

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian needs deepen as security conditions deteriorate in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dera'a, Aleppo and other areas.
- As violence spreads, it is becoming increasingly difficult for civilians to find refuge.
- Access to education in jeopardy as IDPs are hosted in 470 schools across the country.
- Dramatic increase in Syrian refugees crossing to Jordan and Turkey.

### FIGURES

Total population	22m
Governorates	14
Affected population	2.5m
Number of IDPs in public buildings	1m
Number of refugees in neighbouring countries	230,000

### FUNDING (US\$)

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

93 million (52%) received for UN activities inside Syria

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

104 million (54%) received for the Regional Refugee Response Plan



### In this issue

- Civilians bear the brunt of conflict P.1
- UN and INGOs increase response efforts P.1
- Limited access to basic services P.2
- Pressure mounts on refugee communities P.3
- Nearly 230,000 Syrians registered as refugees P.3
- Funding shortage hampers response P.4

## Civilians bear the brunt of conflict

### 2.5 million Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance

Conditions inside Syria continue to worsen as violence spreads and deepens. The UN now estimated that 2.5 million people are in need of assistance. Over the last two weeks, the situation has deteriorated rapidly in Damascus and its suburbs. Fighting continues throughout other parts of the country, including in Rural Damascus, Dera'a, Aleppo, Idlib, Homs, Hama, Latakia and Deir Ezzor governorates. ICRC notes that the situation is edging towards irreversible deterioration.

### No safe place for people

Civilians – ordinary men, women and children – are bearing the brunt of the violence. In many instances, they appear to be deliberately targeted. People have been killed in their homes or on the streets as they seek food and other essentials or try to evacuate the wounded. Countless homes, clinics, hospitals and other essential infrastructure have been destroyed. Blockades and curfews imposed on cities such as Homs, Hama, Dera'a and Idlib have prevented people from obtaining water, food and medical supplies. As the violence continues to spread to new areas, it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to find refuge.

### Access to those in need hampered by insecurity

Access to those in need is hampered by insecurity. UN agencies and humanitarian partners report an increase in the number of military checkpoints, roadblocks and road closures, affecting their ability to reach those in need of assistance. The security situation in and around Damascus, as well as in Aleppo has deteriorated significantly over the past two weeks. The United Nations continues to call for immediate access to all affected areas to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

## UN and INGOs increase response efforts

### WFP assistance targets 850,000 people

Access to food remains a key challenge in large parts of the country. WFP has dispatched food rations to assist 535,875 people across all 14 governorates over the last three weeks. The assistance will be distributed to those in need by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent as well as other local organisations and charities. From mid-August to mid-September, WFP is aiming to reach 850,000 people. In response to increasing needs, WFP will expand its food assistance programme to target 1.5 million people, starting in September.

### More than 310,000 IDPs have received essential items

IDPs face particular challenges in accessing basic items. UN agencies and humanitarian partners have distributed essential non-food items to more than 310,000 people across

the country. Over recent weeks, assistance focused on displaced people in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hassakeh and Aleppo.

### **INGOs play an increasingly important role in assistance delivery**

Eight international NGOs have been authorized by the Syrian Government to provide assistance to people affected by the conflict. These INGOs have significantly increased assistance delivery over recent weeks. Since June 2012, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has distributed essential items to about 10,000 people in Dera'a governorate and provided water and water storage facilities to 8,000 IDPs in collective shelters in Damascus and Rural Damascus. Water and sanitation support has been provided by HELP-Germany, assisting 20,000 people in Rural Damascus. Secours Islamique France (SIF) has provided hygiene kits for 30,000 people, focusing on IDPs hosted in schools in the Damascus area.

## **Limited access to basic services**

### **Access to education in jeopardy for thousands of children**

Some 470 schools and public buildings are now used as collective shelters, according to UNICEF. The Government estimates that more than 1 million IDPs are hosted in such facilities. Some 34 schools in Damascus and 137 schools in Rural Damascus are currently hosting IDPs, according to the Ministry of Local Administration. Tens of thousands of additional IDPs are staying with host communities across the country.

The Government maintains that plans for the relocation of IDPs to alternative sites exist. Sites under discussion include hotels, sports facilities, scout camps and other locations. The Government also seeks to introduce a double-shift system in some of its schools to accommodate children who are unable to attend their regular school. However, with the new school term scheduled to start already on 16 September, thousands of children are likely to be denied access to education.

### **Displaced refugees requested to leave schools**

There is evidence that the Syrian Ministry of Education has commenced the process of relocating people hosted in public buildings. In Damascus, UNHCR reports that refugees, e.g. from Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan who have been hosted in schools have been requested to leave for alternative locations by the end of August. These refugees constitute a particularly vulnerable group, with limited resources to find alternative shelter, though some refugees have received grants from UNHCR in order to afford rental accommodation. There have been no reports of Syrian IDPs being requested to leave school buildings.

### **Violence, insecurity and understaffing limit access to health care**

Access to health services is now severely limited in different parts of the country. According to the Government, 43 public hospitals have been severely damaged and 143 health clinics have been affected by the violence. The Syrian Armed Forces have taken up position in or around hospitals in several locations, according to a recent War Child report. WHO highlights that a number of health care providers are unable to report to work due to security concerns and inaccessible roads. This has resulted in understaffing in hospitals and other health facilities, especially in areas subjected to high levels of unrest. There are also severe shortages of essential medicines, according to WHO. This impedes the ability of health facilities that remain operational to provide assistance.

### **Addressing gaps, 30,000 Syrians receive mobile clinic services**

With access to health facilities curtailed in many parts of the country, an increasing number of Syrians seek medical assistance through mobile health clinics. More than 12,500 people have received assistance through four IFRC-supported mobile clinics in Rural Damascus, Homs and Qamishly in the period from January to July 2012. A hike in visits has been noted in July, as violence spread to new parts of Rural Damascus and Damascus city. Since the onset of the crisis, an estimated 30,000 people have received

medical assistance through a total of 16 mobile health clinics supported by WHO, UNFPA, ICRC, IFRC and IMC.

## Pressure mounts on refugee communities

### More than 11,000 IDPs take shelter in UNRWA schools

About 500,000 Palestine refugees are hosted in Syria. UNRWA, the Palestine refugee agency, currently provides shelter to more than 11,000 IDPs in facilities in Damascus, Homs and Aleppo. More than half of the IDPs are staying in ten UNRWA schools in Yarmouk, south of Damascus. A substantial number of IDPs are also hosted by the Palestine refugee community. UNRWA estimates that 225,000 Palestine refugees in Syria are now directly affected by the conflict. So far, more than 3,000 Palestine refugees have fled to neighbouring Lebanon, while about 1,000 have crossed the border into Jordan.

### 30,000 Iraqis have returned to Iraq since mid-July

The Syrian government estimates that the country is hosting about 1 million Iraqis. Of these, about 86,000 are registered with UNHCR as refugees (end of July 2012). The recent deterioration in the security situation in Damascus and Rural Damascus has had a direct impact on refugee communities. Since 18 July, more than 30,000 Iraqis have left Syria. Thousands of refugees have contacted refugee outreach volunteers and called UNHCR hotlines for help and advice. There has been an increase in the number of refugees reporting cases of threats and harassment, according to UNHCR. The agency has also received reports of refugees who have been kidnapped and released by armed groups in the Sayeda Zeinab district of Rural Damascus, an area of Iraqi refugee concentrations.

### Agencies step up assistance to vulnerable refugees and third-country nationals

UNHCR has increased the number of refugee telephone hotlines, provided urgent grants to help displaced refugees and facilitated modalities to speed up the return of Iraqi refugees who have decided to go back to Iraq. So far in 2012, UNHCR has provided assistance for the resettlement of more than 1,700 refugees. IOM offers evacuation assistance to refugees, third-country nationals and vulnerable migrants. Since January, IOM has provided transportation assistance for nearly 3,000 refugees approved for resettlement. Almost 400 refugees are currently booked for departure. IOM has received requests from embassies to assist over 3,000 third-country nationals (TCNs). More than 900 TCNs have been repatriated this year.

## Nearly 230,000 Syrians registered as refugees

### Dramatic increase in the number of Syrian refugees

The number of Syrians seeking refuge in neighbouring countries continues to grow at a rapid pace. In the last two weeks, the overall number of registered refugees has increased from 170,000 to nearly 230,000. Jordan has seen a spike in refugee numbers from 47,000 to 72,000 from 16 to 30 August. In Turkey, the Syrian refugee population has increased by 17,000 people in two weeks.

Country	Refugees registered and/ or assisted
Iraq	18,682
Jordan	72,402
Lebanon	57,482
Turkey	78,409
<b>Total</b>	<b>226,975</b>

Source: UNHCR, 30 August 2012. Figures are based on estimates and thus may vary.

### Massive refugee influx to Jordan

On 24 August, more than 2,200 Syrians crossed into Jordan. A similar figure was reported on 26 August. New arrivals are taken to the Za'atari refugee camp in northern Jordan. Conditions in the camp remain challenging, with facilities overwhelmed by the rapid increase in numbers. Out of the total refugee population of 72,000 people, about 23,000 refugees are currently hosted in the camp.

The majority of recent arrivals in Jordan originate from the southern governorate of Dera'a. According to UNHCR, refugees refer to heavy bombardment of villages straddling the Jordanian border and continued deterioration in access to basic services. Residents of the town of Graya Sharkiya (23,000 residents) report that 90 per cent of the total population have left. Similar reports are noted from other locations.

WFP targets 23,000 refugees through hot meal food assistance. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education to enrol refugee children in local schools and is setting up child-friendly spaces. WHO and IOM are finalising a standardised patient referral system for implementation in Za'atari camp.

### Spike in registration in Turkey

The total number of registered refugees in Turkey is approaching 80,000 people. A large number of refugees have entered Turkey over the last two weeks. Movement across the border reflect on-going hostilities in the northern Syrian governorate of Aleppo. Syrian refugees are hosted across nine refugee camps, in temporary accommodation and among local communities. According to IOM, the majority of Syrians who cross the border prefer to remain outside the camps and not to be registered. IOM also reports frequent movement back and forth across the border.

The Turkish authorities plan to build seven new camps to accommodate an increasing number of refugees. Following such construction, Turkey's total hosting capacity will be 130,000 people. Refugees currently hosted in camps are assisted by the Turkish Red Crescent. WFP will launch a food voucher system targeting 30,000 refugees in September.

### Steady flow of Syrians to Lebanon

In Lebanon, the registered refugee has reached almost 60,000 people. Many refugees have arrived in the Beka'a Valley over recent days, prompting UNHCR and humanitarian partners to identify alternative collective shelters.

WFP provides assistance through food rations and vouchers, targeting more than 33,000 refugees. WHO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, has taken steps to strengthen surveillance systems for early detection and management, especially of tuberculosis. As enrolment for public schools start on 1 September, UNHCR and humanitarian partners have reached out to refugee families to raise awareness ahead of the school year.

### Iraq receives 3,500 refugees over two-week period

About 20,000 refugees have registered in Iraq. The refugee registration rate remains stable. From 13 August, Al Qaim border crossing has been closed. New arrivals are mainly hosted in Domiz camp, as well as the newly established Al Qaim camp. So far, more than 2,000 refugees are staying at Al Qaim. Refugees hosted in Iraq are assisted by the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration.

## Funding shortages hamper response

### Only 52 per cent of humanitarian response plan funds received

UN agencies and humanitarian partners are seeking US\$180 million for 44 projects under the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. Only 52 per cent of the required funds have been received so far. Areas in need of urgent funding include health, water, sanitation, shelter and the provision of essential items.

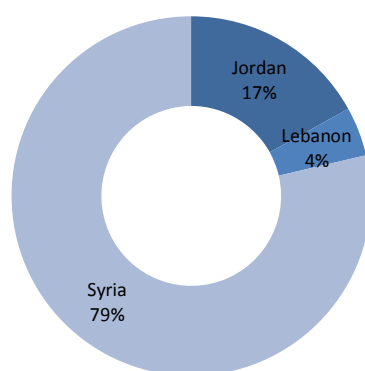
The response plan covers the needs of 1 million people inside Syria. However, since the launch of the plan in June 2012, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated dramatically.

The UN now estimates that 2.5 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance. A revised humanitarian response plan which takes recent developments into consideration will be released in September.

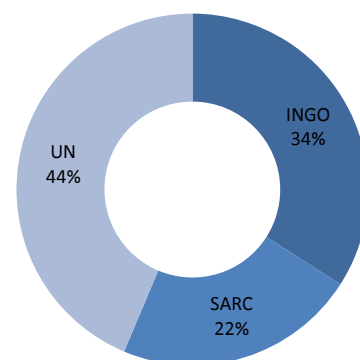
### **OCHA ERF supports assistance to 840,000 people, resources now depleted**

About US\$6.3 million has been received towards the Emergency Response Fund (ERF). Almost 90 per cent of these funds have been allocated across 20 projects to assist an estimated 800,000 people inside Syria and 40,000 people in neighbouring countries. Projects funded are implemented by UN agencies, international NGOs and local organisations, including the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Interventions are planned, *inter alia*, in the health sector, emergency shelter and essential items, water and sanitation, food security and protection. The ERF is now depleted and requires fresh funding in order to continue supporting such activities.

**Allocated by Country**



**Allocated by Organization Type**



### **Regional refugee response interventions 54 per cent funded**

A total of US\$193 million is required under the Regional Refugee Response Plan. So far only 54 per cent of these funds have been received. The increasing number of Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey is putting host authorities under considerable strain. Given that the number of refugees has already passed the planning figure presented in June 2012, UNHCR is in the process of revising needs for assistance under the response plan.

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