



# SYRIA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Tensions have increased along the Syria–Turkey border after artillery fire from Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) forces killed five Turkish civilians and wounded several others in Akcakale, Turkey, on October 3. Mortar and artillery exchanges between SARG and Government of Turkey (GoT) forces continued in the days that followed, according to international media sources. The border region currently hosts thousands of displaced people who have fled from Syria’s conflict areas. Reports indicate that an estimated 16,000 Syrians waited to cross the border into Turkey’s Kilis and Hatay provinces, as of October 6. Many are waiting to cross into Turkey, while others are seeking assistance at GoT humanitarian assistance distribution points on the border and returning to Syria. In addition, more than 100,000 people were residing in displacement camps on the Turkey side of the border as of October 9, according to the GoT.
- The number of people displaced from Syria to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey has more than tripled in recent months, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). More than 300,000 people were registered or awaiting registration in early October, compared to 100,000 in June. Humanitarian organizations are scaling-up relief efforts to meet increased needs among displaced populations and the local communities hosting them, as both groups have exhausted significant resources due to the Syria crisis. In addition, the need to prepare for the upcoming winter season has also led to an expansion of humanitarian assistance. The U.N. estimates that up to 710,000 people could be displaced from Syria to neighboring countries by the end of 2012.
- The U.S. Government (USG) continues to address the needs of conflict-affected people in Syria and neighboring countries, contributing more than \$132 million in humanitarian funding to relief organizations in FY 2012. USG humanitarian assistance includes the provision of emergency medical care, food, and relief items, as well as humanitarian coordination and logistics support to relief agencies. The USG also supports nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	Source	
Estimated Total Number of IDPs <sup>1</sup> in Syria	1.2 million	OCHA <sup>2</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	100,000	GoT– October 8, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Lebanon	93,980	UNHCR – October 11, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Jordan	112,345	UNHCR – October 11, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Iraq	39,036	UNHCR – October 12, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq	345,361	UNHCR, GoT

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 <sup>3</sup>	
USAID/OFDA <sup>4</sup> Assistance to Syria	\$32,858,946
USAID/FFP <sup>5</sup> Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$47,000,000
State/PRM <sup>6</sup> Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$52,360,000
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries</b>	<b>\$132,218,946</b>

<sup>1</sup> Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

<sup>2</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>3</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. FY 2012 figures represent committed or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2012. FY 2012 figures are subject to fluctuations due to end-of-fiscal-year financial review and reconciliation activities.

<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)

<sup>6</sup> 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 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 32,000 people—including civilians, armed insurgents, defectors, and members of the SARG security forces—as of mid-October.
- 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.

## Population Displacement

### *IDPs in Syria*

- An estimated 1.2 million people remain displaced inside Syria, many of whom are residing in schools and other public buildings across the country, according to U.N. organizations. In Aleppo Governorate, an estimated 50,000 IDPs were staying in 155 schools, approximately 8,200 IDPs were residing in 42 mosques, and approximately 30,000 IDPs had sought shelter in 31 universities and government buildings as of October 4, according to a partner of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). The SARG recently estimated that up to 3.2 million people are displaced inside Syria, significantly higher than the U.N. estimate.
- Nearly 108,670 people are residing in approximately 390 official collective centers across Syria, according to SARG Ministry of Social Affairs estimates. Humanitarian organizations are working to improve conditions in the collective centers by repairing building infrastructure and providing protection and other community support services.
- UNRWA reports a significant decrease in the number of IDPs sheltered in UNRWA school buildings, from 11,417 people in mid-August to 3,146 as of October 9. According to UNRWA, many of the displaced families have returned to their homes or moved to other temporary accommodations.
- In addition to public buildings, some IDPs are seeking shelter in unofficial camps that have materialized in Syria in recent weeks. Humanitarian organizations report the development of a camp near the Syria–Turkey border, established by local residents with funding from private donors. Camp coordinators are providing tents, mattresses, and blankets to families arriving at the camp, which is currently intended to accommodate up to 5,000 occupants.
- The USG is supporting protection activities, the provision of relief commodities, and other humanitarian assistance for IDPs through U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including assistance through the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan. The USG is also supporting ongoing humanitarian preparations for winter, as humanitarian organizations plan to provide seasonally appropriate assistance to IDPs over the next few months.

### *Refugees in Syria*

- UNRWA continues to provide humanitarian assistance—including food, health services, education, and basic relief supplies—to Palestinian refugees who have fled the conflict in Syria for Jordan and Lebanon. Approximately 7,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have relocated to Lebanon, while over 1,550 have entered Jordan. In FY 2012, the USG provided \$11 million to UNRWA to address the increased needs of Palestinian refugees affected by the conflict in Syria.
- Approximately 87,000 Iraqi refugees are registered with UNHCR in Syria. The conflict has affected Iraqi refugees' movements inside Syria and their access to public services. Many families have approached humanitarian agencies for assistance to relocate to safer locations in the country. Security checkpoints, area blockades, power outages, and fuel shortages have resulted in additional barriers to regular access to services. UNHCR and other partners are relocating some facilities inside Syria to ensure better access for Iraqi refugees.

- In FY 2012, the USG provided more than \$260 million in assistance to Iraqi refugees, IDPs, and returnees inside Iraq and in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. This assistance includes efforts to address the increased needs of Iraqi refugees affected by the conflict in Syria.

#### *Turkey*

- As of October 9, the number of displaced Syrians in camps in Turkey stood at 100,000 people, according to the GoT. The GoT operates 14 camps and one temporary processing center for displaced Syrians and is planning construction of additional camps to increase the total camp capacity in Turkey to 130,000 people.
- The Turkey–Syria border remains open, although the surge in arrivals to Turkey that began in late August continues to result in delays at the border while the GoT prepares new camps. Reports indicate that, as of October 6, an estimated 16,000 Syrians waited to cross the border into Turkey’s Kilis and Hatay provinces. These populations are receiving food, water, and medicine while awaiting admission and transfer to camps in Turkey as quickly as processing allows.
- As of October 7, the GoT’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) expanded the number of humanitarian aid distribution sites from four to five, with an additional center established at the Akcakale border point. These warehouses, near the Syrian border, are used to distribute humanitarian assistance to Syrians on the Syrian side of the border.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent, plans to begin a voucher program Kilis camp in mid-October and, following this, in Hatay Governorate. The program will cover an initial caseload of up to 20,000 people, and WFP will continue to work with the GoT to increase assistance to cover additional camps where cooking and market facilities can be installed.

#### *Jordan*

- In addition to supporting displaced Syrians in Za’atri camp in Jordan’s Mafraq Governorate, UNHCR and other international and local humanitarian organizations are assisting more than 60,000 people from Syria residing in Jordanian host communities. UNHCR estimates that there are more than 107,000 Syrians in Jordan. At the current rate of arrival, the number of Syrians in Jordan could reach 250,000 by the end of the year. According to the Jordanian government, more than 200,000 Syrians have entered Jordan since the conflict began in March 2011.

#### *Lebanon*

- More than 94,000 displaced Syrians in Lebanon have approached UNHCR for assistance in the Bekaa Valley, north Lebanon, and south Lebanon. Most displaced Syrians in Lebanon reside with host families or rent apartments. UNHCR has established multiple registration sites—in Tripoli, south Lebanon, and the Bekaa—to reach these groups. Most families previously residing in schools have moved to apartments and other alternative shelters, allowing school to commence.
- UNRWA continues to coordinate with its partners to provide assistance to displaced Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon. Recently, the Lebanese General Security Directorate issued guidance waiving departure penalties for Palestinians from Syria who had overstayed their visas and wished to return to Syria during the period September 17 to October 17.

#### *Iraq*

- More than 38,000 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. On September 6, WFP began distribution of in-kind food aid locally and regionally procured in Domiz camp, where 14,000 Syrian Kurd refugees currently reside. The current flow of refugees into the Iraqi Kurdistan Region averages approximately 600 people per day. Refugees are arriving from Damascus and Aleppo, as well as Kurdish-majority areas of Syria such as the cities of Al Qamishli and Al Hasakah in Al Hasakah Governorate.
- The Kurdistan Regional Government has offered six-month renewable residency permits to Syrians fleeing the violence in Syria and allows all refugees freedom of movement, including the freedom to work and live anywhere within the region. Large numbers of refugees are taking advantage of this policy and are staying with relatives or friends rather than living at Domiz camp.
- The Government of Iraq has also established a refugee camp near the Al-Qaim border crossing in Al Anbar Governorate, which currently accommodates 2,650 Syrians.

## **Winter Assistance**

- Relief organizations anticipate increased humanitarian needs in Syria and the region as a result of the coming winter. Tens of thousands of IDPs are residing in damaged buildings and tents unfit for winter conditions, according to OCHA. U.N. agencies and humanitarian organizations identify roofing, paneling, and windows as priority repairs needed to improve the suitability of buildings as shelter solutions for the winter months.
- Relief organizations report the continued shortage of fuel and electricity—resources needed for heating—in conflict-affected areas of Syria. Where fuel and electricity are available, many Syrians lack the financial resources to pay for them, as conflict and market disruptions have resulted in increased prices, according to OCHA.
- Humanitarian organizations and U.N. agencies are developing winter assistance strategies that account for the limited availability of fuel on the market in Syria by conducting light shelter rehabilitation and providing winter appropriate commodities, such as blankets, warm clothing, and heaters for communal spaces. UNICEF is pre-positioning supplies—including blankets and warm clothing—in Syria and increasing similar assistance in Jordan to assist vulnerable people, particularly children. In Turkey, the Turkish Red Crescent is providing blankets, heaters, fuel, and other supplies to displaced Syrians residing near the border with Syria. UNHCR and its partner agencies are working to identify a range of shelter solutions for Syrians displaced to Lebanon, including a mix of rental options, vacant buildings available for renovation, and prefabricated dwellings.
- In September 2012, the USG announced additional support to UNHCR, UNICEF, and several NGOs for the Syria humanitarian response, in part to provide winter supplies and shelter rehabilitation for conflict-affected people in Syria, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq.

## **WASH**

- To meet WASH needs among conflict-affected populations, a USG implementing partner has worked with local organizations in Syria to deliver nearly 30,000 hygiene kits—sufficient to meet the needs of approximately 120,000 people—as of late September. In addition, other relief agencies provided sanitation cleaning kits, waste disposal containers, and water storage tanks to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for IDPs in Syrian collective displacement sites.
- With support from the USG and other donors, UNICEF and other relief agencies have established 85 WASH centers in Jordan's Za'atri camp. In addition to the construction of showers and latrines, NGOs are supporting employment opportunities for camp residents to maintain clean facilities and promote hygiene awareness activities.

## **Food Security**

- Food prices have nearly doubled in Syria's conflict areas since the Syria crisis began in March 2011, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). The increased prices, along with drought conditions and ongoing conflict, are contributing to the food insecurity of approximately 3 million people in the country. Furthermore, fuel shortages have added to a poor harvest, as fuel is used to operate irrigation pumps and other agricultural equipment, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.
- With funding from the USG and other donors, WFP increased its monthly targeted population in Syria for food assistance, aiming to reach approximately 1.5 million people through September's cycle of food distributions, an increase from the August target of 850,000 people. Of Syria's 14 governorates, WFP is providing the highest number of food rations in Aleppo, Homs, and Rif Damascus, as these areas host the largest concentration of IDPs. In addition to WFP, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) are providing food assistance to conflict-affected people in Syria. WFP also works with SARC branches throughout Syria to deliver food assistance in every governorate.
- The USG supports food assistance for populations affected by the Syria crisis, providing \$47 million in funding to WFP in FY 2012 for both Syria and regional operations. Additionally, the USG has provided \$8 million to ICRC, part of which supports food assistance in Syria.

## **Logistics and Relief Commodities**

- Humanitarian organizations are providing aid to people who have fled Syria's conflict areas without their belongings. To help them meet basic needs, UNHCR has provided emergency relief commodities—mattresses, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, and plastic sheeting—to 200,000 Syrian IDPs to date.
- To support humanitarian logistics activities and the distribution of relief supplies, the USG contributed \$1.5 million to WFP for operations in Syria during FY 2012. The USG also provided funding to UNHCR, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and several NGO partners for activities including the provision of relief items to conflict-affected people in Syria and in neighboring countries.

### Other Humanitarian Assistance

- The Government of the United Kingdom announced an additional £1million—or \$1.6 million—for the Syria humanitarian response on October 3. The funding will be provided through the British Red Cross to the Turkish Red Crescent to support winter relief supplies for displaced Syrians along the Turkey–Syria border. The additional funding increases U.K. support for the Syria humanitarian response to £39.5 million, or nearly \$64 million.
- On October 7, the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) announced an additional €4.6 million—more than \$5.9 million—to scale up UNICEF emergency education programs for Syrian refugee children residing in Za’atri camp, as well as host community children, in Jordan. In total, ECHO has provided €10 million, or approximately \$12.9 million, to UNICEF education-focused activities targeting Syrian refugees and affected Jordanian communities. In addition, ECHO recently committed €1.5 million—more than \$1.9 million—to the U.N Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to provide assistance to Palestinian refugees affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria.

### 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	\$25,772,080
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Syria	\$500,000
U.N. Department of Safety and Security	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management	Syria	\$300,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection	Syria	\$1,750,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$1,500,000
U.N. World Health Organization	Health	Syria	\$1,300,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$736,866
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$32,858,946</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></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>			
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 Syria	Syria	\$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

<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>\$132,218,946</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. FY 2012 figures represent committed or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2012. 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 September 30, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> 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. 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).