

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	442
Land:	Syrien
Kilde:	ACAPS
Titel:	Regional Analysis Syria, overview
Udgivet:	4. april 2014
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	23. april 2014

REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

04 April 2014

Overview

This first quarterly Regional Analysis of the Syria Conflict (RAS) replaces the [monthly RAS reports](#). The RAS seeks to bring together information from all sources in the region and provide a coherent analysis of the overall situation in the region as well as in each of the affected countries. While Part I focuses on the situation within Syria, Part II covers the impact of the crisis on the neighbouring countries. The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report.

For additional information, comments or questions please email SNAP@ACAPS.org.

Political and conflict developments: The first 3 months of the year have seen the likelihood of a solution to the crisis recede, with parties to the conflict showing decreased willingness to compromise or abide by international law. After 2 rounds of negotiations in January and February, the Geneva II conference ended with limited tangible outcome. While the talks enabled a truce that allowed for limited humanitarian assistance to be delivered to the besieged old city of Homs and the evacuation of civilians, wider and long-lasting improvements are yet to be seen.

Despite international outcry over the increasing use of sieges on civilian areas, the number of people under siege has increased – with an estimated 3.5 million people trapped in areas that are difficult to reach or under siege as of 24 March – an increase of 1 million from the start of the year. Following a detailed report on besiegement and other war crimes, UN investigators indicated that the list of suspected war criminals has been expanded and have called for the Security Council to refer Syria to the International Criminal Court. However, this has had little effect on the conduct of armed groups within Syria, illustrated by the positioning, by opposition forces, of military objectives within densely populated civilian areas of Western Aleppo; the widespread aerial bombardment of these areas by Syrian Armed Forces; and forced displacement of Kurds in Ar-Raqqa by the hard-line group ISIL, leading to growing concerns about sectarian violence and the targeting of minority communities.

A February UN Security Council resolution, demanding that all parties in Syria allow the provision of humanitarian assistance, has been largely ignored by all parties to the conflict. However, some progress was made in March when the governments of Turkey and Syria agreed to open a border crossing to facilitate UN's first cross-border convoy of humanitarian aid from Turkey.

Humanitarian crisis in Syria: Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, although it remains difficult to capture its full extent. Protection of civilians remains the overriding priority. While outbreaks of polio, measles, H1N1 have been reported, with only 65% of public hospitals reporting into a centralised database it is likely that many health issues remain underreported, particularly in the north of the country. With the low capacity of the health system and decreased immunity of the affected population the great risk lies with the approaching spring and summer seasons – which are high transmission seasons for diseases of current concern inside Syria, namely measles, polio and leishmaniasis. The north east of the country is experiencing an alarming food crisis, while FAO warns that drought conditions have been identified in these areas.

Regional crisis: High intensity conflict, especially in and around Aleppo, Dar'a and Qalamoun, has led to new waves of large-scale displacement in 2014, both within Syria as to neighbouring countries. Many of those crossing the border have experienced multiple displacements inside Syria and are likely to be significantly more vulnerable than those crossing a year ago.

Meanwhile, all host countries face significant difficulties coping with the impact of the crisis on public services, with Lebanon expected to reach the milestone of 1 million registered refugees by mid-April. Critical shortages of shelter and a lack of access to income generating opportunities further impact living conditions, with many Syrians forced to live in inadequate shelter, particularly in Jordan and Lebanon. An increasing number of Syrians are at risk of eviction due to their inability to afford rent. Those arriving in host countries in the first quarter of 2014 face severe challenges to find adequate shelter solutions.

In Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey tensions between refugees and host communities are rising due to increased pressure on basic infrastructure. These tensions are fuelled by a perception among some communities that Syrians receive preferential access to services and assistance.

Whilst many humanitarian actors are transitioning from humanitarian programming to more durable solutions, including education provision for the significant number of children currently out of school. Funding is insufficient to address even the basic needs – with only 14% of the Regional Response Plan 6 currently covered. In addition, the scale of the refugee crisis, host country government restrictions on employment, and the limited absorption capacities of the economy and public services, particularly in Lebanon, hamper more sustainable solutions to the crisis. Meanwhile, the regional security situation remains tense. As the conflict in Syria encroaches closer to the Turkish border, relations between the two countries are worsening. In Lebanon, stray fire and cross-border clashes, Syrian army air strikes, and rockets launched by opposition forces continue to de-stabilise the border regions.

Key developments Q1

Critical shelter shortages: Although at least 10% of the Syrian population has left the country, the impact on basic infrastructure of 3 years of intense fighting has left many areas without sufficient shelter options. In relatively safe areas, such as Damascus and parts of Aleppo, IDPs are forced to reside in congested collective shelters and apartments. In host countries, critical shortages of accommodation are apparent as well and, as the refugee response in all host countries is increasingly strained, vulnerability is on the rise and shelter needs are increasingly reported to be acute.

While IDPs and refugees living in poor quality shelter in urban areas are largely invisible, the identification of an increasing number of informal tented settlements in northern Syria, Jordan and Lebanon is a clear indication of the deteriorating shelter situation.

Communicable diseases: Polio is increasingly a cause for concern, with the number of confirmed cases reaching 39 in Syria and the first case confirmed in Iraq. Across the region, as the conflict continues to impede aid distribution and vaccination campaigns in Syria, and as the refugee response in all host countries is increasingly strained, vulnerability to communicable diseases is on the rise.

Protection: Protection concerns are widespread in Syria, with many people subject to arbitrary arrest, kidnappings, torture and indiscriminate bombing. Within host countries, refugees are subject to protection concerns of a different nature, primarily related to difficulties obtaining civil status documentation. Overall, SGBV and child protection issues are of major concern.

