



FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013

OCTOBER 25, 2012

SYRIA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Humanitarian conditions in Aleppo Governorate continue to deteriorate as fighting between Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) and opposition forces to control the city of Aleppo enters the third consecutive month, according to U.N. agencies. The ongoing violence has exacerbated displacement, with approximately 42,000 people residing in shelters, and growing numbers of people displaced outside the governorate and to Turkey, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported power cuts and shortages of fuel in Aleppo as of October 13. In addition, armed activity, checkpoints, and roadblocks are hampering the provision of humanitarian assistance in the governorate.
- On October 24, U.N.—Arab League Special Envoy to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi announced a potential four-day ceasefire
 between the SARG and some opposition groups during the Eid al-Adha holiday, beginning on October 26. In case the
 ceasefire holds, humanitarian organizations have pre-positioned relief supplies to distribute in previously inaccessible
 areas of Syria if security permits.
- Ongoing conflict has damaged Syria's economy, resulting in an additional strain on the population, particularly among
 vulnerable groups such as the rural and urban poor. Amid growing inflation, commodity prices have significantly
 increased and rent prices have tripled in recent months, leading families to sell off their resources to meet basic needs,
 according to OCHA. Unemployment in Syria is also rising, according to Syria's Central Bank, further compounding
 economic challenges for conflict-affected people.
- The U.S. Government (USG) continues efforts to provide humanitarian relief to conflict-affected people in Syria and neighboring countries. USG assistance includes more than \$132 million in funding in FY 2012 and FY 2013 to support 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 IDPs1 in Syria	1.2 million	OCHA – 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	102,350	GoT ² – October 23, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Lebanon	102,819	UNHCR ³ – October 24, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Jordan	116,781	UNHCR – October 24, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Iraq	41,955	UNHCR – October 19, 2012
Estimated Total Number of Syrians Displaced to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq	363,905	UNHCR, GoT

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 AND FY 2013⁴				
USAID/OFDA ⁵ Assistance to Syria	\$32,858,946			
USAID/FFP ⁶ Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$47,000,000			
State/PRM7 Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$52,360,000			
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Syria and Neighboring Countries	\$132,218,946			

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

²Government of Turkey (GoT)

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. 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.

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 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 34,000 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. Syria also hosts approximately 90,000 Iraqi refugees, primarily in the greater Damascus area.

Population Displacement

IDPs in Syria

- The majority of the 1.2 million people displaced inside Syria are residing among host communities rather than in camps, according to UNHCR. IDPs are staying with families, friends, or other community members, or have sought shelter in public buildings. Given the resumption of the Syrian school year, the SARG is relocating IDPs from temporary shelter in schools to more long-term sites, such as vacant structures. Humanitarian organizations and U.N. agencies are working to rehabilitate buildings to accommodate IDPs during the winter months. The SARG recently estimated that up to 3.2 million people are displaced inside Syria, significantly higher than the U.N. estimate.
- Ad hoc IDP camps have developed near Syria's border with Turkey in recent weeks, as people leave their villages to seek safer areas or to enter Turkey. In one location, an estimated 10,000 IDPs have occupied approximately 700 tents provided by a number of organizations, according to international media sources. Turkish charities are also providing meals to the displaced, while relief organizations have provided some additional humanitarian support, according to media reports.
- The USG provides support to Syrian IDPs through U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with funding for protection, health, and WASH activities, as well as the provision of food assistance and relief supplies. The USG is also supporting ongoing preparations by relief organizations to provide humanitarian assistance during the upcoming winter months.

Refugees in Syria

- There are 87,000 Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR in Syria. 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.
- The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (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. UNRWA is providing food, health services, education, and basic relief supplies. Approximately 8,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have relocated to Lebanon, while more than 1,580 have entered Jordan.

Turkey

As of October 22, approximately 102,350 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.

- 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 15, an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 Syrians were waiting to cross the border into Turkey's Kilis and Hatay provinces—a substantial decrease from 16,000 people as of October 6. Syrian populations waiting to enter Turkey are receiving food, water, and medicine while awaiting admission. Among those Syrians who have crossed into Turkey, the GoT is sending new arrivals to new camps in Gaziantep, Nizip-1, and Adiyaman, unless they have close family members residing in other camps.
- U.N. agencies are assisting the GoT in providing humanitarian assistance to Syrians in displacement camps. WFP recently began distributing vouchers in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent to Syrian families to use at food markets in Kilis camp. Also, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues to focus on education in Kilis and Islahiye camps, where children are taught by Syrian volunteer teachers using a modified Syrian curriculum. Turkish teachers are also available to teach certain subjects in the camp schools.
- In preparation for winter, the Turkish Red Crescent and the GoT Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) are finalizing plans to replace tents in the displacement camps with new winterized ones. Working with the GoT, UNHCR has allocated \$21.6 million in the U.N. Regional Response Plan for Syria to support winter tents, winterization kits, blankets, sleeping bags, and electric radiators. UNHCR will also target 6,000 vulnerable families not of Syrian origin who are living in satellite cities. Each beneficiary will received \$115 per month until the end of February to cover their heating costs.

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

 More than 100,000 displaced Syrians in Lebanon have approached UNHCR for assistance. Most displaced Syrians in Lebanon currently reside with host families or rent apartments. UNHCR has established multiple registration sites—in the cities of Tripoli, Akar, Beirut, and Saida—to reach these groups. The majority of families previously residing in schools have moved to apartments and other alternative shelters, allowing school to commence.

Iraq

- More than 41,000 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 International Organization for Migration (IOM) has distributed emergency relief items in the cities of Mosul and Telkaif to 46 vulnerable Iraqi refugee returnee families who fled Syria to escape the deteriorating security situation. The distribution, funded by the USG, was implemented in close coordination with the Government of Iraq (GoI) Ministry of Migration and Displacement, the GoI Emergency Cell, and the National Returnees Center in Ninewa Governorate. The relief items included mattresses, blankets, pillows, gas stoves, kerosene heaters, carpets, personal hygiene items, cleaning materials, and plastic storage cabinets. Beneficiaries were selected on the basis of a rapid vulnerability assessment conducted by IOM Iraq field staff.

Winter Assistance

- Cold months in Syria and the region extend from November to February, with night temperatures declining to near freezing levels, resulting in additional humanitarian needs for IDPs, refugees, and other conflict-affected people. Many displaced people are residing in tents that lack adequate insulation and buildings in need of repair to provide sufficient shelter during the winter season.
- To prevent a deterioration of humanitarian conditions resulting from the onset of winter, humanitarian organizations have formulated winter plans for both Syria and neighboring countries. In Syria, U.N. agencies and NGOs are prioritizing support to communal shelters to improve winter housing for IDPs. UNHCR plans to conduct light construction work—including window and door repairs, insulation, flooring, and communal heating—on 120 communal centers throughout Syria. UNHCR's strategy also includes distributing winter relief items—such as mattresses, blankets, quilts, rugs, winter clothes, and plastic sheeting—to conflict-affected people, as well as one-time cash assistance to families to help them meet immediate needs.

- Outside Syria, humanitarian organizations are tailoring winter response efforts to address the varied shelter situations
 of people displaced to Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq. For instance, in Jordan, UNHCR is installing prefabricated
 structures in Za'atri refugee camp to replace or supplement tents, while also providing additional cash assistance to
 displaced Syrians residing in urban areas to cover the cost of utilities and other winter needs. Also in Jordan, UNICEF
 is working to prepare child-friendly spaces for winter by providing double skin tents with elevated floors.
- The USG is supporting winter relief efforts in response to the Syria crisis through UNHCR, UNICEF, and several NGOs that are providing relief supplies, shelter rehabilitation, and other winter-related assistance for conflict-affected people in Syria, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq.

Health

- Access to health care remains a challenge in Syria, as both SARG forces and opposition groups have targeted medical facilities and medical providers during military operations, according to OCHA. Fifty-nine of Syria's 88 public hospitals—67 percent—and 161 of 2,000 primary health care facilities—8 percent—have been damaged or destroyed since the onset of the crisis, according to information gathered by the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO). In Homs Governorate alone, half of the 12 public hospitals and 24 of 34 private hospitals are not functioning. Health facilities that remain operational face ongoing shortages of medicine and specialized staff. In addition, the U.N. reports that approximate half of the country's ambulances have experienced attacks, leaving many vehicles out of service. As a result, fewer patients requiring urgent medical assistance are referred to hospitals for care.
- Limited health care access has produced several medical concerns, the largest of which include access to proper care for the wounded, emergency obstetrical care, safe blood transfusion, pediatric care, the nutritional status of affected populations, and poor hygiene conditions, according to the U.N.
- WHO continues to work with the SARG Ministry of Health (MoH) and local NGOs to address health needs resulting from the Syria crisis. In September 2012, WHO provided surgical, trauma, and diarrheal treatment kits in Aleppo, Damascus, and Tartus governorates, as well as blood safety kits to Syria's national blood bank, enabling WHO to reach approximately 60,000 people with health assistance. In early October, WHO and MoH hosted a three-day training course for 90 health workers—including participants from MoH, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), and international NGOs—focused on Early Warning Alert and Response to enhance capacity to rapidly respond to epidemic threats.
- The USG supports the provision of health and emergency medical assistance for conflict-affected people both in Syria and displaced to neighboring countries through WHO and several other organizations, including UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and several NGOs.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Ongoing conflict continues to affect food security in Syria, particularly in the country's northeast regions, where the price of staple goods remains high and an increasing number food items are no longer available in markets, according to WFP. In Aleppo, violence has restricted access to markets, reports WFP.
- The U.N. reports that subsidized bread has become scarce in Aleppo, leading people to rely on private bakeries. In August, international media sources reported that opposition groups had taken control of wheat warehouses in Aleppo's suburbs to maintain the supply of bread—a staple food in Syria—to bakeries in the opposition-held areas of the governorate. On October 23, shelling by SARG forces destroyed a bakery in an opposition-held neighborhood, killing approximately 20 people and wounding more than 30 others, according to international media reports.
- To address food needs, WFP—in cooperation with SARC—completed the September cycle of food distributions in Syria by October 6, dispatching food assistance sufficient for approximately 1.5 million people throughout Syria's 14 governorates. WFP recently increased the target population for food assistance from 850,000 people to 1.5 million people, and intends to maintain that level for the coming months. WFP also continues to distribute food vouchers and dry rations, as well as hot meals where necessary, to 120,000 displaced Syrians who have fled to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.
- The number of children in Syria experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) is increasing, although the prevalence of acute malnutrition has not reached critical levels, according to UNICEF. As a precaution, UNICEF and WFP are establishing response systems—in coordination with WHO—in the event that the prevalence of MAM increases significantly. In addition, a UNICEF nutritional advisor recently trained SARC staff in Homs Governorate on conducting nutritional assessments.
- The USG supports food assistance and nutrition interventions for populations affected by the Syria crisis, providing more than \$47 million in funding to WFP and NGOs for food aid and nutrition activities. Additionally, the USG has provided \$8 million to ICRC, part of which supports food assistance in Syria.

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

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
	USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE ²		
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
ОСНА	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, WASH	Syria	\$1,750,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$1,500,000
WHO	Health	Syria	\$1,300,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$716,191
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$20,031,600
	USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE ³		
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, Relief Items	Syria	\$8,000,000
UNRWA	Support for Palestinian Refugees in Syria	Syria	\$11,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Psychosocial, Protection, Shelter Assistance	Jordan and Lebanon	\$3,000,000
UNICEF	WASH, Protection	Jordan	\$2,000,000
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Turkey	\$500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$52,360,000
	TATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NE		

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 20134

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount		
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE ²					
NGO Partners	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Syria	\$12,806,671		
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$12,806,671		
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2013			\$12,806,671		

TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012 and FY 2013

\$132,198,271

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

¹ 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. ² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2012.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

⁴ \$12.8 million in funding was committed in FY 2012 and will be obligated in FY 2013.