

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Momentum builds to improve humanitarian access in Syria.
- Deterioration of the nutrition situation of children due to soaring food prices, loss of income and displacement.
- Strategic planning for 2014 is in progress across sectors and humanitarian agencies.
- Total coordinated funding appeals just 51 per cent funded.

## FIGURES

Population	21.4 m
# of people in need	6.8 m
# of IDPs.	4.25 m
# of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa	2.16 m

## FUNDING

**\$ 1.4 billion**

requested (US\$) for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

**55%** funded

**\$ 3 billion**

requested (US\$) for the Regional Refugee Response Plan

**49%** funded



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## Momentum builds to improve humanitarian access in Syria

### Humanitarian actors hope to reach more people as needs continue to grow

On 2 October 2013, the United Nations Security Council adopted a presidential statement addressing the significant and rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria. The Security Council recalled that all obligations under international humanitarian law by all parties must be respected in all circumstances, in particular, the obligation to distinguish between civilian populations and combatants, and the prohibition of attacks against civilians and civilian objects. Under international humanitarian law, the wounded and sick must receive medical care and attention and medical and humanitarian personnel, facilities and transport must be respected and protected. The Council urged free passage to all areas for medical personnel and supplies, including surgical items and medicine. The Security Council also stressed that the magnitude of the humanitarian tragedy in Syria required immediate action to facilitate safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance in the whole country, and condemned all cases of denial of humanitarian access and recalled that arbitrarily depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival, including willfully impeding relief supply and access, can constitute a violation of international humanitarian law.

The statement was adopted unanimously and detailed the commitments and practical steps that all parties to the conflict and the broader international community are expected to undertake in order to assist people in need in Syria. Many areas remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors, while needs continue to grow. Following the adoption of the statement, humanitarian actors hope to reach more people in need, especially in areas sealed off by the parties to the conflict in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Hassakeh, Homs, Dara and Idlib.

### A joint UN and SARC mission to Al Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs City finds increased vulnerability of population

On 1 October 2013, a team from the UN Hub in Homs, composed of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, OCHA and UNDSS, participated in a joint UN-SARC mission to the Al Wa'er neighborhood of Homs, a key flashpoint witnessing an escalation of fighting between the Government of Syria and opposition forces, as well as among the different opposition groups. Approximately 400,000 people residing in Al Wa'er, of which 200,000 are displaced from other areas, have become more vulnerable. The protracted crisis has led to the deterioration of the security, social and economic situation as well as to the deterioration of the provision of basic services.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the security situation on the ground and to undertake an initial rapid humanitarian assessment. The mission observed that freedom of movement within the area was limited to pedestrian traffic only at a key checkpoint to allow the provision of goods. Garbage is accumulating in the streets where collective shelters are located. Ten out of the 11 public schools are hosting IDPs, resulting in schools operating 2-3 shifts per day. The only private hospital is running at its minimum

capacity, as 30 per cent of the medical staff has left the area. The remaining staff faces significant challenges to access the hospital due to insecurity. Prices of food have increased dramatically in the past month, compared with the prices in Homs City. The joint mission found that, despite challenges and on-going difficulties in accessing Al-Wa'er area, all UN-supported programmes, implemented through national NGOs, are continuing.

### **An Inter-Agency mission to Hama confirms a dramatic increase in displacement**

Due to its location between three of the mostly highly affected governorates—Aleppo, Homs and Idleb – as well as its proximity to fighting in contested areas in Homs, such as Talbiseh and Al Rastan, the Hama governorate is now hosting a significant number of displaced people fleeing violence. The overall humanitarian situation in Hama governorate is deteriorating as the influx of displaced persons has put more burden on basic services. A preliminary estimate shows a dramatic increase of 40,000 families (or from 90,000 to 130,000 people) residing in Hama. The inter-agency assessment identified an urgent need for winterization programming and for a response to address the deteriorating nutritional situation of women and children. Additionally, water, sanitation and hygiene needs were identified due to the damage caused to the pipeline serving Hama and Homs, requiring the provision of water trucking and hygiene kits as well as the rehabilitation of boreholes/wells.

SARC is receiving increasing requests for assistance, in line with the growing number of displaced families and humanitarian access to rural Hama is urgently needed. Most of those seeking assistance in Hama are women and children.

## **Deterioration of the nutrition situation of children due to soaring food prices, loss of income and displacement**

Soaring food prices, unavailability of complementary food for children, displacement and loss of income have resulted in difficulties to provide healthcare and nutrition for children. The number of children reported to be admitted to hospitals with severe or acute malnutrition has increased from 1 to 5 on average, as well as the number of deaths reported due to malnutrition. This increase is primarily reported in Aleppo, Dar'a and rural areas, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, Quneitra, and Rural Damascus. For example, in Moadamyieh, the nutrition cluster reports that six, out of an estimated population of 2,000 children, have died from malnutrition in the past month.

After the lack of security, Syrian parents cite the lack of food as their second most important source of concern. The availability of food and income is expected to decrease further. Despite favorable seasonal rainfall, cereal production is expected to decline as the conflict has led to the increased cost of inputs to production, damages to agricultural equipment and the reduction of the land available for cultivation. The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) of July 2013 estimated that approximately 4 million people were food insecure, in particular the internally displaced, small scale farmers, herders, casual labourers, petty traders, urban poor, children, pregnant and lactating mothers, the elderly and the disabled and the chronically ill.

## Overview of the humanitarian response

### Humanitarian actors ensure aid reaches Ar-Raqqa

On 25-27 September, a joint humanitarian convoy facilitated by the Logistic Cluster, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and OCHA, reached Ar-Raqqa city with over 222 mt/756 m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian cargo.

The nine trucks included materials from UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and WFP to respond to the food needs for one month of 3,000 families, or approximately 15,000 people and to assist 5,000 children with High Energy Biscuits for 1 month.

Hygiene materials were provided for 5,000 families for 1 month and medical supplies for 12,712 people for 3 months. An additional 3 trucks loaded with NFIs for 1,000 families from UNHCR, SOS and IOM arrived on 2 October.

In the same week, UNHCR reached villages in the remote areas in Ar-Raqqa. One village, Al-Asadiya, has experienced a high level of damage to its buildings and infrastructure. Despite the damage, people continue to live in their homes and to stay in the area. UNHCR has succeeded to reach for the first time the 242 families or 1,210 people living in this village.

### Preparations underway for winterization of shelter for displaced Syrians

The shelter sector agencies have stepped up efforts to prepare for the onset of the cold weather in advance of the winter season. They have prioritized the procurement and stockpiling of winterization items to enable rapid distribution to the most vulnerable displaced people in need of winter packages, which include warm clothing, thermal blankets, hot water bottles and other items. Further initiatives will focus on winterization measures, such as insulation of collective shelters, provision of sealing-off kits and support to install these kits for displaced families living in abandoned or damaged buildings and collective shelters.

The normal resumption of the academic year has led to the evacuation of displaced persons from school buildings used as collective shelters in Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Rural Damascus. Shelter sector agencies have also identified additional shelters, where displaced people are residing in overcrowded spaces without WASH or basic facilities, in need of urgent rehabilitation.

The Ministry of Local Administration is supporting NGOs to access potential sites for the implementation of the 'Private Shelter Upgrade' project, one of the first shelter interventions to support people - including IDPs and host communities - living outside collective shelters.

UNHCR, through implementing partners, has rehabilitated 67 collective shelters in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Tartous, Homs, Aleppo and Al Hassakeh, where over 30,000 vulnerable persons are residing, and in the process of rehabilitating a further 32 shelters. In mid-September, IOM completed the repair and rehabilitation of 41 shelters for the benefit of almost 3,000 families. IOM initiated rehabilitation works in five prioritized shelters in Lattakia which host 1,160 individuals. Première Urgence initiated rehabilitation of 13 shelters where 2,342 in total people reside, in Damascus (2), Tartous (5), Homs (4) and Hama (2).



Credit: SARC Ar-Raqqa Branch. Ar-Raqqa, Syria (Sep 2013) – The Syrian Arab Red Crescent distributes relief supplies, dispatched to Ar-Raqqa by UN Joint Humanitarian Convoy, to families in need.

### **New outpatient nutrition clinics and procurement of supplies address deteriorating nutrition situation**

Reports indicate a surge in cases of severe and moderate malnutrition, and with availability of food predicted to decrease, the nutrition sector is actively mobilizing its response. On 1 October, the first outpatient nutrition clinic opened at the Damascus Hospital, supported by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health. A second clinic is being set up at the University Children's Hospital. National NGOs and charities are supporting the establishment of similar clinics across a number of governorates. One medical point was established by Ahl Al Kheir Charity, in the University Residence of Aleppo, to provide services, including follow-up on treatment for malnutrition, referrals of severe cases and counseling on appropriate and adequate child nutrition for mothers. This medical point is supporting 32,000 displaced people, based in 24 shelters, 70 per cent of whom are women and children. Similar clinics are being discussed in as many communities as possible, depending on the security situation and technical capacity in place.

### **Core relief items or cash transfers dispatched to hard-to-reach areas**

In addition to the UNHCR dispatch to Ar-Raqqa over the past two weeks, SOS Children's Villages provided 1,000 hygiene kits. NFI sector partners are ready to continue to distribute urgently needed non-food items to displaced families in Ar-Raqqa. UNHCR, through implementing partners, reached 1,000 families in Idleb and 1,650 families in Aleppo with core relief items. In addition, over 1,760 families received essential non-food items in insecure areas in the eastern side of Aleppo.

UNHCR cash assistance programme in Qamishly enabled assistance to reach the most vulnerable families despite the security challenges which prevented trucks from delivering core relief items. A second round of cash assistance distribution is currently underway in Qamishly city and, by 30 September, 5,099 families (29,162 people) have been assisted with cash in place of core relief items. During the third round of cash distribution, currently on-going in Damascus, UNHCR will target 5,538 families, or approximately, 28,812 people, with a view to reach a total of 19,088 families or 100,585 people across locations in Syria during 2013. The cash assistance amounts to a total of SYP 361,432,000 or \$2,455,702.

During the reporting period, IOM provided basic non-food items, including jerry cans, hygiene kits, house cleaning kits and baby diapers, to 16,857 displaced persons in 4 governorates, reaching over 364,500 people with urgent relief items since January 2013.

SOS Children's Villages distributed 200 hygiene kits in Damascus and 1,000 hygiene kits in Moadamyieh, in Rural Damascus. Première Urgence also provided 4,266 hygiene kits for 21,330 vulnerable displaced people in Rural Damascus, Homs and Tartous.

### **WFP delivers 91 per cent of planned food dispatches in September**

Active fighting, bureaucratic impediments and risks along transport routes continue to disrupt the delivery of food assistance in the country. During the month of September, WFP was unable to dispatch planned food rations to the entire governorate of Aleppo for a targeted 500,000 beneficiaries. Access challenges also prevented dispatch of food to Palmyra and Sukneh, in Homs governorate, for a targeted 22,500 beneficiaries.

Despite these challenges, in September, WFP dispatch rate stood at 91 %. WFP was able to move a total of 543,461 family food rations sufficient to assist 2.7 million beneficiaries throughout the 14 Syrian governorates. Moreover, 7,107 MT of wheat flour for 1.4 million people was dispatched, fulfilling 63 % of the September plan.

In response to growing needs in the Hama governorate identified by the inter-agency mission, WFP plans to allocate 8,000 to 15,000 additional family food rations to meet the immediate needs of the displaced population. In October, WFP food allocations to the governorate will increase by 25% in order to reach 365,369 beneficiaries with 73,074 family food rations.

### **Continued focus on capacity building for protection**

The protection working group provided coordination and leadership to ensure that more than 280 humanitarian workers received training on protection issues across Damascus,

Hama, Al Hassakeh, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus, As-Sweida and Tartous. UNICEF conducted a 'training of trainers' workshop for 38 social workers on humanitarian relief and children's rights. UNFPA and UNRWA completed capacity building programmes on psychosocial first aid and psychosocial support for 30 relief workers and school counselors. UNFPA organized a technical session for 20 Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) volunteers for mobile teams providing psychosocial support. IOM conducted four-day awareness-raising workshops with 27 social workers from the Ministry of Social Affairs, focusing on child recruitment, identification of victims of human trafficking and specialized services for vulnerable cases. IOM also completed capacity building for 106 staff from 32 local NGOs on the principles of humanitarian assistance and shelter management. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted two children protection trainings for 62 professionals, including teachers, livelihoods staff and social counselors.

### **UNICEF and partners' 'Back to Learning' initiative**

Since the start of the school year on 15 September 2013, UNICEF has delivered educational supplies to Damascus, Homs, Idleb, Tartous, Ar-Raqqa and Rural Damascus governorates, reaching 405,860 children. In Ar-Raqqa, where access to education is limited, a national NGO has rehabilitated 48 schools and distributed school bags to 2,400 children. Additionally, UNICEF installed 11 prefabricated classrooms in Tartous, benefitting approximately 400 students.

### **UNDP and partners' emergency employment schemes aim to build resilience to economic shocks**

Following extensive liaison and networking with various local actors, UNDP launched an

emergency employment scheme for solid waste collection and disposal in five neighbourhoods in Deir-ez-Zor. Aiming to provide livelihood support and strengthening resilience, this initiative selected 320 labourers from affected communities using vulnerability criteria. UNDP provided special clothes, masks and tools to safely facilitate the work. This initiative aims to decrease environmental and health hazards presented by waste amassing in the streets. Thus far, the project has collected 80 tons of solid waste from 60 streets in five neighbourhoods and transported it to five dumping sites designated by the municipality and local communities.

On 6 October, Premiere Urgence (PU) resumed vocational training courses in electricity, sewing, hairdressing and cosmetics for approximately 180 Iraqi and Syrian students in four locations. PU also carried out promotional campaigns and registration of students in 12 collective shelters in different areas of Damascus (Mohajereen, Masaken Barzeh, Al Zahera, Bab Mosala, Western Mazzeh, Eastern Mazzeh, Kafarsouseh).



Credit: UNDP. Deir-ez-Zor, Syria (2013) – Vulnerable labourers clean solid waste from the streets in Deir-ez-Zor as part of an emergency employment initiative launched by UNDP.

### **Humanitarian agencies provide emergency response for water and sanitation needs**

On 6 October, after seven weeks of disruption due to a damaged water pipeline serving approximately 1.3 million people in Homs and Hama governorates, the Government of Syria Water Authority has repaired the pipeline. The sustainability of the delivery of water will be closely monitored by the water sector partners to enable response if and as needed. During the repairs, UNICEF continued water tankering to villages around Talbiseh, while ICRC and SARC rehabilitated the pumping capacity of wells in the areas south of the damaged pipeline, in Qutaina, in Homs. WASH sector partners have provided water to the North of Qutaina. In Hama, ICRC has fully equipped 14 boreholes

with pumps, generators and cables which, when combined with existing boreholes in Hama city, contributed to elevate the water pumping capacity to 60 per cent. In As-Salamieh, ICRC equipped 1 borehole and distributed tanks in co-ordination with the Agha Khan foundation. UNICEF provided 5 pumps and 12 KM of polyelitherine pipes, supporting the pumping of water to Ar-Rastan. In addition, UNICEF has dispatched over 200,000 water purification tablets, family water and hygiene kits to Al-Hassakeh and Idleb in response to reported outbreaks of WASH-related diseases.

## More than 2.1 million Syrian Refugees

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 7 October 2013
Egypt	127,411
Iraq	195,508
Jordan	536,405
Lebanon	779,038
Turkey	502,827
North Africa	14,959
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,156,146</b>

Source: UNHCR as of 7 October 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 must keep pace with needs

### Total funding for Appeals just above 50 per cent

Response plan	Original Requirements (USD)	Revised Requirements (USD)	Funding Received (USD)	% funded
Revised Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) 2013	519,627,047	1,409,812,466	779,659,00	55
Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) 5	1,044,112,554	2,981,640,112	1,471,872,183	49
Total funding to Appeals (SHARP + RRP)	1,563,739,601	4,391,542,578	2,251,531,183	51

Source: FTS tracking

### ERF allocates a total of USD 43 million

Since 2012, the Emergency Response Fund has received USD 50 million, of which USD 39 million has been allocated and USD 4 million is under review for current proposals. At the regional level, the ERF team will prepare a call for proposals for Iraq during early November 2013.

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