



SYRIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #15, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

MAY 22, 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

2.8 million

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

1,077,704

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
UNHCR – May 2014

747,907

Syrian Refugees in Turkey
UNHCR – May 2014

596,062

Syrian Refugees in Jordan
UNHCR – May 2014

223,113

Syrian Refugees in Iraq
UNHCR – April 2014

137,560

Syrian Refugees in Egypt
UNHCR – May 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- Violence in Syria has killed more than 162,400 people—including nearly 54,000 civilians—since March 2011, according to the U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.
- Heavy fighting is constraining access to safe drinking water in the city of Aleppo.
- Amid insecurity and access constraints, U.N. convoys reach rural areas of Aleppo Governorate and deliver food from Turkey to northern Syria.

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

- Aerial bombardments, heavy fighting, and conflict-induced displacement continue to endanger civilian populations in Syria. Approximately 54,000 civilians, including an estimated 8,600 children, have died due to violence in Syria, while the conflict has also killed more than 61,100 Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) military and militia personnel and 42,700 fighters from opposition groups, the Al Nusra Front, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). With other deadly casualties—including among pro-SARG groups based in neighboring countries and unidentified individuals—the death toll in Syria had reached approximately 162,400 people as of May 19.
- Violence continues to displace civilian populations across Syria. On May 15, humanitarian agencies focused on camp coordination and management in northern Syria reported that more than 143,000 IDPs reside in 90 camps throughout northern Syria, representing a 10 percent increase in the number of IDPs living in these camps since March.
- According to advocacy group Physicians for Human Rights, SARG forces have systemically attacked health care facilities in opposition-controlled areas since March 2011, resulting in the death of more than 460 health professionals and nearly half of Syria's public hospitals damaged, destroyed, or otherwise rendered inoperative. The more than 460 civilian health professionals killed across Syria included at least 157 doctors, 94 nurses, 84 medics, and 45 pharmacists. Aleppo and Rif Damascus governorates have experienced the highest number of reported attacks on medical facilities, with 35 attacks occurring in each.
- With USG support, U.N. agencies and NGOs continue to reach populations with emergency humanitarian support—such as food, health care services, protection activities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions—while insecurity, access constraints, and bureaucratic impediments continue to isolate vulnerable populations from assistance.

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)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- In Aleppo Governorate's A'zaz District, SARG aerial bombardments and clashes between the Free Syrian Army and ISIL have impeded humanitarian access since early May, limiting staff movements and delaying emergency relief commodity distributions, according to NGOs. In addition, recent SARG airstrikes have displaced families and constrained access in rural areas west of the city of Aleppo.
 - Worsening localized fighting in Dayr az Zawr Governorate between ISIL elements and armed non-SARG groups has restricted NGO movements and delayed distributions of relief commodities and medical supplies, according to NGOs operating in affected areas. Meanwhile, increased vehicle checkpoints established by non-SARG actors on transit routes throughout Ar Raqqah Governorate have also impeded access in recent weeks, according to an NGO.
 - Despite insecurity and access constraints, USG partners are continuing efforts to reach all conflict-affected and displaced populations in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. On May 8 and 9, U.N. agencies and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) reached besieged and hard-to-reach areas of Aleppo Governorate, distributing life-saving assistance for vulnerable IDPs in six rural towns. The 20-truck convoy—including USG partners UNHCR, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), among other agencies—delivered food, hygiene, and nutrition assistance to the towns of Hariten, Hayyan, Kfar Hamra, and Maaret Elartiq, as well as food, hygiene kits, medicines, relief commodities, and safe drinking water for up to 15,000 people in the opposition-besieged areas of Nubl and Zahara. U.N. agencies were previously unable to reach these populations and had not delivered aid to towns of Nubl and Zahara since March 2011. Agencies gained access following negotiations between SARG and opposition forces that also enabled the evacuation of approximately 1,900 opposition fighters and civilians from the Old City of Homs, Homs Governorate, in early May, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.
 - The Commissioner-General (CG) of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Pierre Krähenbühl, visited Syria the week of May 12 to meet with Palestinian refugees, SARG officials, and UNRWA staff. Krähenbühl met with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees to call for unimpeded access to all refugees in need. The CG visited Palestinian refugees in Homs Governorate and outside of the city of Damascus but was unable to visit Yarmouk camp due to an incident on May 13 in which two SARG security officials were shot; one was killed and one was critically injured. UNRWA has not accessed Yarmouk since the incident.
-
-

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

- Relief agencies remain concerned by poor access to food and markets, as well as worsening security conditions and displacement, which has left more than 6.3 million people severely food insecure in Syria, according to the U.N. In addition, exceptionally low levels of rainfall in recent months are creating drought conditions and threatening Syria's staple crops, particularly in Aleppo, Dar'a, Hamah, Homs, and Idlib governorates.
 - A WFP convoy began moving food supplies from Turkey into Syria's Al Hasakah Governorate through the Nusaybin–Qamishli border crossing point on May 14. The 34-truck convoy is transporting nearly 800 metric tons of food, including lentils, rice, bulgur, tomato paste, beans, vegetable oil, pasta, salt, sugar, and wheat flour, sufficient to support 58,000 people for one month, according to WFP. The convoy is also carrying 10 temporary warehouses to enhance WFP's storage capacity in Qamishli. Although WFP—in partnership with the SARC and local organizations—delivered food for 4 million people in March, the agency reached only 3.9 million people during April due to fighting in Ar Raqqah and Dayr az Zawr governorates.
 - On May 21, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the SARC began cross-line food distributions for 60,000 people living in both SARG- and opposition-controlled areas. As of May 22, the SARC had delivered approximately 6,000 family food parcels to eastern opposition-held areas, as well as SARG-controlled areas in northern parts of the city. The USG also supports food distributions in the city of Aleppo through an NGO partner and WFP.
-
-

HEALTH & PROTECTION

- With USG support, U.N. agencies and NGOs continue efforts to respond to the acute health needs of the estimated 9.3 million conflict-affected people in Syria by providing life-saving medicines, medical supplies, and surgical equipment

to a growing number of increasingly vulnerable people. In addition, humanitarian organizations are working to provide protection services and psychosocial support for conflict affected populations; promote safe and equal access to basic health care services by the most affected populations, including women, children, and people with disabilities; and strengthen the capacity of local health actors to respond to urgent humanitarian needs.

- From January to May 2014, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) provided health care services and distributed medicines and medical equipment to respond to the needs of more than 4 million Syrians. In addition, WHO trained more than 2,000 health care workers on first aid, infection control, testing for safe drinking water, and early detection of malnutrition—bolstering the ability of Syrian communities to respond to health risks. The USG is the single largest international donor to WHO’s operations in Syria, with \$13 million—or more than 31 percent of total contributions to WHO—in FY 2014 support.
- With an estimated 2.3 million women of reproductive age affected by conflict in Syria, USG partner the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) is working to ensure that all vulnerable women receive adequate reproductive health care services and psychosocial support. In April, UNFPA provided services to approximately 16,500 women, such as birthing assistance for more than 600 women, reproductive health awareness sessions for 9,500 IDPs and psychosocial and psychological first aid services to approximately 2,500 women, including 320 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.
- With USG funding, UNHCR is supporting primary health care clinics in Syria to assist IDPs and other conflict-affected people. Since the beginning of 2014, more than 196,500 IDPs, as well as other vulnerable people, have received comprehensive packages of primary health care through 11 clinics supported by UNHCR in Aleppo, Al Hasakah, Damascus, Homs, Rif Damascus, and Tartus governorates.
- On May 11 in Amman, Jordan, UNICEF and WHO, as well as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, convened a meeting of regional actors—comprising Ministry of Health representatives from the Government of Egypt, Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (GHKJ), Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Iraq, and SARG—to consolidate interagency and multi-country strategic planning efforts to prevent and treat wild poliovirus. WHO recently declared that the spread of polio constitutes an international public health emergency, and the regional strategic plan aims to increase polio immunization through mass oral vaccination campaigns targeting more than 22 million children under five years of age. Since November 2013, U.N. agencies and local health authorities have conducted 24 national and sub-national immunization campaigns in seven countries, administering approximately 63 million doses of polio vaccine.

WASH

- Amid intensifying insecurity, relief agencies are working to build healthier communities and prevent the spread of disease through WASH activities for vulnerable populations. In particular, humanitarian organizations have expressed concern that violence in the city of Aleppo has resulted in intermittent access to safe drinking water. Access to safe drinking water in Aleppo sharply declined in early May after the Al Nusra Front reportedly disabled the city’s central water pumping station that supplies both SARG- and opposition-controlled areas, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Although armed actors have restored some water services, populations without sufficient access to water are drinking from unsafe sources, increasing the risk of potential disease outbreaks.
- In April, a USG NGO partner distributed nearly 18,700 hygiene kits to conflict-affected populations in Aleppo. In addition, the NGO continued hygiene promotion and psychosocial activities for children at 11 locations throughout Aleppo’s A’zaz District, as well as at eight collective centers in rural Aleppo with an average bi-weekly attendance rate of more than 570 children.
- With support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the SARC is promoting safe hygiene and sanitation practices to address food and personal hygiene, using latrines, safe water handling, and health-seeking behavior for IDPs in Tartus Governorate. The SARC has expanded services to address the critical needs of vulnerable Syrians located in temporary shelters and other areas that lack health and basic services, as well as educated children on the importance of hygiene to prevent disease outbreaks at collective shelters.

REGIONAL UPDATE

Iraq

- In late April, the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—with support from the USG and in collaboration with local government officials and representatives from U.N. agencies and NGOs—marked the opening of nearly 130 shops in Basirma and Darashakran refugee camps in northern Iraq’s Kurdistan Region. The project aims to enhance the livelihoods of Syrians in refugee camps throughout the Kurdistan Region by expanding access to rewarding employment and regular income. During the opening ceremonies, shop owners received toolkits that included the materials and equipment needed to run their small businesses. In each camp, the assortment of shops form a marketplace that comprises grocery stalls, restaurants, salons, shoe repair, electric services, and tailoring, among other services. These shops will contribute to the overall economy of the community, enhance the lives of refugees, and provide sustainable income to the shop owners and their families.

Jordan

- UNHCR recently established a community-based protection network—a tool that provides refugees with the opportunity to participate in identifying and addressing protection needs—at the Za’atri refugee camp in northern Jordan, where more than 100,000 Syrian refugees are residing. Through the network, UNHCR is working to train community volunteers on protection measures and human rights, including the rights of refugees, children, and women, reaching 60 refugees with protection training to date.
- On May 5, the USG and the GHKJ signed an agreement under which the USG will provide loan guarantees to the GHKJ worth \$1 billion, saving an estimated \$200 million in borrowing-related expenses as the GHKJ responds to the needs of the nearly 600,000 Syrian refugees living in Jordan. GHKJ Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour expects the deal to boost Jordan’s economic reform program by helping the government borrow from international markets at reasonable interest rates, noting that this assistance will help sustain the cost of humanitarian efforts to respond to urgent needs amidst continued Syrian refugee influxes.

Lebanon

- ICRC is expanding support for the treatment of conflict-related casualties—including injuries caused by barrel bombs, bullets, and shrapnel, as well as associated infections—in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley, where rocket attacks have increased in recent months. Between January and April, ICRC covered health care costs for nearly 200 people wounded during violence in Bekaa; trained nearly 100 doctors, nurses, and first-aid responders; provided medical supplies and equipment to 20 medical facilities throughout Lebanon to improve the care of conflict-related injuries; and supported emergency medical services conducted by the Lebanese Red Cross.

Turkey

- Nearly 2,500 Syrians were admitted to Turkey from May 1 to 8 amid intensified fighting in Syria, according to UNHCR and the Government of Turkey Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (AFAD). Individuals who arrive to camps spontaneously, either directly from Syria or from Turkey’s underserved urban areas, continue to pose a major challenge for refugee camps, which have reached capacity. Camp officials are making efforts to transfer new arrivals to other camps that may have space to accommodate more people, such as Nusaybin or Viransehir, while admitting families into full camps depending on the availability of tents. Approximately 350 to 400 people are currently accommodated temporarily in the waiting areas of Adiyaman, Islahiye, Karkamis, and Nizip-1 camps. More than 70 percent of Syrian refugees living in Turkey reside outside of camps.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is providing \$5 million to support emergency food assistance for conflict-affected and displaced communities in Syria. The contribution, provided via the Saudi Fund for Development, will enable WFP to provide life-saving food assistance to thousands of displaced families in Syria’s 14 governorates, including supplemental support for children and pregnant and nursing women. With Saudi support, WFP is also planning a school feeding program inside Syria that aims to allow students to continue attending school despite ongoing violence.

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. On March 19, 2013, the SC established the Syrian Interim Government, which opposes the SARG and is based in decentralized locations throughout opposition-held areas of Syria.
- Shortly after its formation, the SC established the Assistance Coordination Unit (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.
- The U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2139 on February 22, pressing the SARG and other armed actors to allow unfettered humanitarian access for relief aid workers in Syria. The resolution identified priority areas for emergency relief aid, and the U.N. is releasing monthly reports tracking progress on implementing the resolution’s objectives and access gains, as well as persistent access impediments.
- 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
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Syria	\$1,000,000
U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA)	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			
ICRC	Health, Relief Commodities, Shelter, WASH, Capacity Building	Syria, Jordan, Lebanon	\$10,800,000
IOM	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
To Be Determined	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
--	------------------------

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 May 22, 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.