

HIGHLIGHTS

- Parties to the conflict reach a few ceasefire agreements to allow humanitarian aid.
- Civilian deaths and injuries continue as the parties to the conflict do not uphold IHL.
- USG/ERC Valerie Amos visits internally displaced Syrians and Palestine refugees in Rural Damascus.
- 1st and 2nd rounds of polio 'National Immunisation Days' reach more than 2 million children each in December 2013 and January 2014.
- Humanitarian actors employ a range of aid modalities to respond flexibly to access constraints.
- 3.8 million people in Syria assisted with food in December 2013.

FIGURES

Population	21.4 m
# of PIN	9.3 m
# of IDPs	6.5 m
# of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa	2.3 m

FUNDING

\$ 2.3 billion
requested (US\$) for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

\$ 4.2 billion
requested (US\$) for the Regional Refugee Response Plan



UNRWA/MTaghrid

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Ceasefire agreements allow limited humanitarian access

At least 35,000 people displaced from fighting in Adra Umaliyeh

On 29 December 2013, the Government of Syria reported that it had facilitated the evacuation of 5,000 civilians from Adra, in Rural Damascus. After a week of escalated fighting, civilians were allowed to walk across the contested area to Government checkpoints, from where they moved to either stay in designated shelter locations or reside with family and friends.

By 10 January 2014, at least 35,000 people have fled Adra, including through some facilitated evacuations, though the ongoing fighting is hindering the safety of these civilians. Approximately 15,000 of the displaced people are currently residing in the unfinished cement factory and driving school buildings in Adra Umalya. The remaining estimated at least 20,000 people are sheltering in official and non-official collective shelters in Rural Damascus, and with family and friends in Damascus, Homs and Rural Damascus.

Sick and elderly citizens evacuated from the Old City of Homs

On 3 January 2014, the Reconciliation Committee (composed by influential people from the community) and non-state armed groups negotiated a humanitarian pause to enable the evacuation of three sick and elderly citizens from the Old City of Homs, where approximately 4,000 people remain trapped. Soon after the evacuation of the three people, fighting in the area resumed.

Military truce negotiations allow 10 trucks of food into Madamiyet

Ongoing negotiations between the Government of Syria forces and non-state armed groups in Madamiyet, Rural Damascus, included a pause in fighting for the delivery of food supplies to the area which had been sealed off for more than one year. On 28 December 2013, a convoy of 10 small trucks entered the town carrying food supplies, including rice, bulgur wheat, lentils, fava beans, sugar and pasta. No further humanitarian assistance has been delivered.

An estimated 18,000 people remain sealed off in Yarmouk

An estimated 18,000 people, mostly Palestine refugees, remain sealed off in Yarmouk. With the exception of some polio vaccines in December, no assistance has reached people inside the camp since September 2013. From September 2013 to date, all access points to Yarmouk have been sealed, preventing residents from departing, making

humanitarian access impossible, and creating shortages of food, water and public services. There are credible reports that severe and chronic malnutrition is endemic in Yarmouk.

Violence results in killing and displacement of civilians

Shelling and car bombs cause hundreds of civilian deaths

Throughout the second week of December into January, hundreds of people have been killed or injured due to the escalation of hostilities in areas densely populated in several neighbourhoods of Aleppo City. Areas of heavy civilian traffic, including a vegetable market and a public transportation area, were hit during busy times of the day.

Car bombs detonated near schools in Hama and Homs, resulting in tens of civilian deaths. In Hama, on 9 January, a car bomb detonated in Al-Kafat village near a school just as children were exiting exams, causing more than 20 people to be killed and 100 injured. In Homs, on 22 December, a car bomb detonated in Umm Al Amad village near three schools, causing 23 children to be killed and over 150 people injured. A local NGO reported damage to 100 houses and the displacement of an estimated 370 people. The UN Hub – Homs, SARC and local NGOs responded quickly to the identified humanitarian needs.

Escalation of fighting in Jasem, including at the Jasem National Hospital

On 30 December, two car bombs detonated at Jasem National Hospital, in Jasem city, Dar'a, causing destruction to the facility alongside the escalation of fighting over the past weeks. SARC is in negotiations with the non-state armed groups controlling the hospital to enter the area and evacuate the more than 40 dead and injured people from the National Hospital. Reportedly, 30 children have been killed as a result of the fighting in the area.

Further, an estimated 10,000 people have moved from the Jasem area to Tal Shehap area, an area with a number of IDPs near the Jordanian border, as a result of the heavy fighting.

Humanitarian Chief Valerie Amos visits displaced Syrians and Palestine refugees in Rural Damascus

On 11-12 January Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, undertook her seventh visit to Syria in the past two years. She talked with key Government of Syria counterparts and UN agencies, IOM and international NGOs and SARC to see how to further enhance the humanitarian response inside Syria, as the scale of needs continues to increase. ERC Amos emphasized the responsibility of all to ensure that aid reaches those Syrians in hard-to-access and besieged areas.

Internally displaced Syrians find assistance at SARC collective shelter at Jaramana football field

ERC Amos visited the SARC Rural Damascus Jaramana sub-branch facilities which now serve as distribution point, a health centre and a temporary collective shelter for IDPs. Supported by the Red Crescent movement, UN and international NGOs, 150 volunteers and 100 young volunteers (under the age of 18) serve 25,000 registered IDPs, including the 53 families (approximately 265 people) who reside at the football field. Similar to the rest of Syria, the overwhelming majority of the IDPs in Jaramana are hosted by neighbours, families and friends, or live in unofficial shelters, unfinished buildings, makeshift accommodation, with limited protection from the elements. SARC volunteers described how the services are overstretched, with long queues of people every day outside the medical point.

Displaced Palestine refugees find shelter and daily meals at UNRWA Al Rameh school collective shelter

ERC Amos also visited the UNRWA Al Rameh School where displaced Palestine refugee families are living in close quarters in the converted school yard. Al Rameh school temporary collective shelter hosts approximately 629 people, providing tents, latrines and shower facilities, as well as education, health, social services and hot meal.

The camp is already overcrowded with more Palestine refugees requiring shelter as the rates of displacement among the Palestine refugees exceed 50 per cent (270,000 people).



Credit: UNRWA/M Taghrid Jaramana, Rural Damascus (11 Jan 2014) – ERC Valerie Amos asks children about their days, which are spent in and around the collective shelter, including in one of three shifts of classes at the Al Rameh school.

Two rounds of ‘National Immunisation Days’ polio vaccine campaigns reach millions of children across Syria

Response to contain the polio outbreak

The conflict in Syria has caused immense displacement, with millions of children on the move, either inside the country or across borders into neighbouring countries and beyond. As a result, the routine immunisation systems critical to preventing childhood diseases have been disrupted or broken down, and children are now at a far higher risk of diseases such as polio and measles. Around 500,000 children in Syria had not been vaccinated against polio in 2011 and 2012 due to insecurity and access constraints, while prior to the conflict, immunisation coverage in Syria reached about 95 per cent.

After confirmation of the outbreak of polio in October 2013, the Ministry of Health launched a response which targets 2.2 million children across all 14 governorates of Syria with repeated vaccinations monthly (December 2013 – May 2014) to contain the outbreak and prevent the of spread of the disease. This campaign is taking place in coordination with the massive regional campaign targeting 23 million children.



Credit: SARC Deir-ez-Zor/ Al Mayadin, Deir-ez-Zor (10 Dec 2013) – SARC volunteers go forward with a risky river crossing in order to reach children in Al Mayadin village with polio vaccines during the first round of ‘National Immunisation Days’ in December – administering the vaccine in this area is critical as the first cases were found in this village.

First ‘National Immunisation Days’ polio vaccination week, 8-12 December

Representing the launch of the polio outbreak response, the first ‘national immunisation Days’ (NID) round on 8-12 December 2013 reached 2,177 million children, including those in areas that are hard-to-reach. SARC utilised a number of means to reach children in Deir-ez-Zor, including administering the vaccines door-to-door and conducting a risky river crossing to reach Al Mayadin, where the outbreak was first confirmed.

In addition to the estimated 800,000 children who possibly reside in inaccessible areas, this first 'NID' campaign round was unable to reach children some areas of Aleppo City; rural Aleppo; Dar'a; rural Homs; rural Idleb; and a number of areas in Rural Damascus.

Second 'National Immunisation Days' polio vaccination week, 5-9 January

Preliminary figures from the second round of the polio 'National Immunisation Days' indicate that 2.15 million children were reached. The final figures are not expected until next week as it requires several days to receive and compile reporting from across the governorates.

Humanitarian actors deliver assistance to those in hard-to-reach areas through flexible aid modalities

A series of 24 flights deliver assistance for at least 50,000 people in Quamishly

A breakthrough in access to Al-Hasakeh governorate was achieved when three UN agencies coordinated an airlift of humanitarian supplies from Erbil (Iraq) to Quamishly, Al-Hasakeh. From 15 to 29 December, a series of 24 flights delivered relief aid to help more than 50,000 people cope with winter in Al-Hasakeh. The cargo delivered includes enough food for over 30,000 people for one month; health kits, water and sanitation equipment; and winterisation supplies to help more than 50,000 people.

The airlift modality addressed the significant security challenges which exist to reach Al-Hasakeh governorate with humanitarian supplies via the road, including the crossing of multiple conflict lines from Damascus. This represents the first time the UN has used Iraq as a hub from which to dispatch relief items into Syria. The next airlift is planned for February 2014.

On-going bilateral and joint humanitarian convoys dispatch relief supplies to Qalamoun

Following reports on 23 December that at least 75,000 people displaced from Al Qalamoun area to An-Nabek and Deir Attiyeh were in need of assistance, OCHA Damascus has coordinated amongst humanitarian actors to track the bilateral dispatches of food, winterisation and household supplies and to support the delivery of the allocated stocks of comprehensive humanitarian assistance via convoys. From 2 – 12 January, the Logistics Cluster organised the loading and dispatching of 11 trucks carrying hygiene supplies for approximately 30,000 people; 2,000 family rations and 2,000 bags of wheat flours, sufficient to meet the needs of 10,000 people for one month; essential core items and medicines.

Life-saving medicines and medical supplies delivered cross-line in Aleppo

In the last two weeks, the health sector has delivered two shipments with more than 125 tons of medical equipment and medicines to health providers in Aleppo, enough to treat an estimated 386,000 patients, in both government-controlled and in opposition-controlled areas.

3.8 million people reached with food aid

In December, 757,500 family food rations reached 3.8 million people across 12 governorates, the highest number of people reached in one month since the onset of the crisis. Though access by road has prevented direct food assistance to reach Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor, as well as rural Aleppo and eastern Aleppo City, access gains have enabled the delivery of 95 per cent of the planned target of 4.25 million people across 14 governorates. Regular programme delivery of over 12,800 family food rations (for approximately 64,000 people) resumed to An-Nabek and Deir Attiyeh villages in Qalamoun area of Rural Damascus for the first time since August 2013.

Despite challenges, humanitarian actors scaled up response in 2013

Up to 10 million people in Syria received life-saving assistance in 2013

As the crisis deteriorated drastically throughout 2013, humanitarian actors significantly scaled up the delivery of life-saving assistance to reach up to 10 million people in need inside Syria. The Revised 2013 SHARP identified a 70 per cent rise in the population in need of assistance (from 4 million to 6.8 million) and all sectors were able to increase their delivery. Mobilization of funding was essential to enable the scale up.

Decentralisation of response

Strategic decentralisation of the response, particularly through the establishment of the UN Hubs regionally, represents a key factor to enable a rapid response. Since their establishment in mid-2013, the UN 'hubs' in Tartous and Homs have led to an improved engagement with local stakeholders, both for the identification of needs and enhanced access; expedited processes for dispatch and distribution of relief supplies; pre-positioning of stocks closer to areas with large numbers of people in need; and coordination of joint humanitarian convoys.

Since June 2013, humanitarian actors have expanded their presence to 13 governorates in Syria, establishing field focal points and 'facilitators' in key locations to enable and monitor the delivery of programmes.

The Logistics Cluster built a large common-user storage facility in Safira, near the UN Hub – Tartous and the Tartous port to enable all humanitarian actors to store and move supplies more efficiently.

Flexible use and expansion of modalities for delivery

Humanitarian actors invested in expanding their networks of local NGOs and private contractors, such as trucking companies and WASH engineers, to increase capacity for dispatch and provision of services across Syria. Airlifts enabled delivery of food, NFI and shelter, WASH and medical supplies and vaccines to Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor. Joint humanitarian convoys negotiated access for delivery of assistance to hard-to-reach, cross-line and contested areas.

Access remains the primary constraint

Security concerns for humanitarian personnel significantly constrain the capacity of humanitarian actors to deliver emergency assistance to those who are in need. Since the onset of the conflict, 34 SARC volunteers and 14 UN staff have been killed.

Fluid and shifting lines of conflict, numerous checkpoints, prohibitive bureaucratic procedures, humanitarian actors' own internal security procedures and a proliferation of non-state armed groups on the ground present a key challenge to reaching locations to deliver timely, needs-based humanitarian assistance within Syria.

Relatively low capacity of international and national NGOs

The limited number of INGOs and local NGOs allowed to operate in Syria, as well as limitations on the operational capacity of the organizations present, is not commensurate to meet the scale and scope of the crisis.

Information gaps challenged programme planning and advocacy

Lack of regular access to locations across Syria resulted in insufficient profiling and disaggregated data of the millions of Syrians internally displaced, the vast majority of whom do not reside in official collective shelters, and of host communities. While considerable coordination with SARC and line ministries enabled identification of needs, long delays and challenges to implementing assessments and lack of assessment data on infrastructure damage hinders planning and targeting of those who could be assisted through emergency repairs and upgrading support.

More than 2.3 million Syrian refugees

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 13 January 2014
Egypt	132,356
Iraq	212,918
Jordan	576,354
Lebanon	868,224
Turkey	566,134
North Africa	18,345
Total	2,374,331

Source: UNHCR as of 13 January 2014. 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 overview

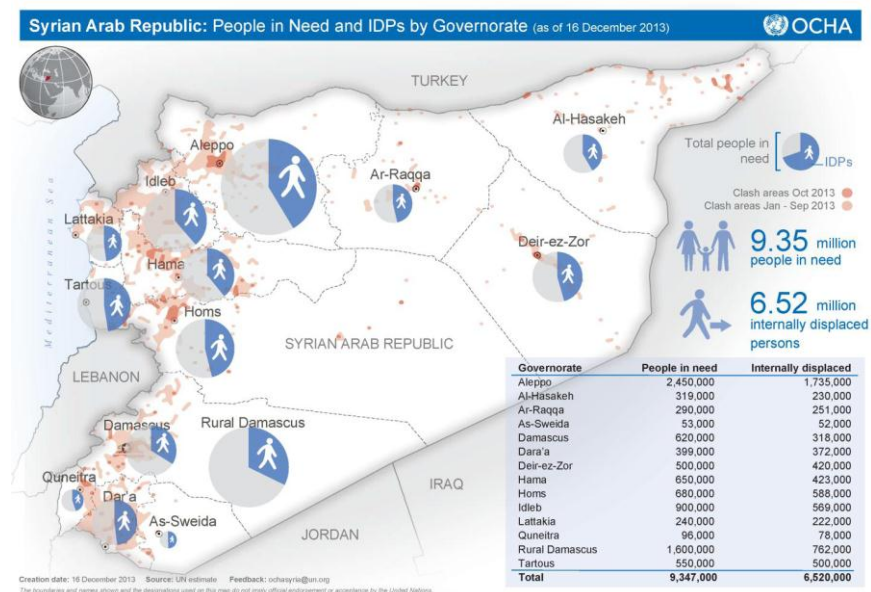
Funding for 2013 enabled scale up of interventions in Syria but left some key gaps

Donors were generous in 2013, funding 72 percent of the requirements of the 2013 SHARP, US\$1.4 billion, enabling humanitarian actors to implement scale up aid operations to meet the ever-growing humanitarian needs in Syria. The funding provided to the Syrian humanitarian response represents the highest level of funding of any humanitarian appeal to date, though still falls short of addressing the magnitude of needs.

The gap in funding of some sectors, such as protection, education and nutrition, resulted in a reduction of the number of people receiving assistance and undermined the depth of the intervention. Organizations have thus had to triage preventative programming in favor of life-saving activities. While some agencies have been able to mitigate these effects through the reallocation of funding, others have been forced to reduce programming with a number of consequences.

2014 Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) seeks 2.27 bn

UN agencies, IOM and INGOs working under the 2014 SHARP seek US\$ 2.27 billion through 122 projects to respond to the need of critical life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection of an estimated 9.3 million people across the country.



The regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) seeks 4.26 bn to address the needs of Syrian refugees in 2014

The regional Refugee Response Plan seeks \$4.26 billion to address the needs of up to 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region until December 2013. The RRP also plans to assist 2.7 million host country nationals.

This week, more than \$2.4 billion was received during the Kuwait II Conference held on 15 January in Kuwait City to help the Syrian people. Seven new countries announced pledges compared to last year and 20 countries increased their pledges from last year.

Over USD 16 million in new pledges for the ERF

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) received new pledges, including \$10.1 million from Germany, \$4.7 million from Sweden and \$1.4 million from Spain, dramatically changing the funding landscape. These new pledges bring the total funds received for the ERF since it was launched to \$68 million. The \$20 million now remaining in the budget enables the ERF to respond with flexibility and speed to emerging needs and under-funded priorities within Syria and the region.

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