugee agency announced on 3 September, adding that there is no sign the “humanitarian calamity” will end anytime soon. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Antonio Guterres, warned in a statement released on the same day to mark the milestone: “This trend is nothing less than alarming, representing a jump of almost 1.8 million people in 12 months.”

Over 50 per cent of Palestine refugees from Syria displaced either within the country or in countries in the region

Shelling and clashes continue to take place in or nearby camps for Palestine refugees. UNRWA estimates over 50 per cent of registered Palestine refugees, approximately 235,000 people, are displaced either in Syria or to neighbouring countries. Around 45,000 Palestine refugees from Syria are receiving assistance in Lebanon and more than 8,800 in Jordan.

Two million children have dropped out of school since the last academic year

Almost 2 million children drop out of school

Syrian children drop out of school and work to support their families

Since the last school year, almost two million Syrian children have dropped out of school, nearly 40 per cent of all pupils registered in grades 1 to 9. Drop out numbers are staggering for a country that was close to achieving universal primary education before the onset of the conflict.

Indicative is what emerges from group discussions held in an IDP shelter in Aleppo during the reporting period where approximately 50 per cent of children between 6-12 years have been pushed to work to support their households because their fathers are disabled, missing or dead. Children reportedly worked over 12 hours per day. During the discussions, children complained about harsh working conditions, in addition to verbal abuse and beatings by other children and/or adults at work. Most of the children had dropped out of school for various reasons but all were eager to return home and continue their education.

UN inter-agency mission assesses needs in Dar'a

Almost one-third of health workers in Dar'a have left Syria

On 3 September, a joint humanitarian mission by FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNICEF, WHO and WFP, successfully reached hard-to-access areas of Dar'a City to assess the current humanitarian situation and deliver emergency relief items. Agencies capitalized on the mission to strengthen networks with local counterparts, conduct needs assessments and sites visits and monitor the distribution of items dispatched with the UN convoy on the previous day. The team observed large-scale destruction of houses and debris along the road.

An inter-agency assessment reports that almost one-third of the health workers in Dar'a have left Syria causing a serious shortage in the Governorate. Further, the public hospital is out of service with only some of the functions to be covered by the polyclinic. Many health centres in the villages surrounding Dar'a are not functioning and, therefore, mothers are reportedly walking for up to one hour to reach the vaccination services inside the City.

WFP's partners reported that up to 71,000 families (approximately 355,000 people) require food assistance in Dar'a. WFP allocates approximately 26,000 family rations, sufficient to feed 130,000 people, to the city each month. Bread was found to be available in the market but long queues were reported.

ERC Valerie Amos visits Damascus

On 5-6 September, Under Secretary-General, Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Valerie Amos, travelled to Damascus to discuss enabling strengthened humanitarian operations to meet the needs of vulnerable men, women and children in Syria. USG Amos' visit signalled the prioritization and commitment of the UN to delivering humanitarian assistance in Syria and marked the formal launch of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), a policy-strategic coordination body of UN agencies and international NGOs, with participation of SARC, IFRC and ICRC as observers. A key objective of the visit was to extend support to the 4,500 UN staff in Syria, working with ICRC, IFRC, SARC, NGOs and community organizations, to get help to the people who need it most, in government- and opposition-controlled areas.

Following the visit, USG Amos proclaimed via the media that Syria and its neighbouring countries are going through a humanitarian crisis on a scale we have rarely seen. More than one-third of the people of Syria urgently need humanitarian aid, but the crisis is affecting everyone with the depreciation of the currency and the destruction of essential infrastructure including health facilities. Inside Syria, protecting civilians is paramount.

Despite very difficult and dangerous conditions, humanitarian agencies continue delivering relief items to people in need throughout Syria and plan for contingencies

The rise in the level of sectarian and sexual violence and on-going human rights abuses are a major concern.

22 Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers have lost their lives since onset of the conflict

Two additional SARC volunteers killed whilst performing their humanitarian duties

On 27 August, two Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) volunteers died, alongside a number of civilians, including children, as a result of a mortar shell that landed in front of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's branch in Homs. Their tragic deaths bring the total number of SARC volunteers/staff members who have lost their lives since the onset of the crisis to 22, all of whom were killed while carrying out their humanitarian duties. This is in addition to the 11 UN staff, and untold numbers of NGO aid workers, killed in Syria during the same period. SARC remains the primary partner for UN agencies and International NGOs, enabling the delivery of life-saving assistance in Syria. Despite the very difficult and dangerous conditions, humanitarian aid organizations remain committed to continuing their work.

Humanitarian agencies deliver on-going response and plan for contingencies

WFP and partners deliver across conflict lines despite upsurge in violence and political tension

WFP reports that many areas in Syria have become largely inaccessible due to an upsurge in violence, proliferation of checkpoints around major cities, and road closures in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo, Idleb and Rural Damascus. Regular interruption to communications is complicating the exchange of information between WFP and its partners, particularly in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and parts of Idleb, where telecommunications networks are rarely functional and standard internet services have been sporadically available the last six months. WFP has been unable to access 39 locations in Damascus and Rural Damascus since mid-2012, locations which are believed to be in significant need, with basic items in scarce supply due to protracted sieges. Yet, in the 27 (Damascus) and 35 (Rural Damascus) locations to which access has been regularly secured, WFP and partners have delivered food assistance to more than 270,000 and 330,000 people, respectively, in July.

WFP planned to reach 3 million people with food assistance during the August food dispatch cycle but was only able to dispatch enough food for 2.4 million people due to access and security constraints. IFRC is providing food assistance to 30,000 families in Rural Damascus and Homs through SARC.

Insecurity constrains dispatches of non-food items

Clashes, obstruction of roads and downed communications constrained UNHCR and partners' delivery of relief items, particularly in Rural Damascus and Aleppo. The rehabilitation works for its 2 remaining shelters based in Homs were suspended in recent weeks due to the unstable security situation in al Wa'er area, as neither the contractor nor PU engineers were able to reach the shelters. On 26 and 28 August, distributions in Rural Damascus, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Idleb and Al-Hasakeh were cancelled due to insecurity.

Yet, during the past two weeks, IOM distributed 5,355 basic NFIs to 10,643 displaced Syrians, largely residing with host communities in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Lattakia; DRC distributed basic NFIs to 22,141 individuals in Rural Damascus, Dar'a, As-Sweida and Homs; UNHCR delivered core relief items (CRIs) to 61,995 persons in Lattakia, Idleb, Deir-ez-Zor and started distribution of NFIs to all shelters in Qamishli and 2 shelters in Amuda for 249 families; UNDP reached approximately 23,400 people who are displaced in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Idleb, Homs and Deir-ez-Zor with urgent

relief items and blood pressure monitors, diabetic testing kits and medical air mattresses. In August, SOS Children's Villages delivered 400 NFI packages; Premiere Urgence provided 6,170 hygiene kits. On 1 September, UNHCR resumed cash assistance in Damascus, reaching 1,886 people who have been displaced and identified as vulnerable.

WHO employs the Early Warning and Response System to enable rapid response to Brucellosis

During the reporting period, the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS), which was established by WHO and the Ministry of Health in September 2012, reported 321 cases of Brucellosis, a notable spike. WHO promoted a strategic response to the management of increased Brucellosis cases by convening a forum for 40 doctors from Brucellosis Management Centres in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dar'a, As-Sweida and Quneitra and re-activated routine surveillance, registration and reporting of incidence of Brucellosis.

WHO has provided health authorities in Damascus with medical supplies and interventions for more than 118,480 beneficiaries, 15 ventilators, 10 oxygen concentrators and 2 shredder sterilizers.

The heightened political and security situation risk women's ability to access quality reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care. UNFPA supported approximately 6,200 women to receive reproductive health services through supported hospitals and mobile teams in Aleppo, Damascus, Homs and Rural Damascus. 1,200 women received emergency obstetric care, including normal and caesarean section delivery services, through vouchers for free reproductive health care.

Safe hygiene and sanitation practices prevent illness and loss of life

Since the launch of a hygiene promotion campaign on 19 August, International Medical Corps (IMC) staff and health educators have trained 25 volunteers in 6 shelters in Damascus. In response to a reported significant increase in IDPs and WASH needs on 23 August, HELP has tripled its initial response plan in Adra Oumaliya. Over the last two weeks, Premiere Urgence (PU) distributed 6,860 family hygiene kits in Rural Damascus, 4,200 in Homs and 6,800 in Hama.



Credit: IMC/. IMC uses participatory methods to train volunteers on issues relating to disease transmission, preventive messages focusing on safe drinking water, hand washing, food hygiene; and diarrhoeal diseases, dehydration and ORS preparation

The Logistics Cluster has transported 93m³ of WASH items through the Lebanon corridor to Damascus to enable UNICEF's response.

WASH sector agencies provide emergency water to people in Hama and Homs while awaiting pipeline repairs

UNICEF, ICRC, SARC, and WASH partners are coordinating a rapid response to the dire drinking water crisis in Homs and Hama, trucking water (300m³/day in Hama and 1,000 m³/day to 65,000 people in Talbiseh, Homs) and providing water tanks, 5,000 jerry cans and 10 tons of sodium chlorine in Hama and Homs, to meet life-saving water needs. Meanwhile urgent and long-term operational maintenance is underway on the water pipeline network, originating in Al Qusair, which serves the drinking water needs of an estimated 1.3 million people. The maintenance plan has encountered access and logistical constraints and the needs remain considerable, including for additional 50,000

UNHCR and partners find new ways to meet the desperate need for psychosocial support

In response to escalation of political tension, humanitarian agencies anticipate spiking psychosocial stress and anxiety amongst displaced communities requiring a critical focus on scaling up support.

UNHCR established a new partnership with the Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD) which has enhanced protection to displaced Syrians across 24 sites in Damascus, Aleppo and Homs; in August, 5,494 children participated in recreational activities, 183 parents received psychosocial support, 2,568 clothes were distributed to children and 1,229 children are now in education. UNHCR, UNFPA and SARC's joint programme, notably the first of its kind in Syria, which aims to provide comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support (PSS), from PSS outreach activities to tertiary psychiatric care, implemented critical activities in 12 shelters across Damascus on 15 August with 1,800 IDPs, but were required to suspend an entertainment component of the activities from 21 August due to insecurity.

In the last two weeks, IOM, with the support of SSSD, further built capacity on art-based interventions by training 27 professionals and volunteers from NGOs operating in Damascus, Homs and Qamishli. At SARC clinics UNHCR provided a further 210 IDPs with psychosocial care from PSS case managers, psychiatrists and psychologists, at SARC clinics in Damascus and Rural Damascus. UNICEF has supported partners to provide psychosocial support to 6,833 children and 7,777 adolescents in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Lattakia, Tartous, Quneitra and Dara'a, reaching a total of 102,124, including 71,676 children and 30,466 adolescents with psychosocial support in 2013.

UNFPA and partners provide psychological first aid in the worst-affected areas in Damascus and Rural Damascus

Despite extreme access challenges in the worst-affected areas in Damascus and Rural Damascus, from April to August 2013, UNFPA has enabled the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) and SARC to reach 7,500 individuals with psychological first aid. As part of its preventive measures for families in affected areas, UNFPA provided female dignity kits and sanitary supplies for 1,500 women and male kits for 650 men in Qamishli.

Urgent relocation provided for displaced refugees living in Fayhaa shelter in Damascus

At the end of August, eight mortars fell in the vicinity of the Fayhaa shelter, which hosts 400 displaced Somali and Sudanese refugees. UNHCR responded immediately to relocate 390 individuals to al Moutawassilin Institute in Kesswe and provide full NFI kits to 500 people.

FAO and partners provide seeds to people in Rural Damascus ahead of planting season

As the price of bread and other foodstuffs spike dangerously in the black market, the continued contraction of the agriculture sector has a negative knock-on effect on rural incomes and people's ability to feed their families. To assist farmers to sustain food production to meet the dietary and food security needs of their families, FAO has delivered barley seeds for 4,968 people and wheat seeds for 2,144 people. FAO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR), opened a new warehouse in Al Qutiefah, in north Rural Damascus, to expedite seed distribution in advance of the winter planting season.

Vulnerable stranded migrants receive essential repatriation assistance

IOM continues to provide repatriation assistance to vulnerable stranded migrants affected by the crisis in Syria. In the last two weeks, IOM has facilitated the safe return of 132 vulnerable stranded migrants to their countries of origin in Ethiopia, Moldova, the Philippines, Sudan and Yemen. During the reporting period, IOM teams reported delays at the Masnaa border crossing to Lebanon due to an influx of refugees leaving Syria due to the recent escalation of violence in Damascus.

UN inter-agency convoy in Dar'a enables response

On 2 September, an unaccompanied 7-truck UN inter-agency convoy, supported by the Logistics Cluster and OCHA, successfully dispatched supplies from IOM, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, to hard-to access locations in Dar'a. The total number of beneficiaries reached includes: 23,956 direct beneficiaries with medical supplies and interventions, 30,000 people with medical supplies, 20,000 children with high energy biscuits, 5,000 people with food rations, and 5,000 people with essential non-food items.



Credit: UNICEF/Kanawati. On 3 September, children study English during a remedial education class at UNICEF-sponsored school club in Dar'a city, Syria.

The UN team prepares for further deterioration of the crisis and security

As frontlines continue to shift, fighting in contested areas escalates, winter approaches and people's coping mechanisms erode, the UN has developed contingency plans to ensure the capacity to respond.

UNHCR and partners are procuring stocks for winterization. The first 21 trucks arrived in Jordan last week, carrying a preliminary batch of the largest shipment of emergency relief items for IDPs in 2013. In response to increasing challenges to find suitable and safe office space for UN employees, the UN Country Team has agreed to expand capacity and function of the UN Hub in Tartous to accommodate more staff. The Logistics Cluster has augmented storage capacity at the nearby common storage facility in Safita, enabling all agencies and partners to preposition stocks closer to Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Homs. To further ICT capacity, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster has established shared data connectivity and bandwidth for all staff members of the humanitarian community.

WHO updated the list of available stocks of medicines, supplies and equipment of health sector partners and identified measures to fill critical gaps. To strengthen preparedness for possible chemical weapons exposure, the agency published technical information on chemical exposure, symptoms and protection from aerial attacks for the general public, health staff, UN agencies, NGOs and other partners in English and Arabic. UNICEF is prepositioning different medical kits, nutrition supplements and NFIs and is in contact with private hospitals to ensure preparedness to treat injuries and emergency cases free of charge.

UNFPA trained 27 midwives on emergency obstetric care using the minimum available equipment and tools to reduce current delays and anticipated increased risk in accessing emergency obstetric care at the community level in Damascus, Dar'a, Rural Damascus and As-Sweida.

UNRWA is activating a number of emergency preparedness measures including identification of space for potential additional temporary collective shelters, increasing security at its facilities where possible, repositioning medical supplies and equipment, food and NFIs including construction of additional storage facilities and advancing distributions and additional coordination with the Agency's other field offices.

More funding required to address the needs of 6.8 million people in Syria and up to 3.5 million Syrian refugees in the region by the end of 2013

Over 2 million Syrians in neighbouring countries and North Africa

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 9 September 2013
Egypt	117,470
Iraq	177,858
Jordan	519,676
Lebanon	728,252
Turkey	463,885
North Africa	14,289
Total	2,021,430

Source: UNHCR as of 9 September 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.

Funding needed to ensure humanitarian response

SHARP and RRP less than half funded as the humanitarian situation deteriorates and winter approaches

As of 9 September, the SHARP and RRP are, respectively, only 45 and 42 per cent funded. The SHARP aims to address the needs of 6.8 million people in Syria whilst the RRP targets up to 3.5 million Syrian refugees and 1.9 million host country nationals by the end of 2013. Limited funding seriously constrains an effective response.

Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) 2013			
Funding Required	Funding Received	Unmet requirements	% Funded
\$1,409,812,466	\$632,109,200	\$777.703,266	45

Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2013			
Funding Required	Funding Received	Unmet requirements	% Funded
\$2,981,640,112	\$1,243,689,747	\$1,737,950,365	42

Source: OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS) as of 9 September 2013

The ERF enables NGO response in conflict areas in Syria

In response to urgent life-saving needs in Hama and emerging disruption of the Damascus urban and rural water supply systems, the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) has approved an Oxfam project to reach 382,375 people in urgent need of clean and safe water. The project will activate backup wells and water sources by installing alternative power supply using generators.

Working closely with the sectors in Syria, the ERF has received 4 sector-approved projects from local NGOs to respond to dire living conditions in areas that are not accessible to the UN and partners, including: provision of shelter and NFIs for IDP families in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Homs; emergency food support for IDPs

living in host communities in 7 locations in Hama and 6 in Homs; health services for IDPs and vulnerable poor people in Damascus and southern Rural Damascus; and provision of shelter and NFIs for IDP families in 17 shelters in Deir-ez-Zor. Additionally, on 1 September, the ERF Board approved three projects to respond to urgent needs of vulnerable Syrians in Jordan.

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