



# SYRIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #14, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

MAY 8, 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

**1,056,089**

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon  
UNHCR – May 2014

**736,137**

Syrian Refugees in Turkey  
UNHCR – May 2014

**593,346**

Syrian Refugees in Jordan  
UNHCR – May 2014

**223,113**

Syrian Refugees in Iraq  
UNHCR – May 2014

**137,086**

Syrian Refugees in Egypt  
UNHCR – May 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS

- U.N. leadership condemns lack of progress implementing objectives of U.N. Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2139.
- Poor rainfall levels threaten Syria's staple food crops, compounding the conflict's effect on agricultural production.
- Relief agencies are planning a measles vaccination campaign as the number of suspected cases rises.

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

TO SYRIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE  
FY 2012 – FY 2014

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On April 30, U.N. Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Valerie Amos briefed the UNSC regarding the lack of progress implementing objectives outlined in UNSC Resolution 2139. ERC Amos noted that despite the humanitarian community's accomplishments in April—including vaccinating more than 3 million children, delivering food assistance to 4 million people, and providing water and sanitation services to nearly 17 million people—fewer than 10 percent of the estimated 242,000 people living in besieged areas received any assistance during the month. ERC Amos also condemned the continued killing and maiming of civilians and the destruction of homes, schools, and places of worship in Syria.
- The onset of warm weather, ongoing displacement, lack of humanitarian access, and the deterioration of health and water and sanitation systems are increasing the risk of a major disease outbreak in Syria. Disease surveillance systems—including the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) Ministry of Health (MoH) and U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) and the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) Early Warning and Alert and Response Network (EWARN)—had reported suspected measles cases in 13 out of 14 governorates in Syria as of April 30. EWARS reports the greatest number of suspected cases are located in Aleppo and Dayr az Zayr governorates. Suspected measles cases are likely underreported due to the frequent movement of affected populations and the interruption of routine immunization services.
- Exceptionally low levels of rainfall in recent months are threatening Syria's staple crops, particularly in agricultural areas of Aleppo, Dar'a, Hamah, Homs, Idlib governorates. Syria's prolonged conflict has already reduced agricultural output by at least 40 percent, according to joint WFP-U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) assessments in 2013. Current WFP estimates indicate the drought will likely decrease Syria's annual wheat production to between 1.7 and 2 million metric tons (MT)—approximately half of pre-conflict levels.

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

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

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

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- The obstruction of humanitarian assistance by SARG forces and other armed actors continues to limit the ability of relief agencies to reach the most vulnerable populations in Syria. In April, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was allowed to deliver relief supplies and food assistance to the Palestinian refugee neighborhood Yarmouk in the city of Damascus for only eight days. UNRWA reports that the agency has met the minimum humanitarian requirements of no more than 25 percent of the population of 18,000 people due to access restrictions since January. Local authorities have granted UNRWA access to Yarmouk for distribution every day to date in May, although some days for only one to two hours.
  - In April, deteriorating security resulted in the suspension of WFP food assistance deliveries in Ar Raqqah and Dayr az Zawr governorates. In late April, heavy fighting suspended negotiations between the U.N. and non-SARG groups, which aimed to secure access for the U.N. to populations in rural Aleppo.
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## AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

- WFP provided food to more than 4 million conflict-affected people in all of Syria's 14 governorates during the agency's March distribution cycle, which ended in early April. Food rations contain a one-month supply of bulgur, dried and canned pulses, oil, pasta, rice, salt, sugar, and tomato paste. Each month, WFP transports approximately 40,000 MT of food assistance to populations inside Syria. WFP reached an additional 1.6 million refugees in neighboring countries through a combination of electronic (e-) food vouchers and food rations distributed to vulnerable families.
  - Active conflict and other constraints continued to impede WFP access during April. However, in addition to routine distributions targeting up to 4.2 million people, the agency was able to provide food for approximately 68,000 people in hard-to-reach areas of Syria, including the besieged town of Talbiseh in Homs Governorate and areas of Idlib Governorate previously inaccessible to WFP.
  - The USG remains the single largest supporter of WFP operations in the region. USG-supported non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also continue to provide food assistance, including family food rations, bread vouchers, and flour, to more than 650,000 people in non-SARG areas not reached by WFP.
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## EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMODITIES & WASH

- On April 25, USG partner UNRWA completed its first round of cash assistance in Syria, providing more than \$23 million to 91,000 Palestinian families at three distribution points in the city of Damascus and in central and northern Syria. UNRWA identified more than 800 families requiring additional emergency assistance and is working to respond to these needs. Cash-based programs are fast, flexible, and spur local economic activity when food and essential supplies are available in local markets, as well as reduce costs associated with transporting and distributing goods. To date in 2014, UNRWA has delivered nearly 345,000 food parcels, 191,000 blankets, and 118,000 mattresses, as well as other relief commodities, to vulnerable communities in Syria.
  - Amid intense hostilities and access constraints, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)—in close coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)—delivered food and relief commodities, as well as increased access to safe drinking water, for more than 900,000 people across Syria in March and April. ICRC provided essential household items, such as blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, and mattresses, to more than 180,000 people displaced by fighting. In addition, ICRC and the SARC provided generators, water pumps, and water treatment materials to ensure access to safe drinking water in Aleppo, Hamah, and Homs governorates, and supported water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities for nearly 16,000 people at 54 IDP sites across Dayr az Zawr, Homs, and Rif Damascus governorates.
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## HEALTH

- On May 4, USG partner WHO delivered 40 MT of crucial medicines and medical equipment—including surgical items and dialysis supplies—sufficient to support more than 117,000 vulnerable people in Ar Raqqah Governorate. With only two fully functional public hospitals, available health care services are insufficient for the 280,000 total people in need in the governorate, and WHO is prioritizing responses to the most urgent health care needs. Since January, WHO

has supported populations in Ar Raqqa with a total of 82 MT of medicines, medical equipment, and surgical supplies and is working through the SARC and local NGOs to distribute medical commodities to health care facilities and populations in need. To date in 2014, WHO has supported more than 3.9 million people in SARG- and non-SARG-controlled areas across Syria, most recently through deliveries to Aleppo, Hamah, and Homs governorates.

- Intensified clashes between SARG forces and non-SARG groups in Dar'a Governorate in recent weeks has resulted in deteriorating security conditions and an unconfirmed number of casualties. A USG-supported NGO is working through a sub-partner to manage a medical supply storehouse inside Syria, expanding the availability of pre-positioned items. The pre-positioning of supplies enables humanitarian organizations to respond quickly to field hospital requests as patient intake rises in relation to increased shelling and barrel bombing.
- During the week of April 28, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and SARG MoH launched the 2014 vaccination week in Syria to immunize more than 300,000 children who missed routine vaccination rounds. UNICEF and WHO are enabling local health authorities to provide vaccinations through 1,200 health care centers, 30 mobile clinics, and additional health care teams across Syria. In addition to administering polio and measles vaccinations, the campaign is providing immunizations for other diseases that could become life threatening for children under five years of age, such as diphtheria, haemophilus, and pneumonia. Health care workers are also immunizing women of reproductive age against tetanus. UNICEF and WHO are implementing the six-day campaign in response to declining access to routine vaccination activities; Syria's vaccination rate has decreased from 91 percent in 2011 to 50 percent in 2013, according to WHO.
- To date, UNICEF, WHO, the SARC, and the SARG MoH have provided polio immunizations via the Damascus-based polio campaign for up to 2.9 million children in Syria. To reach the estimated 100,000 children not yet vaccinated due to insecurity and access constraints, UNICEF has deployed mobile teams to remote, hard-to-access, and besieged areas, including the recent delivery of nearly 33,500 vaccine doses to the besieged neighborhoods of Douma and Harasta in Rif Damascus Governorate. Adequate immunization for at-risk populations remains difficult because immunity to polio requires multiple vaccine doses.
- UNICEF, WHO, the SARC, and the SARG MoH are conducting the May round of the polio vaccination campaign from May 4–8, targeting more than 2.5 million children under five years of age. The latest Polio Control Task Force polio vaccination round—led by the Syrian Coalition's ACU—began on May 3, targeting up to 1.5 million children in northern Syria.

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## **DISPLACED POPULATIONS**

### *Internal Displacement*

- Military offensives in various parts of Syria, including northwestern Aleppo, southwestern Al Qunaytirah and Dar'a, and central Hamah governorates, have resulted in large-scale population movements, according to WFP. In recent weeks, approximately 120,000 people from Aleppo and Hamah governorates, as well as from insecure areas of Idlib Governorates have moved to safer areas of Idlib.
- The increased displacement has resulted in the establishment of new IDP camps in Aleppo, Dar'a, and Idlib governorates. The number of IDPs residing in camps has increased to an estimated 129,000 people—representing a 20 percent increase in the camps' population since January—and the number of camps has doubled from 40 to 84 since November 2013, according to the NGO consortium Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS).
- Relief agencies are working to expand WASH and other essential services to meet the demand of the growing camp population. ACAPS reports more than 200,000 IDPs are expected to reside in camps by June.
- The USG continues to support humanitarian assistance in multiple IDP camps through implementing partners, as well as liaise with humanitarian actors to ensure appropriate humanitarian support throughout Syria, including responding to mounting camp coordination and protection needs.

### *External Displacement*

#### **Iraq**

- In March and April, USG partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) facilitated the construction of 112 shops in Darashakran camp and 18 shops in Basirma camp, creating marketplaces for Syrian refugees to establish businesses in northern Iraq's Erbil Governorate. Following a joint-venture business model, IOM utilized existing skills

among the refugee community and provided refugee business partners with the materials and tools, as well as business development services, needed to start companies. The businesses opened in late April.

### **Jordan**

- The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres visited the Azraq refugee camp in northern Jordan on May 3, meeting families who fled conflict in Syria. More than 1,000 refugees have arrived since the camp's official opening on April 30, and with up to 600 Syrians crossing the border into Jordan each day, plans are in place for Azraq to eventually host up to 130,000 people. Guterres toured the camp's facilities, which include local community centers and child-friendly spaces in each of the four villages currently operating in the camp. Azraq's village-based approach—in contrast to Za'atri camp where more than 100,000 refugees share the same centralized services—aims to foster a greater sense of ownership and community among refugees.
- USG partners—including U.N. agencies and NGOs—are working to improve living conditions among Syrian refugees living outside camps in Jordan and for Jordanian communities by providing a wide range of services, including health care and mental health services, informal education, shelter rehabilitation, protection activities, psychosocial support, and WASH services. The USG also continues to provide food assistance to refugees living outside camps through a large-scale food voucher program implemented by WFP.

### **Lebanon**

- On April 22, the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) delivered food and medical assistance to an estimated 2,000 people in a remote Lebanese Sunni village, Tfail, located near the Lebanon–Syria border. Pro-SARG forces recently bombed the village, citing the population's suspected support to armed opposition groups in Syria. LRC medics treated injuries and evacuated seriously wounded individuals from the village. This recent assistance delivery follows successful negotiations with Sunni and Shi'ite clerics and Lebanese security officials to allow secure access for LRC. Hezbollah and pro-SARG forces have blocked the roads leading from Tfail to other areas of Lebanon and Syria.

### **Turkey**

- Construction has begun on seven UNHCR-funded medical clinics—three in urban areas and four in camps—to boost Syrian refugees' access to health care in southeast Turkey. Construction on additional units will begin following the delivery of these clinics in late May. According to officials at Kilis camp, where UNHCR plans to provide one clinic, approximately 100 refugees seek treatment daily at hospitals in the nearby cities of Gaziantep and Kilis, straining local health care services. Kilis Province currently hosts approximately 72,000 Syrian refugees.
- The Government of Turkey (GoT) is constructing a temporary wall along the Turkey–Syria border in Hatay Province's Reyhanli District in response to insecurity linked to extremist groups, such as the Al Nusra Front and Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and increased smuggling from Syria, according to international media. The temporary wall—constructed with portable 3 ton blocks—will be 3 meters in height and approximately 8 kilometers in length once completed.

### **Egypt**

- In recent weeks, UNHCR has noted an increase in the number of Syrian refugees charged with attempting to illegally depart Egypt by boat; as of April 30, approximately 217 refugees were held in detention in Alexandria and surrounding governorates. Government of Egypt (GoE) authorities regularly release Syrians shortly after arrest, typically providing them with three-month residency permits. UNHCR is in contact with GoE authorities regarding the detained Syrians, and UNHCR's partners are providing them food, blankets, and medical care.
- To raise awareness on the consequences of irregular departure from Egypt by sea, UNHCR conducted awareness sessions for 64 Syrian refugees and community leaders in the cities of Gamasa and Mansoura in Dakahleya Governorate. The sessions highlighted the importance of respecting Egyptian laws and regulations and discussed the process for obtaining residency permits.
- On April 28, UNHCR began a verification exercise of Syrian refugees in Egypt. The first phase involves the biometric registration of 12,000 heads of vulnerable refugee households residing in Greater Cairo, as well as verifying the original

passports of registered family members. UNHCR expects the verification exercise to take six weeks in Cairo and will conduct similar exercises in Alexandria and Damietta in the coming months.

- During April, WFP provided food assistance to more than 92,000 Syrian refugees in Egypt. Approximately half of beneficiaries continued to receive paper food vouchers, while those in Greater Cairo received assistance through newly distributed e-vouchers. The USG remains the single largest supporter of the WFP emergency operation covering Egypt and other countries hosting Syrian refugees.

## 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 2014<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
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 (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
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$99,000,000</b>

<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$105,345,900</b>
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>3</sup></b>			
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
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$203,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2014</b>			<b>\$407,345,900</b>

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2013<sup>1</sup>**

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

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2012<sup>1</sup>**

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

<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014</b>	<b>\$1,739,769,523</b>
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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 8, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).