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HIGHLIGHTS

- Civilians at greater risk as conflict escalates and moves to new areas.
- Access is challenging and fluid, requiring increased coordination, flexibility and innovation to deliver assistance.
- More than 1.9 million Syrian refugees in neighboring countries and North Africa.

FIGURES

Population	21.4 m
# of people in need	6.8 m
# of IDPs	4.25 m
# of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries & North Africa	1.9 m

FUNDING

\$1.4 billion

requested for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

43% funded

\$3 billion

requested for the Regional Refugee Response Plan

37% funded



Photo: UNICEF

In this issue

Safety of civilians deteriorates P.1

UN leadership calls for parties to respect IHL P.2

Access to health remains dire P.2

Agencies deliver despite challenges P.3

Lack of funding inhibits response P.7

Safety of civilians deteriorates as violence spreads to new areas

More people flee their homes to escape an upsurge of violence in Hassakeh, Dara'a and Latakia

Intensifying violent conflict is forcing more of the population to leave behind their homes and lives. In Hassakeh governorate, approximately 250,000 people have recently been displaced, and access to people in need is increasingly restricted.

Heavy shelling and armed clashes in Al Harra and Nawa in Dara'a governorate have reportedly cut electricity, telecommunications and water supplies to the area. It is estimated that 75,000 people have already fled and by 30 July, more than 22,500 new internally displaced people had been registered in neighbouring towns and villages.

On 3-4 August, large numbers of men, women and children were reportedly displaced from 23 villages in north eastern, rural areas of Latakia City with the onset of violent conflict. Local agencies expect the number of displaced families to reach over 3,000 families estimated to need humanitarian assistance. Thus far, a majority of displaced families are staying with relatives while others are sheltering in abandoned buildings and others staying in open fields and a school recently approved for shelter. The situation in the three existing shelters continues to deteriorate. The 800 families housed in the sports facility require a rapid response to water and sanitation, protection and education needs.

UNICEF reports that Tartous governorate continues to record an inflow of displaced persons from other governorates at a steady pace. The 21 shelters, inhabited by only a small fraction of the displaced caseload, are extremely overstretched and can no longer absorb people. The water, sanitation and hygiene conditions remain dire as needs of the affected population continue to go unmet. Visits conducted by United Nations teams to the shelters have observed varied cases of protection concerns which require immediate attention.

Already vulnerable populations, especially women and children, at increased risk and in urgent need of assistance in Homs

In Homs City and some surrounding villages, armed clashes and shelling continue. A key flashpoint area, Al Waer neighborhood, hosts an estimated 350,000 internally displaced people, in addition to the local population of around 100,000. Any escalation of violence in the area could trigger a humanitarian crisis. On 2 August, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake called on all parties to facilitate immediate safe access to these families and allow people currently trapped in Al Waer who wished to leave to do so in safety and in dignity. Mr. Lake noted that extreme restrictions on access and mobility in Homs and throughout Syria were putting the lives of women, girls and their families at high risk, highlighting, in particular the hardships faced by pregnant women who were just a few days away from giving birth who might have no options but to deliver at home, with no medical help, or risk their lives by fleeing in the hope of delivering safely elsewhere.

Women, men and children continue to be killed, injured and displaced across Syria, demonstrating a failure by parties to the conflict to protect civilians

UNFPA warns that protection for civilians accessing health care has been a challenge particularly in Al Waer and Khalidia neighbourhoods.

Palestine refugees affected by violence in Aleppo, Damascus, and Dara'a

According to UNRWA, 420,000 of the 525,000 Palestine refugees in Syria are currently in need of assistance. Shelling and clashes continue to affect many Palestine refugee camps in Aleppo, Damascus, and Dara'a, resulting in access challenges for humanitarian assistance, new displacement and the deaths of several refugees. Ein el Tal Camp is completely empty, with most refugees having fled to nearby areas of Aleppo; Sbeineh Camp remains completely blocked off for the past several weeks; Ramadan Camp is largely inaccessible from Damascus; Jillien village is blocked off in Dara'a. In the last two weeks, nearly 7,000 refugees have fled Syria for Lebanon and Jordan bringing to 92,000 the total number of Palestine refugees who have fled to Lebanon and 8,300 to Jordan. An additional 6,000 Palestine refugees have fled to Egypt, 1,600 to Turkey, 2,000 to South East Asia, and 1,000 have returned to Gaza.

Respect for International humanitarian law urged in the face of a sharp increase in hostilities

ERC Amos calls on all parties to protect civilians

Women, men and children continue to be killed, injured and displaced across Syria, demonstrating a failure by parties to the conflict to protect civilians. The United Nations leadership has publicly urged all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law in Syria. On 2 August, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, publicly called for violence to stop, indicating the need of a commitment by "all parties to stop actions that result in loss of civilian lives, to allow access for aid organizations, and to respect their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law". She also stressed the need to ensure that efforts to provide humanitarian aid remained separate from political agendas and highlighted the need to support humanitarian workers to enable them reach all people in need wherever they are in Syria.

Access to health services rapidly deteriorating

Health facilities severely constrained

As violent conflict escalates around the country, causing increased need for medical services and, at the same time, impeding safe access, a Ministry of Health report in July 2013 illustrates the dire state of the public health service capacity in Syria. According to the report, up to 60 per cent of public hospitals have limited or no capacity. In Homs, the health infrastructure has been severely constrained as almost half of the public health centres are no longer operating, a 30 per cent jump since June 2013. In Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Idleb governorates, 70 per cent of health centres are either damaged or out of service. Health workers are increasingly at risk of death, injury or kidnap, public ambulances and vaccination/supply/service vehicles are unable to provide service.

At the same time, delivery of essential medicines and medical supplies to those most in need in both government- and opposition- controlled areas remain severely problematic due to the current security status in some regions, as well as bureaucratic paper work delays.

More than 1.9 million people receive assistance through UN inter-agency cross-line convoys in 2013

Despite a challenging operational space, agencies deliver aid to the most vulnerable

Inter-agency convoys deliver targeted assistance in hard-to-access areas

After 30 days under siege, aid was successfully delivered to Idlib city for the first time via inter-agency convoys on 3 and 12 August. The United Nations Hub in Tartous, with the support of the Logistics Cluster, OCHA and SARC at the national level, coordinated with WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and IOM to supply sixteen trucks loaded with food, high energy biscuits, non-food items, medical supplies, educational and recreational kits for 5,850 children. In total, these convoys provided food support for 17,750 people, high energy biscuits for 50,000 people, non-food items for 12,000 people, a three-month-worth of primary health care medicines for 45,000 people, and specific medical interventions, including surgical supplies, and medicine for 6,350 direct beneficiaries.

Responding to constrained operational space and newly identified needs in Aleppo, OCHA, SARC and the Logistics Cluster organized an inter-agency humanitarian convoy to Aleppo. To manage insecurity along the access road and availability of drivers during Eid, the convoy has been split into 2 batches: on 10 August, supplies provided by UNICEF, Premiere Urgence and WFP, consisting of food for 15,000 people, plumpy doz and hygiene kits for 15,000 people, successfully reached Aleppo. A second convoy aims to deliver additional relief supplies by WHO, UNFPA, IOM, UNRWA, UNHCR, International Medical Corps, UNICEF and WFP in mid-August.

Since the beginning of the year, United Nations inter-agency cross-line convoys have reached over 1.9 million people in hard-to-reach areas in Aleppo, Dera'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs and Idlib governorates.

New mobile storage units established in Safita to improve response capacity

After significant investment to manage the leasing and physically prepare the land, the

last week of July marked the completion of 15 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) at the WFP compound in Safita, Syria. Given its strategic location between the Port of Tartous and the city of Homs, the Logistics Cluster anticipates this storage space will significantly facilitate the humanitarian community's ability to respond to the crisis in Syria. The Logistics Cluster has secured six MSUs in this compound for inter-agency use and has the capacity to provide additional space as needed by partners in the future. In addition to the United Nations Logistics Cluster team, SARC volunteers contributed to the project, capitalizing on a recent capacity building training on MSU construction, conducted by WFP storekeepers and the Logistics Cluster Coordinator.



Credit: WFP/A.Steward
Safita, Syria (26 July 2013) – Mobile Storage Units will enable Logistics cluster partners to meet the needs of beneficiaries in hard-to-access areas in Homs.

WFP dispatches food for 2.9 million people in July

Whilst the pace of deliveries slowed towards the middle of the month due to security constraints, the final amount of food dispatched to all governorates of Syria during the month of July reached 2.9 million people.

Allocation plans changed dramatically during the course of July, in accordance with shifting patterns of access on the ground. Fewer food rations were dispatched to Hassakeh and Idlib than originally planned, owing to the extent of insecurity along transport routes. These allocations were reprioritized to areas of Damascus, Hama, Quneitra, and Rural Damascus, where needs were equally great. WFP and its local

charity partners have only been able to deliver 1,200 rations into the Al Waer suburb of Homs city, using light and pick-up trucks to navigate deliveries into this suburb where the security situation remains tense and is likely to deteriorate further.

In keeping with Islamic tradition, local NGOs distributed food parcels during Ramadan. Secours Islamique France distributed nearly 8,000 food parcels in Damascus, Rural Damascus and in different regions in Homs (Al Awar, Albaida, Alaziziah, Albalha, and Sadding) in close cooperation with local NGOs.

WHO and UNICEF provide essential medical interventions throughout Syria

WHO continued providing primary health care services throughout the country. During the reporting period, it provided medicines and medical supplies to more than 55,000 beneficiaries. During the month of July, a total of 107,000 people benefited from medicines and medical supplies and 214,000 from health kits provided by WHO in Aleppo, Damascus, Homs, Hassakeh, and Latakia.

Through its 51 mobile medical teams in Syria's fourteen governorates and its fixed centres in Damascus, Quneitra and Rural Damascus, UNICEF reached close to 183,000 IDP children with medical checkups. A total of 570,000 IDP children are expected to be reached by UNICEF by the end of this year. UNICEF also distributed aid kits for about 3,700 internally displaced people, diarrhoea kits for 1,200 cases and lice shampoo for 3,000 children in Aleppo and Tartous.

UNFPA provides reproductive health support to 10,600 women

Over the past two weeks, UNFPA and implementing partners provided 10,600 women with life-saving reproductive health services including emergency obstetric care by SARC, the Syrian Family Planning Association and the maternal hospitals in Aleppo and Damascus. UNFPA supplied the same hospitals with 342,000 intra-venous fluids and an additional 378,000 bags of glucose serums to hospitals in Damascus, Hama, Homs, Latakia, and Tartous, greatly needed for both surgical and other urgent reproductive health care interventions. UNFPA also continued supporting mobile teams in Damascus, Hama and Rural Damascus where no other qualified health service exists, reaching 800 women in need.

UNHCR and partners respond to the urgent, seasonal needs of IDPs and reach over 1.5 million people with essential non-food items

UNHCR amended the type of assistance provided to vulnerable Syrians to include "summerisation" items, such as solar lanterns and rechargeable fans, to relieve the heat in the current summer season, in response to power shortages and in particular, during the month of Ramadan when people were fasting. To appropriately mark the occasion of Eid, the Syrian Society for Social Development has provided families in al Hameh, al Dmayr in Rural Damascus, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Aleppo with clothes and shoes.

In the past two weeks, Secours Islamique France, SARC, Ta'alouf and Ahel al-Kheir have delivered urgent non-food items to beneficiaries in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Latakia and Tartous. UNHCR delivered urgent relief items to 60,000 people, including in the new destination of Bab Seaba'a in Homs; IOM provided relief items to 12,651 displaced and affected people. Preparations for the winter season are also underway with UNHCR procuring stocks.

The continuing security constraints have affected regular service provision across Syria, as agencies face accessibility, travel and transportation difficulties. IOM has experienced access difficulties in Qamishly, Hassakeh and Dara'a as well as delays in delivery due to time consumed in having to load and offload items at checkpoints. The Shelter Working Group partners continued to closely monitor the humanitarian situation in Homs, which remains critical, for any opportunities to resume activities there.

Since the start of 2013, UNHCR has provided an estimated 1,589,450 beneficiaries in all 14 governorates of Syria with essential non-food items.

Education sector preparing for the start of the school year on 15 September

During the reporting period, the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) drafted a preparedness plan for the sector, defining triggers to activate an education response and interventions to be implemented in each case. This plan will help the ESWG to respond faster and can also be used as an advocacy tool, as it provides a clearer picture of the capacity gaps in the sector.

UNICEF and partners continued to support children's education throughout the country. A total of 158,951 boys and girls benefited from 457 school clubs in Damascus, Dara'a, Rural Damascus, Hama, Homs, Quneitra, Latakia, and Tartous. UNICEF in cooperation with a local NGO also continues supporting 2,255 adolescents with various types of vocational trainings in Aleppo, Homs and Rural Damascus.

Education support to children in need also continued to be provided by UNHCR and various international NGO partners, including the Agha Khan Education Services, the Danish Refugee Council, and Premiere Urgence through remedial classes, vocational training, art classes, life skills, recreational activities and school rehabilitation.

Agencies launch training for community volunteers and health providers to address nutrition in children

UNICEF, WFP and WHO are actively engaged in developing capacity to scale up response to nutrition concerns through trainings and identification and engagement of new partners. Over the past period, a range of trainings have been implemented, including a training of trainers in Tartous (joint with WASH sector); two joint Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO and WFP trainings on Community Management of Acute Malnutrition for 80 MoH doctors; Agha Khan conducted 2 training workshops on breastfeeding for community volunteers in Salamieh/Hama and completed supervision visits to 10 health centres where health workers were implementing growth monitoring and nutrition counselling.

UNICEF, WFP and their partners, including International Medical Corps, Agha Khan, SARC and local NGOs delivered curative and preventative malnutrition assistance in Aleppo, Homs, Damascus, and Latakia and conducted a needs assessment in Tartous. Over the last two weeks, UNICEF distributed high energy biscuits targeting about 48,000 beneficiaries in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, and Latakia, plumpy doz for 4,500 children in Aleppo, and cooking stoves for 660 families in Aleppo and Hama. WFP reached over 18,000 children in Aleppo with the supplement Nutributter.

Displaced women earn income to help their families meet their basic needs

UNDP launched a cash for work initiative in Hassakeh Governorate creating temporary jobs for 100 women. Moreover, in cooperation with local NGOs, UNDP established a sewing workshop in Qamishly targeting the employment of skilled women from within the IDPs and the host community, with priority given to the most vulnerable. Over the next four months, this initiative aims to provide a reasonable source of income to enable the women meet their and their families' basic needs. The produced items ranging from clothes to bedding sets were distributed through local partners to IDPs families who were in dire need of these items before Eid.

UNICEF and partners provide WASH assistance in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, and Tartous

Despite the very limited accessibility to affected areas in rural Homs, UNICEF and partners were able to provide 15 litres per person per day, tucked to serve 380 persons in Talbiseh. A total of 1,130 people are expected to benefit from this water trucking project. In addition, UNICEF partners provided hygiene and baby kits for 1,000 beneficiaries in the Al Waer neighbourhood of Homs.

In Deir-ez-Zor, UNICEF provided a 500 KVA electrical generator for water treatment to ensure the continuous provision of treated water to 250,000 people during times of power outages. In Aleppo, UNICEF, in cooperation with a local NGO, provided over 1,000 IDPs with access to safe water and sanitation in seven IDP shelters and in Tartous, UNICEF

and SARC conducted a hygiene promotion campaign in two IDP shelters, benefiting 65 women and 112 children.

UNRWA responds to the increasing and shifting needs of Palestine refugees and Syrian IDPs in Syria

In the last two weeks, UNRWA has established three additional food distribution points in Damascus, including one on the edge of Yarmouk to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees who have been recently displaced from their homes and have stayed in the surrounding area. The Agency is also looking into local food procurement in Aleppo in order to improve supply chains to areas affected by conflict and to overcome travel and transportation difficulties. In the reporting period, UNRWA has successfully distributed 9,433 food parcels and 22,431 units of canned food. The agency also distributed food for about 12,900 Palestine refugees and displaced Syrians staying in 20 UNRWA facilities and in 13 non-UNRWA collective shelters in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama and Latakia.

UNRWA has significantly refocused its health care services in Syria to provide basic services to refugees in areas of displacement. In the last two weeks, UNRWA established two mobile health points in Damascus, bringing to six the total number of health points established so far, with plans to open four additional ones in the coming weeks. In order to support children displaced by conflict, UNRWA has developed supplementary distance and home-based self-learning materials, which are currently being reviewed by UNICEF for use with other students.

UNRWA has raised the level of cash assistance it provides to Palestine refugees in Syria, due to significantly increased needs and in response to the rapidly worsening exchange rate of the Syrian Pound against the US Dollar. In July, nearly 93,000 Palestine refugees received cash assistance from UNRWA in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, and Latakia. Some 115,000 families have applied for assistance since the start of 2013, representing nearly the entire Palestine refugee population in Syria.

Assistance targeting specific protection needs of displaced persons and migrants

During the reporting period, IOM, in collaboration with the Syrian Trust for Development, trained 26 shelter managers in Damascus and Rural Damascus on mental health and psychosocial support. In addition, service providers in UNFPA-assisted Syrian Family Planning Association clinics completed capacity building sessions on case management of gender based violence cases.

In the last two weeks, IOM facilitated the safe return of 99 vulnerable stranded migrants to their countries of origin in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Senegal, and Sudan. The stranded migrants are extremely vulnerable, with reports of high incidents of exposure to physical, verbal and sexual abuse as well as limited access to basic health care. The total number of vulnerable stranded migrants assisted by IOM since November 2011 has now reached 3,724. International Medical Corps, SARC, the and the Danish Refugee Council provided recreational, educational, vocational and early child development training, counselling, legal support to displaced persons in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Homs, Sweida'a and Tartous. With UNFPA's assistance, the Syrian Family Planning Association and SARC clinics and mobile teams provided psychosocial and psychological first aid to women in Damascus and Rural Damascus.

More funding required to address the needs of 6.8 million people in Syria and up to 3.5 million Syrian refugees in the region by the end of 2013

More than 1.9 million Syrian refugees

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 12 August 2013
Egypt	107,112
Iraq	160,997
Jordan	515,824
Lebanon	677,965
Turkey	433,971
North Africa	14,000
Total	1,909,869

Source: UNHCR as of 12 August 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. In addition to the above figures, around 28,000 Syrians have fled to various European countries.

Lack of funding constrains agencies' preparation for "winterization"

Humanitarian response only 42 per cent funded

The Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP), which requires \$1.4 billion to provide urgent assistance to the 6.8 million people in need in Syria, has only received 43 per cent of its requirements. As the hostilities escalate, Syrians are facing increasingly dire circumstances, particularly lack of basic services and food, as well as deteriorating security. Sufficient funding is needed now to enable operations to continue to meet the needs of people in Syria and agencies to procure and pre-position life-saving supplies, particularly stocks for winterization.

Regional Refugee Response Plan only 37 per cent funded

The regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) requires a total of \$2.9 billion to address the needs of 3.5 million Syrian refugees and 1.9 million host country nationals by the end of December 2013. To date, the plan has received \$1.1 million (37 per cent), leaving more than \$1.8 million in unmet requirements.

Emergency Response Fund (ERF) enables local and international NGOs to respond to urgent needs

The ERF has received \$49.5 million in contributions and allocated \$32.7 million to 107 projects. There are currently 11 project proposals under review with a value of \$3.9 million. An ongoing call for proposals in Lebanon will end on 13 August 2013 with high expectations that partners will have developed projects which fit the needs in the prioritized sectors (health, WASH and shelter).

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