

SYRIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #12, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

APRIL 10, 2014

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

9.3 million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria
U.N. – December 2013

6.5 million

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Syria
U.N. – November 2013

2.6 million

Syrian Refugees in Neighboring Countries
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – March 2014

1,012,080

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
UNHCR – April 2014

679,697

Syrian Refugees in Turkey
UNHCR – April 2014

589,792

Syrian Refugees in Jordan
UNHCR – April 2014

219,579

Syrian Refugees in Iraq
UNHCR – March 2014

136,067

Syrian Refugees in Egypt
UNHCR – April 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of individuals killed in the first three years of the Syria crisis surpasses 150,000, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.
- The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) expects below-average harvests in May due to persistent insecurity and drought conditions.
- U.N. official reports access restrictions continue to impede assistance delivery.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO SYRIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FY 2012 – FY 2014

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$370,986,181
USAID/FFP ²	\$530,699,121
State/PRM ³	\$838,084,221
\$ 1,739,769,523	
TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) ASSISTANCE TO THE SYRIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Syrian crisis has resulted in the death of at least 150,000 people—including approximately 50,000 civilians, an estimated 58,000 pro-Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) combatants, and 38,000 non-SARG fighters⁴—since conflict erupted in 2011, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The U.K.-based observatory, which monitors violence in Syria through a network of activists, medical personnel, and security sources, has reported that hostilities could have killed as many as 220,000 people. The U.N. no longer updates its estimate of people killed in the Syrian conflict, citing security issues that prevent it from verifying information sources.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and FAO expect below-average May wheat and barley harvests in Syria due to persistent insecurity and drought conditions. Clashes continue to restrict access to farmland, hampering agricultural production as farmers are unable to prepare and tend the land. WFP and FAO have also expressed concern regarding emerging drought conditions detected in Syria's main croplands. Remote weather data reveal that areas of northwest Syria have received significantly below-average rainfall in recent months. Drought conditions are also affecting crop-producing areas of Aleppo, Dar'a, Hamah, Homs, and Idlib governorates. WFP expects the 2014 wheat harvest to yield between 1.7 and 2 million metric tons (MT), or roughly half of pre-conflict levels.
- On March 28, U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos publicly criticized SARG-imposed access restrictions, forcible population displacement caused by armed actors, and the SARG's use of barrel bombs—metal barrels packed with shrapnel and explosives that maim and kill. Amid worsening humanitarian and security conditions, access constraints are impeding the ability of relief agencies to provide emergency assistance for more than 3.5 million people living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, according to the U.N. Amos noted that opening two border crossings on the Syria–Turkey border could potentially expand the U.N.'s humanitarian access to an estimated 1.1 million people in need.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁴ Non-SARG forces include armed opposition groups such as the Free Syrian Army (FSA), as well as extremist elements, including Al Nusra Front and Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS).

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- During March, USG partner WFP dispatched enough food to assist more than 4.1 million people in all of Syria's 14 governorates. Since the U.N. Security Council's late-February adoption of Resolution 2139 calling for greater access for humanitarian agencies, WFP has reached an approximately 370,000 people living in areas that have been inaccessible to U.N. agencies for several months, including parts of Ar Raqqa, Dar'a, Dayr az Zawr, Homs, and Idlib governorates.
 - Temporary security improvements in the city of Aleppo have enabled relief agencies to deliver vital supplies to populations in need. In late March, an interagency convoy reached western areas of the city, delivering relief commodities for 5,000 people, medicines and medical supplies for nearly 82,000 people, and more than 17,000 sets of winter clothing for children, as well as additional relief aid for approximately 32,000 Palestinian refugees in the area, according to the U.N. In addition, UNHCR and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) delivered blankets, food, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, and plastic sheeting to the besieged Boustan al-Qaser neighborhood in eastern Aleppo during a temporary ceasefire adhered to by SARG and non-SARG forces. UNHCR last reached eastern areas of the city of Aleppo in June 2013 and had since reported a dire humanitarian situation due to insufficient access, including an acute shortage of food, medicine, safe drinking water, and other basic supplies.
 - The U.N. reports that approximately 3.5 million people are living in besieged and otherwise hard-to-reach areas of Syria, while persistent insecurity and SARG-imposed access restrictions continue to hinder the delivery of life-saving assistance in 12 of Syria's 14 governorates.
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EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMODITIES & SHELTER

- Throughout the 2013/2014 winter season, USG-supported non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provided relief items and seasonal supplies for nearly 1.5 million conflict-affected people in both SARG- and non-SARG-controlled areas of Syria. Although distributed during the colder months, people can continue to use and repurpose many winter relief supplies—including blankets, clothing, and plastic sheeting—after the winter season ends. A USG partner recently delivered approximately 17,000 blankets and 1,500 winter clothing kits, and 1,500 hygiene kits to populations residing in Al Hasakah Governorate.
 - The Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising U.N. agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—organized eight emergency airlifts from Syria's capital city of Damascus to the city of Qamishli in Al Hasakah Governorate. The airlifts, which began on March 12, delivered emergency relief supplies—including kitchen sets, clothing, hygiene kits, and health kits—and nutrition assistance to populations in need. On March 18, a second series of airlifts from Damascus delivered 80 MT of medicines, medical supplies, and additional urgent assistance—sufficient for more than 335,000 vulnerable and displaced Syrians.
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HEALTH & NUTRITION

- WFP is currently targeting up to 91,000 children each month with supplementary feeding initiatives, which aim to support healthy nutrition during key developmental stages. WFP is distributing two specialized nutrition products for children: Plumpy'Doz—to children under five years of age residing in collective shelters and host communities in central and southern governorates of Syria—and NutriButter—to address micronutrient deficiencies among children under two years of age in northern governorates. In February, supplementary feeding products reached nearly 127,500 displaced children—exceeding WFP's monthly goal by approximately 34 percent. WFP is gradually expanding operations and aims to provide nutritional support for approximately 240,000 children by the end of 2014.
- In 2013, the USG provided nearly 257 MT of NutriButter—sufficient for more than 427,800 monthly rations and valued at approximately \$2.2 million—to WFP. Since 2011, the USG has provided an additional \$2.4 million to support nutrition activities in Syria through the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and an international non-governmental organization (INGO) partner. Responding to a continued lack of comprehensive nutrition information for non-SARG-held areas in northern Syria, the Nutrition Working Group—a sub-group of the Turkey-based Health Working Group, comprising relief agencies working in northern Syria—is planning a nutrition assessment, currently scheduled for May.

- As of April 7, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported 36 confirmed cases of polio in Syria. UNICEF, WHO, the SARC, and the SARG MoH continue to target 2.7 million children monthly through a six-round polio vaccination campaign. Vaccinators began the latest round on April 6, with one additional emergency round planned for May. In non-SARG-held areas of seven governorates in northern Syria, the Polio Control Task Force—led by the Syrian Coalition’s Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU)—recently concluded the April round of polio vaccinations, targeting 1.4 million children under the age of five.
- Despite the progress on polio vaccinations, relief agencies are concerned regarding the expected increase in measles cases in Syria in the coming months, as measles occurs primarily in late winter and spring in temperate areas. Health officials note that a measles vaccination campaign would require significantly more logistical and operational preparation than a polio campaign. Unlike the oral polio vaccine, measles vaccine can only be given by injection, and therefore requires higher-level training of vaccinators. While multi-round vaccinations are unnecessary to prevent measles, a single round of measles immunizations must reach a high percentage of the targeted population to be effective.
- With USG support, an INGO is aiming to provide health care and clinical support for 33,000 patients, as well as respond to health needs through communicable disease prevention and treatment, reproductive health care services, and the delivery of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals for more than 100,000 IDPs in Dayr az Zawr Governorate. Since August 2013, the USG partner has supported two medical points, providing more than 12,100 consultations, approximately 200 surgeries, and treatment for nearly 1,500 cases of communicable diseases.
- During the week of March 31, a USG INGO partner provided primary health care consultations to nearly 350 people—the majority of whom were IDPs—in Dar’a Governorate, as well as more than 200 consultations to approximately 185 people at health points in Tartus Governorate. To date, the USG partner has provided assistance for an estimated 3.7 million people across 13 of Syria’s 14 governorates through medical consultations, surgeries, emergency medical evacuations, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

- WFP recently announced that their March food assistance rations were cut by 20 percent due to funding shortages, with \$1.1 billion of \$2.3 billion pledged funds received. WFP warns that Syria’s drought conditions could increase the number of people in need of assistance as domestic food prices rise. The USG is the largest supporter of WFP’s Syria operations and has provided them with \$227.6 million for Syria and \$232.3 million to support Syrian refugees in the neighboring countries.
- In March, WFP dispatched approximately 5,560 MT of wheat flour to support the daily food needs of approximately 2.2 million people living in areas reporting bread shortages. In Idlib and Aleppo governorates, WFP channels the flour through public bakeries, which then provide bread to populations in need.
- WFP reports that the recent increase in the quantity of wheat flour supplied to public and private bakeries has resulted in a greater stability in some areas, and in some cases reduction, of bread prices. In Ar Raqqa and Dayr az Zawr governorates, the price of a bundle of bread declined 17 percent during March. However, in areas of active conflict where heavy clashes disrupt supplies and result in acute flour shortages, bread prices have increased. In eastern, opposition-controlled areas of the city of Aleppo, vendors are selling bread at prices six times the standard subsidized price.
- On April 2, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) released a survey of 8,000 active Palestinian and Syrian microfinance beneficiaries in Syria. Notably, the survey reports that displacement, physical destruction, and looting have occurred on such a massive scale that only 13 percent of microfinance businesses supported by UNRWA have survived, noting that the Syrian economy will likely take 30 years to recover to pre-conflict levels. The survey also examined coping mechanisms of UNRWA microfinance clients, reporting that 48 percent of those surveyed suffered from inadequate shelter; the monthly income of 83 percent of clients had declined, while the cost of living has doubled; and a fifth of surveyed clients had no source of income. While 86 percent of clients claimed that they need assistance to survive, only 38 percent of households reported ever receiving aid.

DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Internal Displacement

- Fighting between SARG and moderate and extremist groups in Latakia Governorate in western Syria has escalated significantly, including in contested border areas, during March and April. On March 23, FSA and Al Nusra Front fighters seized control of the town of Kasab, including the Bab al-Kasab–Yayladagi border crossing, previously one of two crossings on the Syria–Turkey border held by pro-SARG forces. As of March 25, approximately 1,050 families had fled from the Kasab area and surrounding villages to the city of Latakia, including the entire Armenian population of Kasab, according to the U.N. Relief agencies expect further displacements to IDP camps in northern Latakia due to the ongoing violence.

External Displacement

Egypt

- WFP has begun to transition from paper to electronic (e)-vouchers for the estimated 59,000 refugees who live in Egypt's capital city of Cairo and surrounding areas. Following an agreement with a supermarket chain, recipients of WFP assistance are able to buy food at any of the company's 18 stores across Greater Cairo. The e-vouchers allow refugees flexibility and freedom of choice in their purchase of groceries, including the opportunity to buy fresh produce regularly, as the e-vouchers allow program participants to purchase food multiple times during the month.

Iraq

- With support from UNHCR, an INGO is implementing a livelihoods program in the Kurdistan Region, aiming to expand access to self-employment and sustainable livelihoods for Syrian refugees living in urban areas and vulnerable host households. Since late 2013, the INGO has provided livelihoods assistance to nearly 550 families, including business development training for more than 340 people, grants for nearly 320 business plans, and job placement for approximately 200 people across 25 local companies. The INGO is working to expand activities to reach beneficiaries in and outside camps, aiming to reach an additional 500 people with job placement support and 600 new beneficiaries through business trainings and grants.

Jordan

- On April 5, demonstrations in Za'atri camp—hosting approximately 100,000 of the 590,000 total Syrian refugees in Jordan—became violent and resulted in the death of one Syrian refugee, as well as the injury of two additional refugees and approximately 28 Jordanian police, according to UNHCR. The arrest of three men transporting unidentified materials into the camp prompted the demonstrations, and Jordanian authorities are currently investigating the incident. Violent demonstrations have occurred in Za'atri before; however, international media report that the April 5 protests mark the first incident that has resulted in the death of a refugee.
- During March, WFP supported nearly 528,000 refugees throughout Jordan with paper and e-vouchers and in-kind food assistance. WFP expects to finalize the transition from paper vouchers to e-vouchers in April. WFP is finishing preparations for the implementation of its upcoming voucher program in Azraq camp, scheduled to open on April 30. Azraq can hold an initial 50,000 refugees but can expand to accommodate up to 130,000 refugees.

Lebanon

- On April 3, the number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Lebanon surpassed 1 million, a devastating milestone exacerbated by rapidly depleting resources and diminishing host community support. Lebanon has the highest per-capita concentration of refugees worldwide. UNHCR registers approximately 2,500 new Syrian refugees in Lebanon per day.
- As rent prices continue to rise, increasing numbers of refugees in Lebanon are unable to afford rental accommodation. In response, U.N. agencies and NGOs are working with the Government of Lebanon to identify and provide refugees with suitable, rent-free shelter solutions. During the week of April 4, one INGO relocated more than 60 individuals in need of shelter to three collective shelters in Bekaa Valley and the city of Tripoli. In addition, more than 3,300 people benefited from monthly cash-for-shelter assistance provided by UNHCR.
- In March, WFP supported approximately 672,000 refugees through e-vouchers or food parcels. In April, WFP plans to provide food assistance to more than 750,000 of Lebanon's 1 million Syrian refugees.

- The large influx of Syrian refugees is affecting Lebanon’s social and economic infrastructure, according to WFP. The World Bank estimates that the cost of the Syrian crisis to Lebanon could be as high as \$7.5 billion. The Government of Lebanon, WFP, and the World Bank are partnering to support host communities and help households to cope with the effects of the Syrian crisis, including by developing a e-voucher program expanding food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese host communities.

Turkey

- On March 27, mortar shells fired from Syria landed in the town of Yayladagi, approximately 50 meters from Yayladagi refugee camp where WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent Society jointly implement an e-voucher food assistance program. WFP and have heightened security measures but continue relief operations as usual.

CONTEXT

- Following the commencement of peaceful demonstrations against the SARG in March 2011, President Bashar al-Asad pledged legislative reforms. However, reforms failed to materialize, and SARG forces loyal to President al-Asad began responding to demonstrations with violence, leading armed opposition groups to retaliate.
- A U.N. Security Council-endorsed peace plan—accepted by the SARG on March 26, 2012—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 16, 2012, the U.N. elected not to renew the mandate of the U.N. Supervision Mission in Syria, which had suspended operations on June 16 due to increasing levels of violence throughout the country. All U.N. military observers departed Syria in late August 2012.
- At a November 2012 meeting in Doha, Qatar, Syrian opposition factions formed an umbrella organization—the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, also known as the Syrian Coalition (SC). The USG recognized the coalition as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people on December 11, 2012. Shortly after its formation, the SC established the ACU to coordinate humanitarian aid to Syria. USG, other donors, and NGO representatives meet with the ACU on a regular basis to share information regarding identified needs, current and planned assistance, and challenges to providing aid.
- Syria hosts approximately 540,000 Palestinian refugees, with more than 80 percent living in and around Damascus. Intense fighting in and around Palestinian camps and neighborhoods has significantly affected Palestinian refugees in Syria. UNRWA estimates that almost all of the 540,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria are directly affected by the conflict and 270,000 are displaced inside the country. Some 80,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria have fled to neighboring countries. Syria also hosts an estimated 39,500 Iraqi refugees, primarily in the greater Damascus area.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2014¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
NGO Partners	Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$57,500,000
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$500,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Syria	\$1,000,000
U.N. Population Fund	Health, Protection	Syria	\$2,500,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$22,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$2,500,000
WHO	Health	Syria	\$13,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$99,000,000
USAID/FFP			
WFP	Syria Emergency Operation (EMOP)	Syria	\$50,345,900
WFP	Regional EMOP	Egypt	\$3,500,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Iraq	\$2,500,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan	\$21,500,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Lebanon	\$20,500,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Turkey	\$7,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$105,345,900
STATE/PRM³			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Health, Relief Commodities, Shelter, WASH, Capacity Building	Syria, Jordan, Lebanon	\$10,800,000
International Organization for Migration	Relief Commodities, Border Transport	Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt	\$3,600,000
UNFPA	Mental Health, Capacity Building, Protection	Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq	\$1,700,000
UNHCR	Protection, Camp Management, Shelter and Settlements, WASH, Education, Relief Commodities	Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, Regional	\$104,700,000
UNICEF	Education, WASH, Child Protection	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt	\$43,700,000
UNRWA	Food, Health, Education, Relief Commodities, Shelter, WASH	Syria, Jordan, Lebanon	\$28,100,000
WHO	Health	Turkey	\$400,000
TBD	Health	Lebanon	\$10,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$203,000,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2014			\$407,345,900

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2013¹

TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE	\$252,290,317
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE	\$378,353,221
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE	\$582,724,280
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2013	\$1,213,367,818

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE	\$19,695,864
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE	\$47,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE	\$52,359,941
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012	\$119,055,805

TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014	\$1,739,769,523
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¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Approximately \$12.8 million in funding was committed in FY 2012 and obligated in FY 2013.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 10, 2014.

³ Total includes \$10 million announced in FY 2013 for obligation by State/PRM in FY 2014.

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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- 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.