

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

SYRIA AND COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CONFLICT: HUMANITARIAN SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE



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THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

SYRIA

The conflict raging in Syria is one of the most violent in recent memory with more than 100,000 people killed, at least half a million wounded, and millions of people displaced and tens of thousands detained. Virtually the entire population suffers from the direct consequences of the conflict in one way or another. In violence stricken areas, the breakdown of essential services, such as electricity and water supplies, has added to the misery. Many people struggle to make it through the day because of intense fighting and a severely weakened economy, and are completely dependent on the generosity of fellow Syrians and on humanitarian aid.

The crisis has had a number of other consequences as well:

- Public services are breaking down under the pressure of large-scale displacement. The water and sewage system is on the verge of collapse creating the need not only for emergency response but also for system-wide support.
- The situation with regard to public health is grim. Vast sections of the population have no access to suitable health care. The wounded are not being cared for properly, vaccination rates have dropped and the chronically ill are not receiving the necessary treatment. The long term consequences are predictable: rising rates of mortality, the potential re-emergence of certain diseases and permanent disability for tens of thousands.
- Food production is down, prices continue to rise, and more and more people are coming to depend on emergency food aid.
- Millions of displaced persons need temporary shelter.
- Children have stopped going to school.
- Tens of thousands have disappeared or are detained, and remain out of touch with their families.

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Every Syrian is now affected – and the situation remains catastrophic.

Number of people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance – 9.3 million
Number of internally displaced Syrians – 6,500,000 (OCHA)
Number of Syrian refugees – 2,513,654 (UNHCR)*

* as of 5 March 2014.

There has been a massive increase in the number of refugees in 2013, the majority of them women and children. The number is continuously increasing and is now reaching three million refugees.

Syrian refugees registered – 2,513,654*

Jordan – 584,600

Lebanon – 962,385

Turkey – 634,901

Iraq – 224,356

Egypt and North Africa – 134,534

*all figures provided by UNHCR, as of 5 March 2014.

By the end of February there were 584,600 registered refugees in **Jordan**, of whom, around 85% resides with host communities and they are in need to pay rent and bills of their living cost, cover the cost of health care and education.

Lebanon has received the largest number of Syrian refugees, 962,385. They live primarily with host families (more than 75%) or in rented accommodation and urgently need support to feed their families, obtain access to health care and find means of earning a living.

In **Turkey**, authorities have registered has received 634,901 Syrian people to date, while estimations reach the figure of 800,000. Of them, some 218,304 are living in the 22 camps run by the government with the support of the Turkish Red Crescent, three additional camps are not fully operational by the date. The remaining refugees have secured accommodation in both urban and rural areas, it is expected that new camps will be opened to host more people. In camps, the main need include the continuation of humanitarian services in the areas of shelter, food (cash transfer programme) and non-food relief items.

With deterioration of the security situation in Western **Iraq** (Anbar), especially Fallujah and Ramadi, access has become constrained and food and oil prices have reportedly increased and service provision has decreased. Most of the refugees living in camps urgently need food, medical assistance and proper shelter.

There are 134,534 Syrian refugees registered in **Egypt** and **North Africa**.

Numbers have also increased for **occupied Palestinian territories refugees from Syria**, with about 88,000 now in **Lebanon** and several thousand others in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers and staff need to have more and safer access to those most in need in Syria. 34 volunteers of the SARC have been killed and many more injured, kidnapped or detained while carrying out their humanitarian duties.






MOVEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSE IN SYRIA

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was able to provide humanitarian aid to more than three million people per month. However, the effectiveness of our response in Syria is under constant threat owing to the complexity of the context and shifting dynamics of the crisis. Through the support of the Movement and other partners, SARC continues, sometimes in life-threatening conditions, to provide urgent assistance on all sides of the conflict. There are constraints such as:

- shifting frontlines
- deteriorating security situation
- administrative obstacles.

Syria

-  Food assistance for around 3.5 million people per month
-  Essential household items for over 3.25 million people*
-  Health care for 507,400 people through services provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's mobile health units, health points and clinics and consumables for these health facilities*
-  Water and sanitation for 20,000,000 people**
-  Number of Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers involved in humanitarian operations: 3,000***

*July 2012-December 2013
**January 2013-September 2013
***Source: SARC



RESPONSE IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

The Red Cross and Red Crescent network is providing much needed support for Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.

In **Iraq**, the Iraqi Red Crescent is distributing food parcels, water, shelter equipment and hygiene kits, and providing first aid and psychosocial support.

In **Jordan**, the Jordanian Red Crescent is focusing on the most vulnerable refugees, such as those living with host families and has increased its cash programme to target 5,000 affected families. It is also providing relief and health care support and is working with partner National Societies (Canadian, Finnish, German and Norwegian Red Cross Societies) to provide a 120-bed field hospital for use in a camp in Jordan.

In **Lebanon**, the Lebanese Red Cross is delivering emergency medical care, including first aid and blood supplies and is evacuating the sick and the wounded to accredited hospitals throughout Lebanon. Movement partners have donated ambulances and medical supplies. LRC is increasing its relief activities (5,000 food and NFI distributions/months), creation and training of DMUs at branches level (assessment, relief, awareness on First Aid and waterborne diseases), Contingency storage, Blood banks in the 12 BB centres, and Mobile Clinics. The Lebanese branch of the Palestinian Red Crescent is providing refugees and those who have been wounded with medical treatment.

Neighbouring countries

-  Food assistance for 227,415 people (March 2012-October 2013)
-  Shelter and household items for 410,500 people (August 2012-December 2013)
-  Health care for 91,290 people (March 2012-October 2013)
-  Water and sanitation for 591,500 people (March 2012-October 2013)
-  Number of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers involved in humanitarian operations: 450

In **Turkey**, the Turkish Red Crescent has provided comprehensive support to Syrian refugees, including food, shelter, sanitation and hygiene promotion to those in camps and elsewhere. It is also involved in transferring relief assistance from Turkey to Syria, without crossing the border. Since the start of the e-card food programme with WFP, Turkish Red Crescent has assisted 118,000 people in 14 camps. In February, a pilot programme will extend this action to two additional camps. Turkish Red Crescent also continues to work with UNICEF to provide psychosocial support and remedial education to over 100,000 children in camps.

The Movement response with the country-wide network of volunteers of the National Societies in Syria and neighbouring countries is carried out according to the Movement Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality, and in full coordination and transparency with other actors on the ground.

The Movement closely coordinates with UN agencies such as the World Food Programme and UNHCR to ensure complementarity in the humanitarian response.

MOVEMENT COORDINATION

Since the crisis started in Syria in March 2011, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have strengthened their partnership to ensure the most efficient response to the growing humanitarian needs.







SARC has an operational lead role for the Movement's response and facilitates and often implements activities supported by UN partners, as well as INGOs, and is present across the country with a network of around 3,000 well-trained and dedicated volunteers. SARC provides assistance to IDPs and across conflict lines. National Societies in Syria's neighbouring countries are also meeting the needs of Syrian families fleeing Syria and the host communities. The coordination mechanisms also include the Partner Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies who have been backing up National Societies across the region and strongly contributed to enhance the Movement-wide humanitarian response to the crisis.

PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE ACTION





As the humanitarian situation worsens, the gap between needs and response is growing. We urgently need to mobilize additional support and resources and assist National Societies in scaling up and maintaining their response to those who are most affected.

The pressure on neighbouring countries is so great that despite their best intentions, they may soon be unable to cope with the situation. Additional funding is urgently required to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable people in Syria, and of those taking refuge in neighbouring countries, are met and that the response is sustainable.

Neighbouring countries

-  Food assistance for 423,000 people
-  Shelter and households items for 420,000 people, including cash grants to refugees hosted by local communities
-  Health care 171,800 people and psychosocial support for beneficiaries and for National Society volunteers
-  Water and sanitation for over 320,000 people
-  Pre-positioning of contingency stocks for over 75,000 people
-  Building National Societies' capacities in the area of emergency response

Syria

-  Food items are planned to be distributed to up to 5.6 million beneficiaries (2.3 million IFRC EA target, 3.3 million ICRC annual target)
-  Essential household items to 4.5 million beneficiaries (2.25 ICRC, 2.3 IFRC).
-  Health services and medical supplies for 710,000 people on an annual basis and medical supplies for SARC health facilities and hospitals
-  Water and sanitation coordination to benefit approximately 20,000,000 people, and over 100,000 displaced persons in more than 360 hosting centres, until the end of 2014

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

There are currently six open Red Cross and Red Crescent appeals. We are seeking support to ensure that their targets are reached. Details of the appeals can be found here:

The IFRC appeals for Syria and neighbouring countries are listed below and are available at: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/appeals/?ac=&at=0&c=&co=SP566TR&dt=1&f=&re=&t=&ti=&zo=>

Syria – CHF 106 million until December 2014

Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq – CHF 43.5 million until June 2014

Turkey – 45.5 million until June 2014

The ICRC 2014 appeals for Syria and neighbouring countries are listed below and are available at:

<http://www.icrcproject.org/files/2014-emergency-appeals/>

Syrian Arab Republic – CHF 105.3 million

Jordan – CHF 15.4 million

Lebanon – CHF 23.4 million

Please note that unsolicited donations and donations in kind cannot be accepted since, for various reasons, they may not be usable.

Almost all international humanitarian aid in Syria is delivered through the staff and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.