



SYRIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #8, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

FEBRUARY 13, 2014

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

9.3 million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria
U.N. – January 2014

6.5 million

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Syria
U.N. – January 2014

2.4 million

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

871,457

Syrian Refugees in Jordan
UNHCR – February 2014

920,971

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
UNHCR – February 2014

602,744

Syrian Refugees in Turkey
UNHCR – February 2014

222,574

Syrian Refugees in Iraq
UNHCR – February 2014

133,727

Syrian Refugees in Egypt
UNHCR – February 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian aid convoys reach the Old City of Homs during a ceasefire, delivering humanitarian relief and evacuating 1,350 people.
- Ongoing SARG aerial campaign in the city of Aleppo results in large population displacement.
- The second round of Geneva II peace talks began February 10.

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

- Interagency humanitarian convoys reached the besieged Old City of Homs on February 7 following negotiations for a three-day pause in fighting to provide aid to 2,500 people. On February 8, aid convoys came under fire in what the U.N. labeled a deliberate attack, which resulted in at least 11 deaths. Despite the violence, between February 7 and 9 the U.N. World Food Program (WFP)—through its partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)—distributed 310 family food parcels, sufficient to support up to 1,550 people for a one-month period. SARC also delivered 500 bags of flour, 190 hygiene kits, and medicines to manage chronic diseases. On February 10, parties to the conflict agreed to extend the ceasefire in the Old City of Homs for an additional three days to enable further civilian evacuations and aid delivery. As of February 12, the U.N. reports that humanitarian agencies evacuated approximately 1,350 people, including women and children. Prior to the ceasefire, Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) forces had besieged the Old City for more than 600 days, according to international media.
- WFP reports that the ongoing SARG aerial campaign in eastern areas of the city of Aleppo has resulted in an unknown number of IDPs. In an effort to escape barrel bombs—which the U.N. describes as oil drums containing explosives and shrapnel dropped from aircraft—IDPs are reportedly moving into SARG-held areas, as well as out of the city towards the Turkish border and other areas of Syria. Humanitarian organizations estimate that the aerial campaign has resulted in thousands of new IDPs.
- The second round of peace talks at the Geneva Conference on Syria (Geneva II) began on February 10 with U.N.–Arab League Joint Special Representative to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi holding meetings with the delegation of Syrian opposition representatives and separately with the delegation representing the SARG, the U.N. reports.

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

- Deteriorating security conditions, ongoing displacements, food shortages, and limited access to populations in need continue to severely affect the humanitarian situation throughout Syria. In a January 31 statement, U.N. Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos highlighted that more than 3 million people are trapped in besieged or inaccessible areas of Syria due to heavy fighting. WFP estimates that 500,000 people in and around the city of Damascus, the Old City of Homs, and villages in Aleppo Governorate have not received humanitarian assistance for more than two years. On February 10, the executive director of WFP demanded continuous, sustainable, and safe humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations in all areas of the country.
- Since authorities granted limited access to the besieged Palestinian neighborhood of Yarmouk near Damascus on January 18, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has provided more than 6,500 family food rations to people trapped in Yarmouk and surrounding villages. Each food ration is sufficient to meet the needs of a family of up to eight people for approximately 10 days.
- Where access and security permit, U.N. agencies continue to deliver humanitarian assistance to populations in need. Between mid-January and February 7, six interagency convoys delivered assistance to approximately 25,000 people in difficult-to-access areas of eastern Hamah Governorate, as well as 20,000 people in Rif Damascus Governorate and 15,000 people in Aleppo Governorate, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The convoys brought shelter supplies and food items, life-saving medicines for communicable and non-communicable diseases, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies.
- U.N. agencies are conducting airlifts to assist hard-to-reach communities in northeastern Syria, many of which are otherwise inaccessible. Border closures and reduced overland access routes resulting from ongoing hostilities and insecurity have severely disrupted the delivery of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations throughout Al Hasakah Governorate, with WFP estimating that 500,000 people remain in critical need of food, medicine, clothing, and shelter support. WFP launched a round of airlifts from Erbil, Iraq, to the city of Qamishli on February 4, carrying rice, pasta, bulgur, flour, salt, and other food supplies to benefit approximately 30,000 people for a one-month period. WFP plans to conduct 10 flights to transport more than 400 metric tons (MT) of food and relief supplies, including items on behalf of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). WFP previously completed a series of flights to Qamishli in December 2013.

EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMODITIES & WINTERIZATION ASSISTANCE

- On February 6, UNHCR began the first of up to 13 planned airlifts from Damascus to deliver winterization supplies—such as warm clothes, thermal blankets, sleeping mats, and plastic sheeting—and emergency relief items, as well as medicine and medical supplies, to approximately 50,000 IDPs in northeastern Syria. Subsequent flights on February 7 and 8 transported 5,000 kitchen sets, two prefabricated warehouses, and additional winterization supplies. In Damascus and Rif Damascus governorates, UNHCR recently delivered winterization supplies to approximately 38,500 IDPs.
- As part of the U.N.'s winterization strategy, humanitarian organizations delivered 5,000 liters of fuel to cover the heating requirements of 16 collective shelters in Hamah Governorate, with an additional planned fuel distribution to 22 shelters in Homs Governorate.
- On February 9, a USG-supported humanitarian partner provided 5,000 winterization kits to assist IDPs fleeing Aleppo Governorate as a result of the ongoing SARG aerial campaign. Throughout the first week of February, another USG-supported international non-governmental organization (NGO) delivered winterization kits to approximately 2,020 households in 15 villages in Aleppo Governorate. To date during the 2013/2014 winter season, USG partners have provided more than 790,000 individuals in Syria with relief items and seasonal supplies.

HEALTH & WASH

- According to OCHA, the January 5–9 polio vaccination campaign conducted by the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO)—together with UNICEF, the SARG Ministry of Health, and SARC—reached 2.5 million children across all 14 governorates of Syria. OCHA reports that as of January 26, U.N. agencies and NGO partners had imported 14

million doses of polio vaccine to the region; an additional 4 million doses are planned for importation by mid-April. Children require multiple doses of the polio vaccine for full polio immunization.

- Since January 18, UNRWA has delivered 10,000 doses of polio vaccine—sufficient to immunize 3,000 children—and a small amount of multivitamins and rehydration salts to civilians trapped in the besieged Palestinian neighborhood of Yarmouk.
- The Polio Task Force (PTF)—led by the Syrian Coalition’s Assistance Coordination Unit—launched its second round of polio vaccinations in opposition-held areas of northern Syria on January 28. The PTF extended the campaign, which was scheduled to conclude on February 2, to maximize efforts to reach target populations in conflict-affected areas.
- In Jordan, IOM and UNICEF are relocating their measles and polio immunization programs, as well as vitamin A supplement programs, to the Raba Al Sarhan border area to support the influx of Syrian refugees. The program, partially funded by UNHCR, provides measles vaccines to refugees aged six months to 30 years and vitamin A supplements to children below the age of five. Following guidance provided by the Jordanian government and relief agencies engaged in the polio response, IOM and UNICEF are vaccinating children in Jordan up to 15 years of age against polio, instead of the previously targeted group of children below the age of four. From January 21 to February 3, IOM teams in Jordan vaccinated nearly 3,200 newly arrived refugees against measles, provided polio vaccinations to more than 2,200 children below the age of five, and provided vitamin A supplements to 910 children aged 6 to 59 months.
- From January 29 through February 5, a USG-supported NGO provided more than 20,000 primary health care consultations and performed more than 600 minor surgeries at primary health facilities throughout northern Syria. The NGO also provided nearly 17,000 trauma consultations and conducted nearly 500 major and more than 1,100 minor surgeries at trauma facilities in northern areas of the country. USG-supported partners continue to provide medical items—including pharmaceutical kits, reproductive health supplies, and medical equipment—to support mobile medical clinics, primary health care facilities, and trauma care centers throughout Syria.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

- Approximately half of Syria’s current population is at risk of food insecurity and has difficulty accessing sufficient food to meet basic needs, according to preliminary results from a WFP and U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Joint Rapid Food Needs Assessment conducted in late 2013. An estimated 6.3 million people are highly vulnerable to food insecurity and in critical need of sustained food and agriculture assistance, representing an increase of more than 50 percent since the last estimate of 4 million, presented in June 2013. The conflict has led to the disruption of supply flows, causing basic commodities to increase in price in areas of Aleppo and Idlib governorates, and has prevented the delivery of critical humanitarian supplies, including food, to northeastern governorates.
- A humanitarian organization conducted a baseline assessment in Idlib Governorate to better understand the living conditions of vulnerable families in areas targeted to receive food assistance. The assessment—conducted in December and finalized in January—surveyed households in eight of 11 sub-districts. The survey found that food comprises approximately 80 percent of household expenditures. Of households surveyed, 27 percent report having one week of food in storage, while 62 percent reported no available food stocks. The USG continues to support humanitarian organizations to distribute family food rations and bread vouchers, as well as support flour-to-bakery programs to enable bread production.
- On February 1, WFP distributed 2,800 family food rations and 70 MT of flour—sufficient to benefit nearly 14,000 people—in the towns of Ariha and Mahmble in rural Idlib Governorate, marking the first interagency relief delivery to the area since August 2013. Following reports of severe yeast shortages that could threaten bread production, WFP also distributed 19 MT of yeast to Aleppo and Idlib governorates as of January 30.
- WFP’s January food ration distributions included assistance to 25,000 people recently displaced from the town of Adra, northeast of the city of Damascus, who are residing at collective shelters in multiple locations within Rif Damascus Governorate.

- To date, USG partners in Syria have delivered a total of 24,861 MT of flour to bakeries in Aleppo, Idlib, and southern Syria. USG-supported flour distribution programs increase access to and the availability of bread, a critical component of the Syrian diet.

DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Internal Displacement

- In late January, the Syria Needs Analysis Project—a collaboration between the Assessment Capacities Project and MapAction to provide independent analysis of the humanitarian situation resulting from the Syria crisis—circulated the results of its multi-sector needs assessment for Dar'a Governorate. The assessment, conducted between mid-November and mid-December 2013, covered 692,000 people across 12 of 17 sub-districts. The assessment found that approximately 28 percent of the assessed population—or 190,650 people—are IDPs living with host families, in rental accommodations, unfinished or vacated buildings, and collective centers. In Jizeh sub-district, which borders Jordan, IDPs represent 70 percent of the current estimated population. The assessment indicated that IDPs and members of the host community face gaps across all humanitarian sectors.
- A USG-supported NGO in As Suwayda' Governorate in southern Syria registered more than 200 IDP families throughout the final two weeks of January. The IDPs registering in As Suwayda' primarily originated from Aleppo, Al Hasakah, Ar Raqqah, Dar'a, Homs, and Idlib governorates. An additional 300 families—primarily originating from Dar'a and Rif Damascus governorates—recently settled in other areas of As Suwayda'. The NGO plans to include the newly arrived IDPs in future relief commodity distributions.

External Displacement

Jordan

- A mobile team from International Medical Corps (IMC) recently held a day of health consultations—attending to more than 200 people—for Syrian refugees and the host community in Jordan's Azraq town in response to UNHCR-identified needs. IMC coordinated its intervention with the South Azraq Association for Development, a community-based organization that collaborates with UNHCR.
- The Jordanian government has approved psychosocial care services targeting 26,000 Syrian refugee children in 26 new host community locations. Implemented by two UNICEF partners, the new locations extend the number of UNICEF-supported child protection activity sites in Jordan to 112, which includes 52 in camps and 60 in host communities.
- Local media report that the Jordanian Cabinet has approved a recommendation to allow the recruitment of technically skilled Syrians to work in industrial zones and underprivileged or remote areas outside of urban centers. In Jordan, local officials in northern governorates note that the large number of Syrian refugees is straining schools, housing, and the labor market, and is contributing to tensions with host communities.

Turkey

- To date, UNHCR reports that more than 20,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Turkey since the start of 2014—arriving at a higher rate than at any time since early 2013. Approximately 500 to 2,000 people have arrived daily through official crossing points, with additional refugees entering the country at unofficial border crossings. According to UNHCR, approximately one-third—or 7,000 of the newly arrived refugees—are sheltering in camps, and the Government of Turkey (GoT) opened a new camp in early January to cope with the refugee influx. UNHCR and the GoT are discussing additional emergency support, which may include relief supplies and cash assistance, in response to the increasing needs at the border.
- In Sanliurfa Province, local officials reported to UNHCR that, despite the closure of the Akcakale border crossing, approximately 4,000 Syrians recently returned through Akcakale to Tel Abyad in Ar Raqqah Governorate, an area with extensive fighting. The returnees are reportedly people who fled to Turkey during the first two weeks of January to stay temporarily with family members.
- UNHCR reported that the final nine—for a total of 23—mobile registration units purchased by the agency in support of the GoT Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) will be delivered to AFAD in the coming

days. The units are intended to assist with the registration of Syrian refugees in Turkey's urban areas. Local officials confirmed that Sanliurfa, Hatay, Gaziantep, and Mardin provinces have received six other units.

Lebanon

- UNHCR reports that it has increased its capacity to register Syrians in Lebanon, which will reduce the registration waiting period from one month to 25 days—the lowest average in 12 months. Lebanon has received the highest number of Syrian refugees, hosting more than 920,000 people, or 37 percent of the region's total.

Iraq

- Humanitarian organizations participating in the child protection sub-working group in Iraq have established an identification system to document unaccompanied and separated children arriving from Syria. As of January 30, the system had facilitated the documentation of nearly 780 unaccompanied and/or separated children, as well as identified approximately 260 cases of possible child rights violations, according to UNHCR. The child protection sub-working group is also developing a referral system to help children access child protection and basic services in camps and host communities.
- UNHCR and its partners are providing Syrian children displaced to Iraq with psychosocial support to help them cope trauma associated with the Syria crisis. As of January 30, more than 4,000 children in refugee camps are attending recreational activities and receiving care in seven child- and youth-friendly spaces, UNHCR reports. Partners are also establishing new spaces in urban areas hosting Syrian refugees. In Dohuk Governorate, partners registered more than 3,000 children for child- and youth-friendly spaces in Var City and Fayda District as of January 30.

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 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.
- 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 39,476 Iraqi refugees, primarily in the greater Damascus area.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
PROVIDED IN FY 2014¹**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Syria	\$1,000,000
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. 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			
International Committee of the Red Cross (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
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

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

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Syria	\$1,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$200,016,769
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$3,000,000
UNDSS	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$500,000
UNFPA	Health	Syria	\$2,795,900
UNICEF	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Syria	\$24,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$4,350,000
WHO	Health	Syria	\$14,000,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$2,627,648
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$252,290,317
USAID/FFP			
NGO Partners	Food Assistance	Syria	\$70,803,546
WFP	Syria EMOP	Syria	\$144,933,575
WFP	Regional EMOP	Egypt	\$5,279,294
WFP	Regional EMOP	Iraq	\$9,835,629
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan	\$55,990,076
WFP	Regional EMOP	Lebanon	\$72,207,374
WFP	Regional EMOP	Turkey	\$19,303,727
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$378,353,221
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Health, Relief Commodities, Shelter, WASH, Capacity Building	Syria, Jordan, Lebanon	\$27,600,000
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Winterization, Relief Commodities	Lebanon, Turkey	\$3,900,000
IOM	Relief Commodities, Border Transport	Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt	\$10,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Mental Health/Psychosocial Support, Reproductive Health, Livelihoods, Capacity Building, GBV, Shelter, Case Management	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey	\$22,924,280
U.N. Development Fund	WASH	Lebanon	\$400,000
UNFPA	Mental Health, Capacity Building, Protection	Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt	\$3,793,000
UNHCR	Protection, Camp Management, Shelter and Settlements, WASH, Education, Relief Commodities	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt	\$312,637,000
UNHCR	Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, Health, WASH	Syria	\$58,170,000
UNICEF	Education, WASH, Child Protection	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt	\$72,000,000

UNRWA	Food, Health, Education, Relief Commodities, Shelter, WASH	Jordan, Lebanon	\$15,800,000
UNRWA	Food, Relief Commodities, Health, Education, WASH	Syria	\$55,100,000
WHO	Health	Turkey	\$400,000
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

USAID AND STATE 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. \$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 February 13, 2014.

³ Total includes \$10 million announced in FY 2013 that will be obligated 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.