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REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

26 September 2013

Overview

 Red flags indicate new information

This Regional Analysis of the Syria Conflict (RAS) is an update of the [August RAS](#). 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.

-  **Conflict:** Following a temporary decline in the conflict intensity while an international military intervention seemed likely, clashes reignited in mid September as the threat receded with heavy fighting between opposition groups and Government forces. A new dimension to the conflict became more apparent as fighting increased between opposition groups in northern governorates, particularly between moderate opposition groups and Al-Qaeda linked factions. At the end of September, several groups denounced the opposition alliance of the Syrian National Coalition, claiming it no longer represents their interests. These developments suggest that fragmentation between anti-Government forces is reaching new depths. This will not only further challenge humanitarian access, it also impacts the likelihood of effective peace talks in the framework of the Geneva II conference.
-  **Displacement:** Over 2.1 million Syrians have either registered as refugees or are currently waiting to be registered in neighbouring countries and over 4 million have been identified as displaced within Syria. As a result of the ever-more complex conflict, Syrians continue to be displaced – a large number having been forced to move multiple times. While violence is a major driver of displacement, a large number of refugees have indicated that they have fled because of the indirect impacts of the crisis; the crippled state of the economy and rapid deterioration of the health system being two major factors.
-  Amid the continuing factors pushing people to flee, their options are increasingly restricted. Lebanon is enforcing stricter border policies and Egypt continues to demand pre-arrival entry visas, while services for refugees in the host countries are over-stretched. As more and more people flood into the neighbouring countries, competition for shelter, resources and employment increase, both amongst the displaced and between the displaced and the host communities.
-  **Humanitarian situation:** Malnutrition has been reported as a growing concern in September, with the first death of a child due to lack of nutrition recorded in Rural Damascus. Communities in besieged areas are thought to be the most at risk, but food security is worsening in many parts of Syria and host countries

due to the decrease in income opportunities and rising inflation that widely affects the population's purchasing power.

-  The financial restrictions related to the international embargoes, though not designed to target food imports, are proving a growing hurdle to the Government's ability to import the country's wheat needs. At the same time, the June wheat harvest was far below average, while local production of basic goods has fallen to an all-time low. Consequently, goods are increasingly unavailable on the markets in Syria, with reported shortages of food, fresh vegetables, infant formula and items required for the approaching winter.
-  **Education:** With the beginning of the school year, it has become evident how many Syrian children are losing out on their right to education, both within Syria and in the host countries. As well as the lack of places in schools in host countries, children are also at risk of being removed from education to engage in child labour, as their families' economic resources dwindle. In Syria many schools continue to be occupied by displaced families.
-  **Shelter:** As the winter approaches, the wellbeing of the many thousands of people in Syria, and refugees in host countries, living in inadequate accommodation is of grave concern. Already dire living conditions are set to worsen as the cold weather and rains approach.
-  **Constraints:** Security issues in several host countries are impacting the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver urgent services. Meanwhile in Syria, the status quo regarding access remains, with checkpoints and violence threatening the successful delivery in the places that are still reachable. Market shortages are affecting the ability of humanitarian organisations to procure items locally and an increasing number of goods need to be imported in order to avoid overburdening an already weakened market.
-  **Funding:** The UN and partners are currently revising the funding appeal for Syria and for the host countries, to cover the needs from January 2014 to December 2014. The current humanitarian appeals remain underfunded, with 47% of the funding requirements for Syria covered and 43% for the host countries. The lack of funding has affected the provision of shelter and healthcare and led to an upcoming reduction in food and NFI aid to refugees in Lebanon. The limited funding available will not be sufficient to meet basic needs should another mass influx be triggered, with contingency plans competing for the limited pool of finances.
-  **Number of people affected/displaced:** In absence of a countrywide registration system, the numbers available on those either displaced and/or in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria are estimates based on figures from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the Syrian Government and anecdotal information. The revision of the humanitarian appeal, involves revisiting the April estimates of 6.8 million people in need and 4.25 million people displaced. Preliminary conclusions from these discussions indicate that numbers of displaced and of those in need of assistance has risen significantly.

Situation overview – September 2013

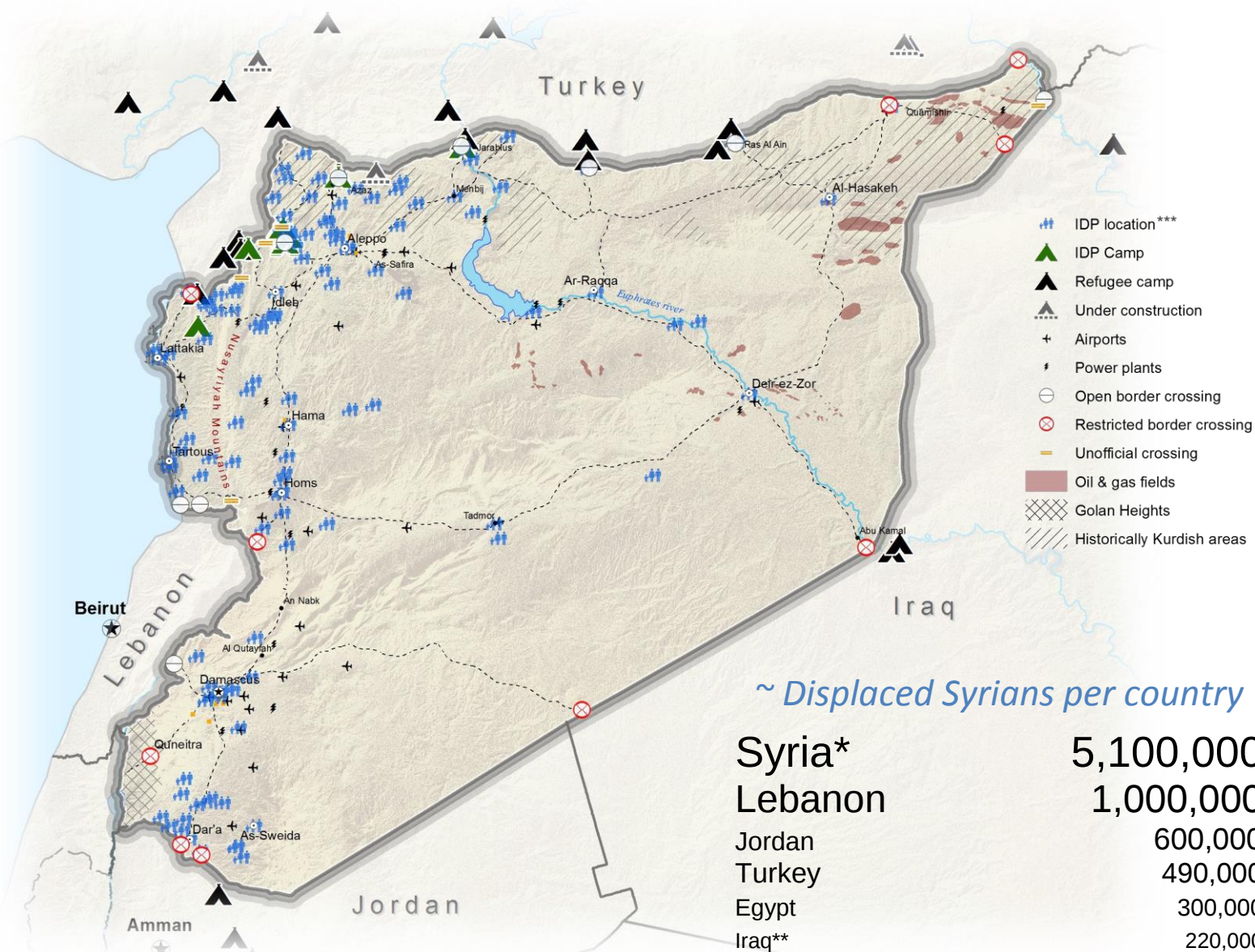
Key developments

Protection: Protection concerns continue to be the main reason for people to flee Syria. The civilian population within the country is subject to heavy weaponry attacks and the constant threat of violence due to the lack of law and order in some locations. Children are extremely vulnerable and are often forced to work at an early age, are recruited by armed forces and face threats of sexual violence.

Displacement: Although no regional displacement tracking system is in place, it is clear that high levels of displacement are ongoing, both within Syria and to other countries. Vulnerability is heightened, as many of those displaced are forced to relocate multiple times.

Health: Within Syria, amid widespread shortages of medicines, equipment and medical staff and the breakdown of infrastructure, deliberate targeting of hospitals, medical personnel and vehicles continues. In Jordan and Lebanon, the health infrastructure is increasingly overburdened, leading to further decrease in access to medical care for Syrians and host-communities.

Shelter: Due to the significant operational constraints in Syria, the focus of the shelter response is on those gathered in collective displacement sites such as IDP camps and Government-run collective shelters. However, the large majority of displaced are staying in substandard shelters or with host-families. Outside of Syria, the large number of refugees living in inadequate shelters are particularly vulnerable, a situation compounded by the market scarcity of winter items.



*Not updated since April 2013. Currently being reviewed, estimate likely to increase significantly

**Only those registered. Unlike other host countries the authorities have not published estimates on the total number of Syrians in the country.

***Provided by the State Department HIU from open sources and include: collective centres, schools, mosques, sports facilities and host families. List is not exhaustive.