



# SYRIA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Fighting continued between Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) forces and armed opposition groups in Syria despite the four-day Eid al-Adha ceasefire brokered by U.N.–Arab League Special Envoy to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi, which began on October 26. An initial decrease in violence enabled some displaced families in Aleppo neighborhoods to temporarily return home to survey damage and retrieve winter clothing and other supplies, according to international media sources. However, multiple car bombings and airstrikes in Damascus, Aleppo, and Dayr az Zawr cities and elsewhere effectively ended the ceasefire as of October 27, as parties to the conflict accused each other of violating the agreement. Despite the continued violence, U.N. agencies took advantage of the temporary ceasefire period to deliver humanitarian assistance to Homs, Aleppo, Ar Raqqa, and southern Al Hasakah governorates.
- As conflict continues, U.N. agencies estimate that an additional 1.5 million people in Syria may be in need of assistance in the coming months. The potential increase would raise Syria’s conflict-affected population from 2.5 million to 4 million people. At present, the U.N. estimates that 1.2 million people are internally displaced inside Syria, while SARG estimates of internally displaced persons (IDPs) exceed 3 million. In addition, nearly 390,000 people have fled from Syria to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, a figure that U.N. agencies expect to increase to 710,000 by the end of the year. The U.N. also reports that thousands of Syrians have fled to Europe and North Africa.
- On November 9, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) Kelly Clements announced that the United States Government (USG) is providing more than \$34 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help those affected by the conflict in Syria. This assistance includes more than \$5.6 million to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide winter relief supplies and other basic necessities inside Syria; nearly \$16.7 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist Syrians displaced to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey; \$9 million to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF); \$2 million to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP); \$400,000 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); and \$323,000 to the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA).

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	Source	
Estimated Total Number of IDPs in Syria	1.2 million	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – September 26, 2012
Estimated Total Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria	2.5 million	OCHA – September 26, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey	111,890	GoT <sup>2</sup> – November 7, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Lebanon	113,787	UNHCR – November 6, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Jordan	116,727	UNHCR – November 6, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Iraq	47,590	UNHCR – November 5, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq	389,994	UNHCR, GoT

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 AND FY 2013 <sup>3</sup>	
USAID/OFDA <sup>4</sup> Assistance to Syria	\$46,226,997
USAID/FFP <sup>5</sup> Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$47,000,000
State/PRM Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$72,760,000
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries</b>	<b>\$165,986,997</b>

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>2</sup> Government of Turkey (GoT)

<sup>3</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>4</sup> USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>5</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

## Context

- Following the commencement of peaceful demonstrations against the Syrian government in March 2011, President Bashar al-Assad pledged legislative reforms. However, reforms failed to materialize, and SARG forces loyal to President al-Assad began responding to demonstrations with violence, leading armed opposition groups to retaliate. In early October, the U.N. reported more than 20,000 deaths, mostly civilians, due to the conflict. According to public reports by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the conflict had killed approximately 36,000 people—including civilians, armed insurgents, defectors, and members of the SARG security forces—as of early November.
- On March 26, 2012, the SARG accepted a six-point peace plan proposed by U.N.–Arab League Special Envoy to Syria Kofi Annan. The plan, endorsed by the U.N. Security Council, called for a ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian access, and the withdrawal of military personnel from populated areas. The ceasefire never took full effect as clashes between SARG and opposition forces, as well as SARG attacks on demonstrators and populated areas, continued. On August 2, Annan announced his resignation as U.N.–Arab League Special Envoy to Syria, effective at the end of August. Lakhdar Brahimi became U.N.–Arab League Special Envoy to Syria in September.
- On August 16, the U.N. elected not to renew the mandate of the U.N. Supervision Mission in Syria, which suspended operations on June 16 due to increasing levels of violence throughout the country. All U.N. military observers departed Syria in late August.
- Syria hosts approximately 500,000 Palestinian refugees, with more than 80 percent living in and around Damascus, particularly in the Yarmouk area. Other sizable Palestinian populations are located in Homs, Hamah, Aleppo, Latakia, and Dar'a. Intense fighting in and around Palestinian camps and neighborhoods in Yarmouk, Aleppo, and Dar'a is increasingly affecting Palestinian refugees in Syria. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates that 225,000 Palestine refugees are directly affected by the conflict. Syria also hosts approximately 87,000 Iraqi refugees, primarily in the greater Damascus area.

## Population Displacement

### *IDPs in Syria*

- The U.N. continues to estimate that approximately 1.2 million people remain displaced inside Syria, the majority of who are residing with host families and in public buildings. Among the public buildings, the SARG Ministry of Education estimates that more than 2,100 Syrian schools countrywide are serving as displacement sites, according to OCHA. U.N. agencies and other humanitarian organizations are rehabilitating schools and other buildings serving as communal shelters to improve sanitation conditions and suitability for winter accommodation.
- Syria's Ar Raqqa Governorate continues to receive a high number of IDPs from Aleppo and Dayr az Zawr governorates as a result of ongoing fighting in those areas, according to U.N. agencies. As of October 26, approximately 300,000 IDPs had registered for assistance in Ar Raqqa, the U.N. reports. However, local officials estimate that up to 500,000 IDPs are residing in the governorate. Many of the IDPs are residing with host families, placing a strain on community coping mechanisms, according to OCHA.
- Approximately 225,000 IDPs primarily from Aleppo and Dayr az Zawr—as well as from Homs Governorate—have fled to Al Hasakah Governorate, according to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). As Syria's poorest governorate, Al Hasakah communities have limited resources to support the large IDP population. Humanitarian organizations, including USG-supported NGOs, are providing assistance in Ar Raqqa and Al Hasakah governorates to help alleviate the strain on local resources.

### *Refugees in Syria*

- UNRWA continues to provide humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees in Syria who have been displaced or otherwise affected by the conflict, as well as those who have fled Syria for Jordan and Lebanon. In recent months, some 60,000 Palestinian refugee families in Syria have approached UNRWA to seek assistance. On this basis, UNRWA now estimates that as many as three-quarters of Palestinian refugees may need help to meet their food and other essential living needs. Approximately 8,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have entered Lebanon and sought UNRWA assistance, while more than 1,600 have entered Jordan. In Syria, UNRWA has highlighted the negative impact of the conflict on Palestinian refugee communities near Damascus, where tension and violence have escalated in recent weeks, resulting in numerous Palestinian refugee deaths. Five UNRWA staff members have been killed since the start of the conflict.
- There are 87,000 Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR in Syria, as of the end of July. The conflict has affected Iraqi refugees' movements inside Syria, as well as their access to public services. UNHCR and other partners are relocating some facilities inside Syria to ensure better access for Iraqi refugees.

### *Turkey*

- As of November 7, approximately 111,890 displaced Syrians resided in camps in Turkey, according to the GoT. The GoT currently operates 14 camps and one temporary processing center in seven provinces for displaced Syrians. Turkey is constructing several additional camps to bring the total capacity of the camps to 130,000 people. In addition, up to 70,000 Syrians are living outside of the camps in Turkey.

### *Jordan*

- UNHCR and other international and local humanitarian organizations are assisting people who have fled from Syria to Jordan and are residing in Za'atri camp or in Jordanian host communities. At the current rate of arrival, the number of Syrians displaced to Jordan could reach 250,000 by the end of the year. According to the Jordanian government, more than 220,000 Syrians have entered Jordan since the conflict began in March 2011, although UNHCR has registered only 116,781 Syrians for assistance to date.

### *Lebanon*

- The population of displaced Syrians registered with UNHCR and awaiting registration in Lebanon has exceeded 113,000, as of November 6. Most displaced Syrians in Lebanon currently reside with host families or rent apartments. To help ease the strain on the displaced population, the Government of Lebanon announced during the first week of November that it will waive the fee for Syrians wishing to renew their residency permits. Humanitarian organizations—including UNHCR, WFP, the Danish Refugee Council, World Vision, UNFPA, UNICEF, and Caritas—continue to provide conflict-affected Syrians in Lebanon with humanitarian assistance, reaching approximately 16,000 people with food, blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, and baby kits during the week of November 4.

### *Iraq*

- More than 47,000 Syrians have sought refuge in Iraq since the beginning of the Syria crisis, with more than 31,000 arriving in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, including 14,000 Syrian Kurds residing in Domiz camp.
- The Government of Iraq (GoI) closed the Al-Qaim border crossing from Syria on October 21, according to the GoI Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), which cited capacity of the two existing camps in the Al-Qaim area as the reason for the closure. The GoI permits urgent medical cases to cross the border, but only up to ten individuals per day. The MoMD reported that it has obtained land for a third camp and plans to begin camp construction in the near future.

### **Winter Assistance**

- As winter approaches, humanitarian organizations are actively implementing winter assistance plans in Syria and in neighboring countries to prevent humanitarian conditions from deteriorating due to cold weather. U.N. agencies are targeting up to 1.2 million conflict-affected people in Syria and up to 380,000 people displaced to neighboring countries with winter relief activities, including light shelter repairs to communal displacement sites; the distribution of relief supplies such as winter clothing, blankets, carpets, and mattresses; and the reinforcement of displacement camp shelter through provision of pre-fabricated structures and winterized tents.
- The USG recently provided additional funding to U.N. agencies—through the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan and the Syria Regional Response Plan—to support winter relief activities for conflict-affected Syrians. New USG funding for UNICEF includes approximately \$4.5 million for winter assistance in Syria, such as clothes for children and newborns, blankets and sleeping mats to prevent heat loss, plastic sheeting for shelter, and hygiene kits. The USG also provided an additional \$16.7 million to UNHCR, including \$13.5 million for winter relief efforts—such as the provision of thermal blankets, quilts, sleeping bags, winterization and hygiene kits, and cooking sets and stoves—for Syrians displaced to Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

### **Health**

- The Syria conflict is having a negative impact on the health of mothers and children, especially newborn babies, according to UNICEF. Reports by local Syrian health officials indicate that the ongoing violence continues to affect infant care in Syrian hospitals. On November 2, UNICEF reported that only 14 of 21 incubators remained functional at the general hospital in the Syrian capital of Damascus despite a waiting list of more than 60 babies. On November 1, the SARG Ministry of Health indicated to UNICEF that 400 incubators were needed across the country. The stress of the conflict is having a particularly damaging effect on expectant mothers. Citing anecdotal reports from health workers, UNICEF stated that many women are miscarrying, while others are delivering early,

requiring a greater number of Caesarean sections. Hospitals have experienced a two-fold increase in the number of Caesarean sections when compared with the same period last year, according to UNICEF.

- UNFPA has been working to address the health needs of conflict-affected women in Syria and neighboring countries by providing reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care, maternal health care, and psychosocial support. UNFPA-supported reproductive health care activities have reached approximately 130,000 women in Ar Raqqa, Damascus, Hamah, Homs, and Rif Damascus governorates as of October 26, according to OCHA. In recent weeks, UNFPA-supported mobile clinics and teams have provided an estimated 10,000 women with emergency obstetric care and psychosocial support, while UNFPA has also supported the delivery of medical equipment, including midwifery kits and delivery kits. The USG recently provided \$323,000 to UNFPA to assist Syrian women displaced to Turkey.
- Restricted humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas and continuing disruptions to cold chain facilities due to power outages and fuel shortages have contributed to the disruption of Syria's national immunization coverage, according to the U.N. Several U.N. agencies, including the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, are working with the SARG to address gaps in the national immunization program. New USG funding for UNICEF includes \$1.5 million for health assistance in Syria, including support for immunization programs. With USG support, UNICEF is also addressing winter-related health issues—including acute respiratory infections that are exacerbated by cold weather—through the distribution of basic health kits and medications.
- The USG continues to support efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide medical assistance and other humanitarian aid in Syria. On November 3, ICRC and SARC delivered humanitarian assistance in the Khalidiya and Hamidiya neighborhoods of Homs, the first time ICRC has been able to reach the Old City in recent months. The 34-person team—which included a number of medical doctors—delivered medicines for chronic diseases and medical supplies sufficient to treat up to 100 wounded people, in addition to hygiene items and food. The mission occurred after several days of negotiation by ICRC with the SARG and various armed opposition groups. Hundreds of civilians have been unable to leave Khalidiya and Hamidiya for at least four months due to the conflict, according to ICRC. To date, the USG has provided \$8 million to ICRC to support emergency medical care and other humanitarian assistance in Syria.

### **Logistics Support and Relief Commodities**

- Insecurity during the temporary Eid al-Adha ceasefire period—which officially began October 26—challenged the ability of the U.N. to deliver humanitarian assistance to Syrian conflict areas, according to UNHCR. However, U.N. agencies were able to provide some emergency relief supplies in Homs, Aleppo, Ar Raqqa, and southern Al Hasakah governorates between October 25 and October 31. SARC and its local relief committee partners successfully distributed pre-positioned UNHCR emergency family kits to 800 families, or approximately 4,000 people, in the city of Aleppo on October 25; however, insecurity prevented further distributions in Aleppo and Idlib. On October 27 and 28, a joint U.N. convoy of 18 trucks arrived in Homs carrying food, family kits, mattresses, blankets, and hygiene kits provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP. Continued conflict and other security constraints hampered the immediate distribution of the supplies, and the commodities were stored with SARC for later distribution, security permitting.
- The USG continues to support efforts by U.N. agencies and NGOs to provide emergency relief supplies to people affected by the Syria conflict. The USG recently provided an additional \$2 million to enhance WFP's ability to deliver food assistance and to facilitate the transportation and distribution of humanitarian supplies for other U.N. agencies. In addition, the USG recently provided more than \$5.6 million to two NGO partners for the distribution of clothes, blankets, mattresses, winter floor coverings, and other supplies to conflict-affected people in Syria.

### **Food Security**

- The USG continues to provide support for WFP's emergency food assistance operations, including \$32.3 million to date for WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP) within Syria, and \$14.7 million for WFP's EMOP serving displaced Syrians in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq.
- With support from USG and other donors, WFP monthly rations are distributed to approximately 1.5 million displaced and conflict-affected persons, through more than 200 distribution points in all 14 Syrian governorates, in cooperation with SARC. In the four neighboring countries, displaced Syrians receive food vouchers, dry rations, or hot meals.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2012<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
IFRC	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$1,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$12,965,409
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Syria	\$500,000
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Syria	\$300,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection	Syria	\$1,750,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$1,500,000
WHO	Health	Syria	\$1,300,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$380,455
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$19,695,864</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP	Syria EMOP	Syria	\$32,300,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq	\$14,700,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$47,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
ICRC	Emergency Medical Care, Food, and Relief Items	Syria	\$8,000,000
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Turkey	\$500,000
NGO Partners	Health, Psychosocial, Protection, and Shelter Assistance	Jordan and Lebanon	\$3,000,000
UNHCR	Assistance for IDPs through Syria Humanitarian Response Plan	Syria	\$8,360,000
UNHCR	Support for the Regional Response Plan	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq	\$19,500,000
UNICEF	WASH and Protection	Jordan	\$2,000,000
UNRWA	Support for Palestinian Refugees in and from Syria	Syria, Jordan, Lebanon	\$11,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$52,360,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$119,055,864</b>

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2013<sup>3</sup>**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
NGO Partners	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Syria	\$18,418,104
UNICEF	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$6,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$2,000,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$113,029
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$26,531,133</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
IFRC	Emergency Medical Care	Lebanon	\$400,000
UNFPA	Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response	Turkey	\$323,000
UNHCR	Support for the Regional Response Plan	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq	\$16,677,000
UNICEF	Support for the Regional Response Plan	Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$20,400,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2013</b>			<b>\$46,931,133</b>

<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012 and FY 2013</b>	<b>\$165,986,997</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. FY 2012 figures are subject to fluctuations due to end-of-fiscal-year financial review and reconciliation activities.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 8, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> \$12.8 million in funding was committed in FY 2012 and will be obligated in FY 2013.

**PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. The USG encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:  
The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.  
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/crises-and-conflict-countries>