



SYRIA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Escalating and spreading fighting between Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) forces and opposition groups is affecting areas throughout Syria and disrupting humanitarian activities, including food distributions and humanitarian assessments. On December 3, the U.N. announced plans to temporarily relocate 25 of 100 international U.N. staff members from Syria to neighboring countries due to the insecurity.
- On November 26 and 27, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah visited Turkey, where he met with senior Government of Turkey (GoT) officials, including the GoT Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent Society, USAID humanitarian partners, and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to discuss the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria and assistance for affected populations. U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., and Administrator Shah also visited Turkey's border with Syria and met displaced Syrians.
- On November 28 and 29, Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) Anne C. Richard visited Jordan and Lebanon to meet with government, international, and non-governmental officials to discuss policy and program priorities regarding displaced populations. Richard also met with displaced Syrians in host communities to understand their challenges and discuss international support.
- At the Friends of the Syrian People meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, on December 12, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William Burns announced nearly \$13.9 million in additional USG support for humanitarian activities in Syria. The funding includes approximately \$10.4 million for an international non-governmental organization (NGO), \$2 million for the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), and \$400,000 for the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide health care and relief commodities during the coming winter months. The USG is also providing an additional \$1 million to WFP to include Nutributter in monthly family food rations. In total, the USG has provided \$210 million in FY 2012 and FY 2013 for humanitarian support in Syria and neighboring countries.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	Source	
Estimated Total Number of IDPs ¹ in Syria	1.2 million	OCHA ² – 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	136,319	GoT – December 10, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Lebanon	154,387	UNHCR ³ – December 10, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Jordan	142,664	UNHCR – December 10, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Iraq	64,449	UNHCR – December 10, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to North Africa	11,740	UNHCR – December 10, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and North Africa	509,559	UNHCR, GoT

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 AND FY 2013 ⁴	
USAID/OFDA ⁵ Assistance to Syria	\$59,134,965
USAID/FFP ⁶ Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$78,018,000
State/PRM Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$72,760,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$209,912,965

¹ Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

² U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

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

⁴ FY 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)

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 late November, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that the conflict had killed approximately 41,000 people, including civilian deaths, which the U.N. estimated at nearly 20,000 civilians in early October.
- On March 26, 2012, the SARG accepted a six-point peace plan proposed by U.N.–Arab League Joint 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 the Joint Special Envoy to Syria, effective at the end of August. Lakhdar Brahimi became U.N.–Arab League Joint 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 has significantly affected Palestinian refugees in Syria. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates that more than 350,000 Palestinian refugees are directly affected by the conflict. Syria also hosts approximately 85,000 Iraqi refugees, primarily in the greater Damascus area.

Population Displacement

IDPs in Syria

- Between mid- and late November, violence continued to fuel large-scale displacement in Syria, particularly in the southern governorates of As Suwayda', Dar'a, and Rif Damascus, according to U.N. agencies. Between November 12 and 26, approximately 50,000 people—many from the town of Darayya and other areas of Rif Damascus Governorate—fled to the town of Kisweh in Rif Damascus, OCHA reported. The arrivals increased the number of IDPs in Kisweh to approximately 136,000 people, more than twice the resident population of 54,000 people, according to OCHA. In addition, fighting had displaced approximately 9,000 Syrians to the Syria–Jordan border as of early December, as the individuals waited for improved weather conditions to enter into Jordan, local media reported.
- During the week of November 25, a UNHCR team conducted a two-day assessment in the city of Homs, where the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) has registered 250,000 displaced people. The team found displaced families living in unheated communal shelters and severely limited supplies of basic materials, such as medicines, blankets, winter clothes, and children's shoes. During the assessment, UNHCR delivered 6,000 quilts, 12,000 sleeping mats, 1,000 mattresses, and 6,000 boxes of hygiene supplies. UNHCR has deployed a staff member to Homs to scale up the agency's winter response and reported plans to deliver additional relief supplies to Homs.

Refugees in Syria

- On December 4 and 5, UNRWA Commissioner-General Filippo Grandi visited UNRWA staff and observed operations in Syria. In Yarmouk, Grandi visited one of eight UNRWA schools in Syria that is sheltering displaced Syrians. Grandi also observed Palestinian refugee families registering for cash assistance and met with the families of two of the five UNRWA staff members killed during the Syria conflict. During the visit, Grandi reiterated the need to protect Palestinian refugees and other civilians from the effects of the conflict. He also called on parties to the conflict to respect the neutrality of U.N. facilities and support humanitarian access.

Turkey

- The GoT estimates that at least 70,000 displaced Syrians are living in host communities in Turkey. According to local Turkish press, the GoT is preparing to extend residency permits for displaced Syrians in Turkish communities from five months to one year and to allow the individuals to work legally in Turkey if sponsored by a local company. Syrians outside displacement camps currently do not have access to free health care and other public services.
- U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Turkey's Islahiye camp in Gaziantep Province on December 7 and then traveled to the city of Ankara to meet with President Abdullah Gül, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu. Ban thanked Turkey for continuing to provide refuge to Syrians fleeing violence.

Ban also urged the international community to direct aid to Syria and its neighboring countries, stressing the need to support relief efforts in Turkey.

Lebanon

- In a meeting with visiting U.N. Under Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos on November 28, Government of Lebanon (GoL) Prime Minister Najib Mikati reportedly affirmed the Lebanese government's commitment to supporting displaced Syrians in Lebanon. Following the meeting, GoL Minister of Social Affairs Wael Abou Faour reiterated that the GoL intends to continue hosting Syrians in local communities.
- Relief agencies estimate that more than 25,000 Syrians are entering Lebanon each month and facing high costs of living and limited access to housing or livelihoods. The onset of winter is creating more urgent shelter needs among displaced Syrians. The majority of Syrians in Lebanon are currently residing in host community accommodations, including spare rooms, barns, and huts. However, UNHCR has also observed urban crowding and host family fatigue.
- In late November, UNHCR and partners began distributing fuel vouchers to displaced Syrian families for heating and other energy needs during the coming winter months. UNHCR also distributed winter relief items, such as blankets, clothing, and rugs.
- After enrolling approximately 8,000 Syrian students into Lebanese public schools, school authorities have ended enrollment due to overcrowding. To provide education for Syrian children not enrolled in school, UNHCR, the GoL, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) are creating an afternoon accelerated learning program. After six months, the children will apply for placement in Lebanon's formal education system. The program will familiarize Syrians with the Lebanese curriculum and provide UNHCR and partners an opportunity to rehabilitate or construct schools to accommodate larger class sizes.
- UNRWA is coordinating with other humanitarian partners to provide education, medical assistance, and winter-related items—such as coats and heating fuel—to the more than 10,000 Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria to Lebanon. Approximately 71 percent of the refugees are women and children.

Iraq

- Displaced Syrians, primarily from Al Hasakah Governorate, continue to cross into northern Iraq, according to OCHA. Nearly 12,300 Syrians entered Iraq between November 21 and December 10, bringing the total number of registered and unregistered Syrians in Iraq to nearly 64,500 people, according to UNHCR. While Syrians are able to enter northern Iraq, the Government of Iraq (GoI) continues to keep the al-Qaim border crossing point in Anbar Province closed—with exceptions for urgent medical cases and limited family reunifications—due to the area's inability to support additional displaced populations. The GoI has committed to increasing capacity at two camps in al-Qaim, while Iraqi authorities are constructing a third camp, which will be ready to host approximately 3,500 people by mid-December, according to OCHA and UNHCR.
- Local Iraqi authorities have begun allowing al-Qaim camp residents with an Iraqi sponsor to travel to the city of al-Qaim to access medical care, as well as to allow the individuals greater freedom of movement, UNHCR reports.
- UNHCR began distributing winterization packages in Iraq's Domiz camp on November 29, reaching 2,336 families as of December 5. The family packages comprised one quilt and one blanket per family member, one plastic sheet, one jerry can, and two fleece blankets per family. In addition, the Kurdish Regional Government's Directorate of Displacement and Migration distributed 1,000 kerosene barrels—or 150 liters of kerosene per family—and 1,046 gas cooking stoves to Syrian families. UNHCR regularly verifies distributions against family's scheduled rations.

Jordan

- UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie visited Jordan on December 5 and 6 for a second UNHCR mission to the region in three months. Jolie's visit including a trip to Jordan's border, where she met with Syrians recently displaced from Syria, and a stop at Za'atri camp. Jolie expressed concern regarding the targeting of civilians inside Syria and the dangers people are facing as they flee to Jordan. Jolie appealed to all sides in the conflict to ensure the safe passage of civilians. Jolie commended Jordan for welcoming displaced Syrians despite serious social and economic strains.
- U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also visited Za'atri camp on December 6 and met with Syrian school children. During his visit, Ban highlighted the importance of education and the need for the humanitarian community to continue providing education services to displaced Syrian children.
- To help refugees cope with the winter cold, UNHCR and partners are distributing 50,000 thermal blankets at Za'atri, bringing the total number of blankets provided to more than 110,000 to date. On December 10, UNHCR's partner in the winterization efforts, NRC, received the first shipment of household gas heaters, which will be installed in families' shelters in the coming weeks.

Winter Assistance

- As the majority of vulnerable Syrians are residing in communal shelters without sufficient protection against cold weather, the USG continues to prioritize winterization assistance, such as provision of cold weather relief supplies, in Syria. With USG assistance, implementing partners are providing plastic sheeting for insulation against cold weather and rain, heavy carpets and floor covering, mattresses, blankets, thermal clothes, coats, and boots. In addition to winter-specific assistance, USG partners have already provided relief items—including clothing, hygiene kits, household supplies, mattresses, blankets, and other basic necessities—to an estimated 340,000 people inside Syria.
- With support from the USG and other donors, UNICEF is procuring warm clothing and other winter supplies for children in Syria. Drawing on its global supply networks, UNICEF is developing winter clothing kits—consisting of thermal underwear, pants, a woolen sweater, socks, woolen gloves and hat, shoes, and a winter jacket—for approximately 75,000 children in Syria under the age of 15 years. UNICEF also plans to distribute more than 320,000 blankets, including infant blankets, to children in Syria.
- The USG recently announced nearly \$8.4 million in additional support to implementing partners for the provision of winter relief supplies in Syria, bringing the USG's total contribution for logistics support and relief supplies to nearly \$29.1 million in FY 2012 and FY 2013.

Food Security

- WFP reports a growing shortage of bread, a staple food in Syria, due to damages sustained by bakeries, fuel and electricity shortages, and increased demand in areas hosting displaced populations. In markets where basic food items remain available, the prices have spiked due to rising transportation costs and disruption to distributions, with prices nearly doubling in areas of fighting. For example, in opposition-controlled areas of Aleppo Governorate, where residents are dependent on private bakeries, bread prices are up to 50 percent higher than in other governorates where SARG-subsidized bakeries are operating.
- Food consumption is particularly low among IDPs who are residing in schools and other public buildings due to the lack of access to cooking facilities, according to WFP. However, UNICEF, with assistance from a local organization, recently conducted a rapid nutritional screening of children under five years of age residing in Damascus schools and collective centers and found no cases of acute malnutrition. WFP continues to distribute the significant majority of its food distributions to displaced families in public buildings.
- The USG recently provided \$1 million to WFP to include 135 metric tons of Nutributter in WFP-provided family food rations in Syria. Nutributter is a highly-fortified nutritional supplement formulated to help prevent malnutrition in children ages six months to two years. The USG contribution is sufficient to support 37,500 children for six months.

Health

- The protracted conflict continues to damage the health care infrastructure in Syria and displace medical workers to neighboring countries, further reducing vulnerable Syrians' access to medical care. A late November UNHCR assessment of Homs found that only half of the city's hospitals were functional. On average, 25 percent of Syria's public hospitals and 40 percent of its 2,000 primary health care centers are inoperative, according to OCHA and UNICEF, while large patient caseloads are overwhelming the capacity of those facilities that remain functioning.
- On November 26, the SARG Ministry of Health, in coordination with the WHO and UNICEF, launched a measles and polio vaccination campaign to assist 1.4 million children under the age of five, the U.N. reports. With USG support, UNICEF provided 1.5 million doses of measles vaccine, cold-chain equipment, syringes, and registration and public information materials for the campaign. As of December 6, UNICEF had helped vaccinate nearly 520,000 children against measles and nearly 636,000 children against polio, the agency reported. In addition, with USG support, WHO has pre-positioned 1.1 million vaccine doses in Syria to assist 653,000 children under the age of five.
- In addition to vaccinations, USG is supporting the provision of medicines, emergency medical training, and medical supplies to increase access to medical care for conflict-affected and vulnerable Syrians. On December 12, the USG announced nearly \$3.8 million in additional health and medical support in Syria, bringing the USG's total health support in FY 2012 and FY 2013 to nearly \$25.6 million. The USG's new funding will support WHO, UNFPA, and other partners to increase access to health care and emergency medical services in Syria.

WASH

- Despite the insecurity, UNICEF and partners continue to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance in Damascus and Rif Damascus governorates, UNICEF reports. With support from UNICEF, two relief agencies continue to distribute daily supplies of safe water to 25 communal shelters in Damascus and Rif Damascus. UNICEF

is also helping partners provide hygiene education and conduct minor rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure in 14 of the 25 shelters and is leading an assessment to help identify needs and improve WASH responses.

- The USG recently provided nearly \$600,000 in additional funding to help partners provide WASH support to displaced and vulnerable Syrians. In total, the USG has provided nearly \$950,000 in FY 2012 and FY 2013 to UNICEF and other partners for WASH interventions in Syria.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- The USG is working with OCHA, other U.N. agencies, and the international donor community to improve coordination in the Syria humanitarian response. Through enhanced information sharing and mapping efforts facilitated by OCHA, the donor community aims to address gaps in assistance, avoid duplication of efforts, and bolster the effectiveness of internationally-supported relief activities. In addition, the USG—in coordination with NGOs, international organizations, and donor governments—is supporting the U.N.’s contingency planning efforts for the Syria humanitarian response.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- On December 10, the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) announced an additional €30 million—nearly \$38.7 million—in support for conflict-affected Syrians in Syria and in neighboring countries. The additional funding—which will support U.N. agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and international NGOs—brings ECHO’s total contribution for the Syria and regional responses to more than €126 million, or \$162.5 million.
- As of December 11, the U.N.’s six-month Syria Humanitarian Response Plan had received \$196.8 million of the requested \$348 million, including more than the \$84.4 provided by the USG. In addition, the revised Syria Regional Response Plan—which requests \$488 million for activities in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq—had received \$248 million from donors, including \$68.7 million from the USG.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
PROVIDED IN FY 2013¹**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
NGO Partners	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$28,828,780
UNICEF	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$6,000,000
UNFPA	Health	Syria	\$400,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$2,000,000
WHO	Health	Syria	\$2,000,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$210,321
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$39,439,101
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	Syria Emergency Operation (EMOP)	Syria	\$19,018,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq	\$12,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$31,018,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
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	\$3,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$20,400,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2013			\$90,857,101

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

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
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 Information Management	Syria	\$500,000
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information 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
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$19,695,864

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	Syria EMOP	Syria	\$32,300,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq	\$14,700,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$47,000,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
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
ICRC	Emergency Medical Care, Food, and Relief Items	Syria	\$8,000,000
UNRWA	Support for Palestinian Refugees in the Region	Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon	\$11,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Psychosocial, Protection, and Shelter Assistance	Jordan and Lebanon	\$3,000,000
UNICEF	WASH and Protection	Jordan	\$2,000,000
International Organization for Migration	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Turkey	\$500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$52,360,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012			\$119,055,864

TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012 and FY 2013			\$209,912,965
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¹ 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.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 12, 2012.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

⁴ \$12.8 million in funding was committed in FY 2012 and 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 or +1.202.821.1999.
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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>