



SYRIA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- After nearly 17 months of conflict, which began with non-violent demonstrations against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad in March 2011, the U.N. estimates that approximately 2 million people in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance, approximately 1 million people are internally displaced, and more than 140,000 people have fled to the neighboring countries of Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, and Iraq.
- Fighting between Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) forces and armed opposition groups escalated and spread to other areas of the country, including Syria’s capital, Damascus, and largest city, Aleppo, following a July 18, 2012, suicide bombing in Damascus that killed and wounded key members of the SARG security apparatus. The escalated fighting has displaced a significant number of people, including those previously displaced to Damascus and Aleppo from elsewhere in Syria, according to the U.N. Insecurity near areas of displacement and along transport routes is hampering relief efforts.
- With assistance from relief organizations, the governments of Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq are preparing for anticipated additional influxes from Syria and continuing support for current displaced populations. In Lebanon, where numerous displaced people are residing with host families or in collective shelters, the government is expanding a public hospital in Tripoli to accommodate increasing numbers of wounded and ill Syrians.
- On August 11, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that the U.S. Government (USG) is providing an additional nearly \$5.5 million in humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected people in Syria and neighboring countries, bringing the total USG humanitarian assistance for these populations to nearly \$82 million.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	Source	
Estimated Total Number of IDPs ¹ in Syria ²	1 million	U.N. – July 19, 2012
Estimated Total Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria	2 million	U.N. – July 19, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey	48,388	Government of Turkey – August 8, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Lebanon	36,442	UNHCR ³ – August 8, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Jordan	41,833	UNHCR – August 7, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Iraq	13,499	UNHCR – August 5, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq	140,162	UNHCR – August 8, 2012

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ⁴	
USAID/OFDA ⁵ Assistance to Syria	\$16,151,875
USAID/FFP ⁶ Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$26,000,000
State/PRM ⁷ Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$39,600,000
Total USAID and State Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$81,751,875

¹ Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

² Due to lack of access, the U.N. continues to estimate the IDP population in Syria.

³ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

⁴ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

⁵ USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

⁶ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁷ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM).

Context

- Following the commencement of peaceful demonstrations against the Syrian government in March 2011, President 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. On June 11, the U.N. reported more than 10,000 civilian deaths due to the conflict. According to public reports by the anti-SARG Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, more than 21,000 people—including civilians, armed insurgents, defectors, and members of the SARG security forces—had been killed as of August 7.
- 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, included calls for a ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian access, and the withdrawal of military personnel from populated areas. The ceasefire, scheduled to commence on April 12, never took full effect as clashes between SARG and opposition forces, as well as SARG attacks on demonstrators and populated areas, continued.

Population Displacement

- Since mid-July, the escalation in fighting and spread of clashes has displaced significant populations, with some individuals fleeing conflict a second time. The U.N. estimate of displaced populations in Syria more than tripled between March and mid-July—from 300,000 to 1 million people. A recent SARG Ministry of Education survey revealed that numerous displaced Syrians are residing in 330 public schools in 12 of the country's 14 governorates, with only Latakia and Tartus governorates currently not hosting IDPs in schools. Other displaced populations are residing with host families or in open spaces. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and other relief organizations are scaling up their efforts to respond to the increased displacement.
- The governments of Turkey, Jordan, and Iraq have recently opened additional camps to support the influx of displaced populations. On July 29, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan opened Za'atri camp, which currently hosts more than 3,000 people and can be expanded to support 113,000 residents, according to UNHCR. Relief organizations are upgrading water and sanitation systems, constructing playgrounds, and providing water in the camp.
- The Government of Turkey (GoT) currently operates eleven camps and plans to construct one additional camp in the near future. UNHCR continues to support the GoT by providing displaced individuals in the camps with relief items, such as tents and blankets. At the GoT's request, UNHCR is also providing government authorities with technical assistance on protection issues, including camp management, voluntary repatriation, and registration.
- Local Kurdish authorities have established one operational camp in Dohuk Governorate in northern Iraq. The Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) is managing the camp with UNHCR assistance and providing food rations and hot meals to the more than 2,500 Syrian Kurds at the Dohuk camp. The Government of Iraq is constructing another camp in Anbar Governorate to be opened shortly.
- UNHCR and other U.N. agencies are working with the Government of Lebanon, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local partners to assist displaced Syrians who are residing with host families or in collective shelters in Lebanon.
- In addition to displacing Syrians to neighboring countries, the conflict in Syria has caused many refugees to return from Syria to their home countries or travel to different neighboring countries. Between mid- and late-July, approximately 2,000 Palestinian refugees crossed from Syria into Lebanon, according to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The agency has received reports that the recent influx was related to fighting in the Yarmouk Palestinian camp in Damascus. To date, UNRWA has assisted 323 Palestinian families displaced from Syria to Lebanon. In Iraq, UNHCR reports the return of over 23,000 Iraqi refugees since mid-July.

Food Security

- On August 2, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that nearly 3 million people in Syria were in need of food, agriculture, and livestock assistance. This includes approximately 1.5 million conflict-affected people who need food assistance during the next three to six months. FAO and WFP's report was based on a Joint Rapid Food Security Needs Assessment conducted in June 2012 by FAO, WFP, and the SARG Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. The assessment found that the current events in Syria have negatively affected almost all aspects of national food production.

- WFP, with support from the USG and other donors, is implementing activities through two Emergency Operations (EMOPs). In partnership with SARC, WFP is providing emergency rations to 850,000 conflict-affected people in all of Syria's 14 governorates through a \$103.2 million EMOP. WFP's \$23.8 million regional EMOP is supporting the food requirements of displaced Syrians in neighboring countries in Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq, with plans to provide food assistance to an initial 30,000 displaced Syrians in Turkey.
- Since July 23, ICRC, in cooperation with SARC, has provided more than 125,000 displaced people—primarily in Damascus city and surrounding areas and in Aleppo, Homs, Hamah, Idlib, Latakia, Hassakeh, and Ar Raqqa Governorate—with more than 25,000 food parcels to support the individuals for one month. The parcels include 1-kilogram packs of dates and dried apricots to mark the holy month of Ramadan.
- To date in FY 2012, USAID/FFP has provided \$26 million to support both WFP EMOPs, benefiting 850,000 people in Syria, as well as displaced Syrians in neighboring countries. USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$200,000 in health and nutrition training to reduced conflict-affected children's vulnerability to disease.

Health

- On August 7, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the conflict continued to limit health services in affected areas of Syria, as fighting is damaging health care facilities or compelling staff to close the facilities as a precaution. In late June, WHO conducted a rapid assessment of 342 primary health care facilities (PHCs) and 38 public hospitals in seven governorates and found that 42 percent of the PHCs and 34 percent of the hospitals were only partially functioning due to lack of staff, medicines, and medical equipment.
- WHO also reported on August 7 that fighting in Aleppo, Homs, and Rif Damascus, where 90 percent of Syria's pharmaceuticals are manufactured, has resulted in critical shortages of medicines. Among the most urgently needed pharmaceuticals are those to treat tuberculosis, hepatitis, hypertension, diabetes, and cancer, according to WHO.
- WHO continues to coordinate with the SARG Ministry of Health and SARC to improve access to essential health services, including emergency medical and surgical services in conflict-affected areas. Since the crisis began in March 2011, WHO has provided SARC with ambulances, medicines, and medical supplies to address the needs of 700,000 people and has refurbished and equipped mobile health clinics. WHO and other health organizations are supporting trauma management at primary health care centers and hospitals.
- Since July 23, ICRC has delivered adequate medical supplies to treat up to 1,000 casualties in Aleppo and provided dressings and other medical items to SARC in Damascus. ICRC has also provided medical supplies for four of SARC's mobile medical units, which are providing primary health care and medicines in schools hosting displaced people in Damascus.
- To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$9.2 million for health assistance to conflict-affected populations inside Syria.

Logistics and Relief Commodities

- Displaced Syrians residing with host families, in public buildings, or in open spaces are in need of basic relief commodities, such as bedding, hygiene kits, and basic household supplies, according to relief organizations.
- U.N. agencies are stockpiling relief commodities in the region to enable rapid dispatch into Syria in the event humanitarian access in Syria improves. During July, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and partners increased deliveries of relief items, reaching approximately 52,000 people, up from the 12,500 assisted in June, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). UNICEF assistance targeted displaced families in Damascus and Rif Damascus, and consisted of hygiene kits, clothing, education kits, and infant care kits. Nearly 80 percent of recipients were children, OCHA reports.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$3.6 million for relief commodities to displaced populations in Syria.
- Inoperable fueling stations combined with disrupted fuel importation and refining due to the conflict are exacerbating Syria's fuel shortages and impacting humanitarian operations. To support the delivery of relief assistance, WFP plans to establish a fuel depot in Damascus to provide fuel for WFP trucks and contracted transporters. USAID/OFDA has provided \$1.5 million in logistics support to WFP to ensure that assistance reaches affected populations, help WFP distribute food to new areas, and bolster SARC's food distribution capacity.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- Humanitarian access throughout Syria remains significantly restricted due to insecurity. In order to identify evolving needs and implement robust response efforts in conflict-affected areas, donor and relief organizations are working to coordinate assistance and share up-to-date information.

- USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$700,000 to OCHA and other relief organizations to report on humanitarian needs and assistance in Syria and coordinate assistance among relief organizations. USAID/OFDA has provided \$300,000 to the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) to assess and report on security conditions in Syria to inform the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Assistance (WASH)

- During the past three weeks, ICRC has helped SARC's Aleppo branch improve access to safe drinking water in 10 schools in the city, where an estimated 2,000 people are residing. In Damascus and Rif Damascus, ICRC has helped improve access to safe drinking water and maintain sanitary conditions for more than 68,000 people who recently fled fighting and are staying in 27 schools and residential areas. ICRC continues to ensure that approximately 300,000 people accommodated in more than 100 schools in Homs have adequate supplies of safe drinking water. ICRC has also delivered nearly 10,000 mattresses to schools and other public buildings hosting IDPs in and around Damascus city and in Aleppo and Homs; ICRC has provided 2,000 hygiene items for IDPs in Aleppo.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- U.N. agencies and partners are requesting approximately \$373 million to respond to the crisis in Syria, including \$180 million to support the U.N.'s six-month Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), released in June, and \$193 million to support the U.N. Regional Response Plan (RRP), revised during the same month. The Syria HRP targets the needs of more than 995,000 people in Syria by the end of 2012, while the RRP targets 185,000 displaced Syrians in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq over the same time period. In total, donors have provided approximately \$189 million in response to the crisis, including \$65.6 million for the Syria HRP, \$64.3 million for the RRP, and more than \$100 million to programs outside the appeals. To date, donors have funded 36 percent of the Syria HRP and 33 percent of the RRP.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
NGO Partners	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$11,974,409
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Syria	\$500,000
UNDSS	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Syria	\$300,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection	Syria	\$750,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$1,500,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities:	Syria	\$1,000,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$127,466
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$16,151,875
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	Syria EMOP	Syria	\$18,000,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq	\$8,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$26,000,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Assistance for IDPs through Syria Humanitarian Response Plan	Syria	\$3,600,000
UNHCR	Support for the Regional Response Plan	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Syria	\$19,500,000

ICRC	Emergency Medical Care, Food, and Relief Items	Syria	\$8,000,000
UNRWA	Support for Palestinian Refugees in Syria	Syria	\$3,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Psychosocial, Protection, and Shelter Assistance	Jordan and Lebanon	\$3,000,000
UNICEF	WASH and Protection	Jordan	\$2,000,000
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Region	\$500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$39,600,000
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND USDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012			\$81,751,875

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 11, 2012.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

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. USAID 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 or +1.202.821.1999.
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.