

# 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, water supplies and garbage collection, 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. They have essentially disappeared.

## NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

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

Number of internally displaced Syrians – 6,500,000 (OCHA)  
Number of Syrian refugees – 2,241,689 (UNHCR)

There has been a massive increase in the number of refugees in 2013, the majority of them women and children. If this continues, the number could be nearing 3 million refugees by early 2014.

### Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration – 2,241,689\*

Jordan – 567,111

Lebanon – 841,243

Turkey – 540,350

Iraq – 207,053

Egypt and North Africa – 146,546

\*all figures UNHCR

There are 544,374 Syrian refugees in **Jordan**, of whom around 83% live with host families and need help to pay rent and bills, and to cover the costs of health care and education. Those in camps also need support with health care and other key needs as the situation continues.

**Lebanon** has received the largest number of Syrian refugees, 815,022. 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 580,756 Syrian people to date, while estimations reach the figure of 700,000. Of them, 214,853 are living in the 25 camps run by the government with the support of the Turkish Red Crescent. 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.

After the sudden influx of refugees into the Kurdistan region of northern **Iraq** in August / September, there are now 199,297 refugees registered in Iraq. Most are living in refugee camps and urgently need food, medical assistance and shelter. The government is preparing new camps to meet the needs.

There is 126,063 Syrians refugees in **Egypt** and 14,959 in **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. 33 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 some two 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 political and social dynamics. Because of the way the Movement works we are able to operate across front lines and with both government forces and the various armed opposition groups in Syria. The Movement has access everywhere – but not at all times, because of constraints such as:

- the intensified fighting in urban and rural areas
- the deteriorating security situation
- the growing number of administrative and bureaucratic obstacles.

### Syria



Food assistance for three and a half million people per month\*



Essential household items for over two and a quarter million people\*



Health care for 394,958 people through services provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's mobile health units, health points and clinics and consumables for these health facilities plus 17 hospitals\*



Water and sanitation for 20,000,000 people\*\*



Number of Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers involved in humanitarian operations: 3,000\*\*\*

\*July 2012-October 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 in Bekaa. Movement partners have donated ambulances and medical supplies. The Lebanese branch of the Palestinian Red Crescent is providing refugees and those who have been wounded with medical treatment.

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.

### Neighbouring countries

-  Food assistance for 227,415 people (March 2012-October 2013)
-  Shelter and household items for 362,202 people (August 2012-October 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

## 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.







The SARC is playing a critical role as the first humanitarian responder in providing assistance and coordinating humanitarian activities in the country, as are the National Societies in Syria's neighbouring countries for 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 household 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 distributed to up to 3,300,000 beneficiaries until end of 2014
-  Essential household items to up to 1,500,000 beneficiaries.
-  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 2013

## 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.