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## HIGHLIGHTS

- As violence spreads to Damascus, thousands have been displaced – many for the second time.
- Humanitarian agencies have scaled up operations inside Syria and are reaching all 14 governorates.
- 850,000 Syrians receive food aid from WFP.
- Nearly 120,000 refugees have been registered or assisted in neighbouring countries.
- Aid operations jeopardized by underfunding.

## FUNDING (US\$)

**180 million**  
requested by the UN for  
activities inside Syria (US\$)

**38 million (21%)**  
received for UN activities  
inside Syria

**193 million**  
requested under the  
Regional Refugee Response  
Plan (US\$)

**50 million (26%)**  
received for the Regional  
Refugee Response Plan

## Humanitarian situation

### Violence and mass displacement continue across the country

Escalating conflict in Syria is having grave humanitarian consequences. According to UNHCR, up to one million people have been internally displaced since the conflict began. Increasingly, people are being displaced for a second time, as former safe havens become affected by military operations. In Haritan, only 2,000 of 40,000 residents remain. In Deir Ez Zor, an estimated 80 per cent of the population (approximately 192,000 people) have reportedly left. In Homs, more than 1,000 people have sought shelter in three schools, while another 700 are staying in unbearable conditions in an unfinished villa. Concentrations of displaced people can be found in locations such as Homs City, Rural Homs, Rural Hama, and Rural Idlib.

Violence has engulfed large parts of Damascus, causing new patterns of displacement. More than 2,000 people have taken refuge in 11 UNRWA schools and are receiving emergency assistance. Others are sheltering with host families. Meanwhile, thousands of Palestine refugees from the southern governorate of Dera' and other areas have fled to Damascus, which is home to the largest Palestine refugee camp in Syria, Yarmouk.

### Food insecurity rises

The outlook for food insecurity is grim. The crisis has forced people to leave their homes and livelihoods and negatively impacted on employment, crops and livestock. There has also been below average rainfall in the north-eastern and central parts of the country, further compounding vulnerabilities.

The preliminary findings of a joint UN-Government food security assessment suggest that the number of food insecure is now approaching three million. The wheat harvest is expected to yield only two million metric tonnes this year, well short of the minimum amount required for Syria (3.6 million metric tonnes).

### Health services strained and damaged by conflict

Health services have been severely affected by the violence. There are increasing reports of hospitals in areas of conflict being closed, damaged, surrounded and sometimes occupied by security forces, and/or lacking necessary medical supplies. Fear of detention reportedly leaves some people reluctant to seek assistance and ambulances have repeatedly come under fire while recovering the injured.

### Large-scale influx of refugees to Lebanon over past 48 hours

Escalating violence in Damascus caused a spike in the number of refugees arriving in Lebanon over the past 48 hours, with some 8,500 to 30,000 Syrians estimated to have crossed the border. Over the last fortnight, the number of refugees registered and assisted by the UN and host communities in neighbouring countries has increased to nearly 120,000. On average, around 700 refugees have crossed the border out of Syria each day for the last 100 days. The actual number of Syrian refugees is thought to be significantly higher, as many families and individuals reportedly opt out of the registration process for fear that names, photos, and personal information may be misused.

## Humanitarian capacity bolstered in Syria, assistance scaled up

Despite the challenging operational environment, the humanitarian community is scaling-up its response. UN agencies are present in seven field locations and have more than 60 international staff and more than 800 national staff throughout the country. The capacity of local organizations has been bolstered, enabling them to reach more people in need.

### WFP food assistance reaches 850,000 in July

WFP, through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), has scaled-up its food assistance from reaching 200,000 people in March to reach 850,000 people in July. Food aid is being distributed in all governorates, including those most affected by the conflict, such as Homs, Hama, rural Damascus, Deir Ez Zor, Dera', and Idlib. SARC maintains 14 main branches and 80 sub-branches throughout the country and will be further strengthened through a project funded by the Syria Emergency Response Fund. WFP is also identifying additional partners to increase food delivery capacity. In Homs, WFP has signed an agreement with a national NGO to deliver food assistance to 50,000 people.

WFP FOOD AID – JULY 2012	
Governorate	Planned beneficiaries
Homs	125,000
Rural Damascus	125,000
Aleppo	125,000
Damascus	90,000
Dera'a	60,000
Hama	60,000
Tartous	40,000
Idlib	60,000
Deir Ezzor	75,000
Al Hasakah	35,000
Latakia	25,000
Ar Raqqa	25,000
Quneitra	2,500
As Suweida	2,500
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>	<b>850,000</b>

Source: WFP.

The ICRC is also scaling-up its food assistance. From 15 June to 15 July, the ICRC provided food to 150,000 people, at least 100,000 of whom were displaced, in the governorates of Homs, Rural Damascus, Hama, Idlib, Latakia, Al Hasakah, and Ar Raqqa. The ICRC and SARC have also provided food and essential items to more than 5,000 families displaced from Douma.

### **Logistical capacity enhanced to store and distribute essential items**

UNHCR is expanding its operation to provide mattresses, blankets, kitchen items and other vital supplies to 175,000 displaced people. The agency is preparing a new warehouse in Damascus and will also benefit from a new distribution centre being completed by SARC in An Nabk, Rural Damascus. Since it commenced distribution in March 2012, UNHCR has provided mattresses, blankets, kitchen items and other vital supplies to 83,500 people in Syria.

Other agencies and NGOs are also increasing distribution of essential items. UNICEF has provided emergency items and hygiene kits to 1,200 people displaced to Yarmouk refugee camp, while the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has distributed 3,000 hygiene kits and 3,000 diaper packs, as well as special needs equipment, to people displaced in Dera' and As Sanamayn.

### **UNHCR cash assistance project launched for displaced families**

UNHCR is launching a project to provide one-time cash assistance for some 125,000 displaced Syrians. With coping mechanisms eroded and access to basic supplies limited, this project will offer immediate relief to families in dire need.

### **Health interventions target women**

During the reporting period, UNFPA delivered reproductive health supplies to 10 hospitals and 28 clinics serving at least 115,000 people in Deir Ez Zor and al Raqqa. In collaboration with its local partner, the Syria Family Planning Association (SFPA), UNFPA is expanding its network of mobile teams to provide reproductive health care and emergency obstetric care in some of the most affected governorates, including Idlib, Deir Ez Zor, Aleppo, and Al Hasakah.

## **44 local and international organizations work with governments to assist refugees**

UNHCR is working with 44 local and international partners to assist refugees and host communities in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.

REFUGEE OVERVIEW	Registered Syrian refugees	Assisted (awaiting registration)	Total registered and assisted
JORDAN	34,050	2,400	36,450
LEBANON	29,986	2,500	32,486
TURKEY	42,682	-	42,682
IRAQ	7,490	510	8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>114,208</b>	<b>5,410</b>	<b>119,618</b>

Source: UNHCR

### **Emergency camp established in Jordan as part of contingency plan**

The total number of Syrian refugees in Jordan is approaching 35,000. In response to the increasing number of refugees crossing the border, Jordanian authorities are establishing an emergency camp at Za'atari, in the northern governorate of Mafraq, as part of a joint contingency planning process. The camp will be able to host up to 131,000 refugees.

According to Jordanian authorities, more than 130,000 Syrians have entered Jordan since the crisis began. Beyond those already assisted through the Government, UNHCR and its partners, local organizations have identified some 30,000 individuals in need of assistance.

Food packages have been delivered by WFP to Syrian refugees across the country. The WFP food voucher programme, expected to commence towards the end of July, will target 35,000 refugees. UNHCR has launched an ATM cash assistance programme which will initially support the rental costs of 450 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugee families.

### **Team deploys to Lebanon border to assess situation**

There are now nearly 32,500 Syrians registered as refugees and/or receiving assistance in Lebanon. Following the significant influx of refugees due to fighting in Damascus, UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) deployed a team to the Masnaa border crossing to verify numbers and assess refugee profiles.

WFP will deliver food packages to 24,000 refugees in Lebanon in July. The food voucher system, launched by WFP in Beka'a, is expected to be replicated for refugees in the northern district of Akkar and in Tripoli.

### **Additional refugee sites established in Turkey**

From late May to mid-July, the camp population in Turkey doubled, reaching more than 42,000. In response to the increase, the Turkish authorities are establishing three new sites in Sanliurfa, Kilis and Gzianstep, which will be able to host a further 30,000 refugees.

WFP is complementing the Turkish government's food assistance programme with a voucher scheme that will target 30,000 refugees. UNICEF is supporting Syrian refugee children with child-friendly learning environments in Turkey.

### **WFP prepares to deliver food to Iraqi refugees**

The number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Iraq has reached 7,500. Domiz camp hosts about one-third of the refugee population. WFP is preparing to deliver food to 5,000 refugees by the end of July. In mid-July, UNICEF launched summer school classes for children in Domiz camp.

## **Underfunding jeopardizes aid operation**

UN agencies and their partners require US\$373 to respond to the humanitarian needs of Syrians, including \$180 million for 44 projects to meet humanitarian needs in Syria and \$193 million to respond to the needs of up to 185,000 refugees in neighbouring countries.

Only 21 per cent of the funding required for the operation inside Syria, and 26 per cent of the funding required for the refugee operation, has been received to date. This has placed humanitarian operations both in Syria and in neighbouring countries in serious jeopardy. UN agencies have been forced to inject resources from their operational reserves or emergency funds to cover the gap in donor

funding, straining their ability to respond to other crises. To date, UNICEF has provided \$10 million from its reserves, UNHCR has provided \$4 million from its emergency funds, and WFP has advanced more than \$12 million to ensure a timely response to the Syria crisis. In light of growing demands on the agency, UNRWA has launched a stand-alone Syria Appeal.

UN agencies have developed a matrix of the most urgent priority actions (attached) which require an immediate total of \$72 million. The top ten donors to the response in Syria to date have been: United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Russian Federation, ECHO, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, Australia and Switzerland. At the Fourth Syria Humanitarian Forum, which took place in Geneva on 16 July, there was an urgent call to broaden the donor base.