

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 3 million people in hard to reach and besieged areas.
- Food security continues to worsen with almost 10 million people vulnerable.
- Food parcels for 5,800 people reaches Yarmouk Camp after weeks of attempts.
- Conflict impacting capacity of water facilities to compensate for seasonal low rainfall.
- 2.5 mil children reached with polio vaccine during 2<sup>nd</sup> 'National Immunisation Days' in January.
- Donors pledge \$2.3 billion at Kuwait conference.

### FIGURES

Population	21.4 m
# of PIN	9.3 m
# of IDPs	6.5 m
# of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa	2.3 m

### FUNDING

**\$ 2.3 billion**

requested (US\$) for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

**7%** funded

**\$ 4.2 billion**

requested (US\$) for the Regional Refugee Response Plan

**9%** funded



Children in Ar-Raqqa

### In this issue

- Over 3 million people in hard to reach areas P.1
- Palestine refugees among the most vulnerable P.1
- Deteriorating food security P.2
- Displaced families suffer from winter illnesses P.3
- Cities less able to compensate for low rainfall P.2
- Overview of the response P.3
- Over 2.4 million Syrian refugees P.9
- \$2.3 billion pledged to assist Syrians P.9

## Over 3 million people in hard to access areas

### Thousands still trapped in besieged areas

Due to access limitations, over 3 million people are currently estimated to be living in hard to reach in dire need for humanitarian assistance, of which 242,000 are trapped in areas besieged by either the Government of Syria or opposition forces, including Nubul and Az-Zahraa in Rural Aleppo, Eastern Ghouta, Darayya and Moadamiyah in Rural Damascus, the Old City in Homs and Yarmouk Camp in Damascus.

On 31 January, USG Amos released a statement expressing frustration and disappointment that the Geneva II talks held this week concluded without agreement on humanitarian pauses which would bring relief to hundreds of men, women and children, blockaded in towns and cities, and in desperate need of food, clean water and medical care. She highlighted that the international community has clearly called for immediate action to facilitate safe and unhindered delivery of assistance across the country, but that so far this has not translated into significant progress or action on the ground. She further reiterated her call for sieges to be lifted, ceasefires to be agreed, convoys allowed to proceed immediately and safely, and border crossings and roads opened to allow the regular flow of vital aid supplies. Ms. Amos also stated that those who fail to protect civilians or facilitate assistance are violating International Humanitarian law.

## Palestine refugees remain amongst the most vulnerable inside Syria

### Food delivered to Yarmouk Camp after weeks of attempts

After weeks of attempts to gain access to Yarmouk Camp to deliver humanitarian assistance to the estimated 18,000 Palestine refugees sealed off inside, during the reporting period, 1,164 food parcels were delivered to Yarmouk Camp – sufficient supplies for approximately 5,800 people and 43 residents in need of urgent medical treatment were evacuated.

It is critical that this hard-fought access expands to unhindered humanitarian access so that assistance can reach all the people in need inside the camp. As has been widely reported, the need for food remains extremely high with reports of acute malnutrition and deaths.

## Deteriorating food security

A preliminary analysis of results from a Joint Rapid Food Needs Assessment (JRFNA) conducted in December 2013 suggests that 9.9 million people, or approximately half the country's current population, are vulnerable to food insecurity and unable to access sufficient food to meet their basic needs. Of these, an estimated 6.3 million are highly vulnerable and in critical need of sustained food and agriculture assistance (an increase of more than 50 per cent since the last estimate of 4 million presented in June 2013).

Commodity prices in Aleppo and Idleb have risen sharply as the escalation of fighting is disrupting the regular flow of supplies, further eroding the ability of vulnerable households to meet their nutrition needs.

On-going insecurity in the north-eastern governorates continues to prevent the delivery of critical humanitarian supplies to these areas, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. Al-Hasakeh is experiencing severe shortages of yeast, placing continued bread production across the governorate at risk.

## Displaced families in Syria increasingly vulnerable to winter illnesses

Health centres are reporting an increasing number of individuals getting sick from the cold, particularly in areas, such as Aleppo, where exposure to the cold has been significant and heating resources are scarce. Over the past month, three medical facilities in Aleppo which serve displaced populations report more new cases of chilblain, gastroenteritis, urinary tract infections, bronchitis, laryngitis, tonsillitis, chest pain and epileptic seizures. One particular harrowing account is of a toddler with frostbite on his feet which may require amputation.

During a focus group discussion of 25 women at a shelter in Al Kisweh, Rural Damascus, many of the women reported that they and their children are experiencing recurrent respiratory diseases such as asthma and the flu. These families have been coping by burning plastic and garbage in the street to keep warm.

Since 29 December 2013, the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) reported 3 new Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases, 2 Acute Watery Diarrhoea and 389 Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) cases.

## Cities' capacity to mitigate seasonal low rainfall is hindered by conflict

Low rainfall throughout Syria this winter has led to concern that water levels are dropping – particularly in some of the more highly populated cities. While reduced levels of water in springs until the end of February is expected due to seasonal low rainfall, the capacity of water facilities to compensate for these seasonal changes is constrained by the conflict.

Many pumping stations' capacity to pump water is severely limited, requiring water facilities to rely upon back-up generators. Yet, use of generators is constrained by a lack of fuel – particularly given the high fuel consumption rate. Therefore, low pressure in the network (due to low rainfall) and decreased pumping hours has meant that many communities have faced severe water shortages over the past three weeks – particularly in Rural Damascus.

## Conflict and resultant crisis further constrain access to health care

### **Syrians with chronic diseases at great risk as medicines are unavailable**

Syrians suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes, are among the victims of the 3-year conflict as the shortage of chronic disease medicines and

intravenous fluids has become a nation-wide problem. Insulin, oxygen, anaesthetics and intravenous fluids are no longer available in numerous parts of the country. According to research done by the Syrian Centre for Tobacco Studies in early 2011, adults in Syria have some of the world's highest prevalence of cardiovascular disease risk factors, putting a great number of people at risk of poor health outcomes without access to necessary treatment.

### **Access to health services declines as costs increase and insecurity continues**

Prior to the crisis, Syria met 90 per cent of the demand for medicines with domestic production. Substantial damage to pharmaceutical plants has led to a 70 per cent decline in domestic production and financial sanctions limit substantial importation of medicines. Together with the dramatic devaluation of the Syrian Pound, the price of medicines has increased by 25 to 50 per cent, reducing the ability of the population, especially the most vulnerable, to pay for health services.

The general population's access to medical service providers is constrained by conflict and insecurity while dispatch of humanitarian medical supplies, when available, across conflict lines remains challenging.

## **Overview of the coordinated humanitarian response**

### **2.5 million children receive polio vaccine doses during the second round of national immunisation days**

During the most recent phase of the response to the outbreak of polio - the second round of 'national immunisation days' (NIDs) against polio - from 5-9 January 2014, 2.5 million children across all 14 governorates of Syria received the vaccination.

While access to Ar-Raqqa during the designated week was interrupted due to intense fighting among armed groups, subsequent resumption of the campaign has facilitated the vaccination of 188,010 children under five, 78 per cent of the targeted 239,100 children.

Independent monitoring indicates that coverage rates – 96 per cent of target – were notably improved since the last round due to an increase in the number of mobile and house-to-house vaccination teams and

expanded access to more hard-to-reach-areas. The coverage rate in Damascus increased from 73 per cent in December to 82 per cent in January, facilitated by an increase in the number of vehicles allocated for the mobile vaccination teams from 8 to 30. In Rural Damascus, the coverage rate increased from 53 per cent to 65 per cent, including the more than 10,000 children under five years vaccinated in Douma, a hard-to-reach area in Eastern Ghouta. Additional efforts are needed to exceed current coverage rates as the planned NIDs continue monthly through May 2014. The UN remains on standby with 10,000 polio vaccines for delivery to Palestine refugees in Yarmouk Camp.

In addition to access, the mobilisation of significant resources and capacity continues to be needed in support of the polio immunization campaign in Syria. UN agencies are bringing massive quantities of polio vaccine doses into the country, as well as providing equipment to maintain the cold chain (necessary to preserve the vaccine), public health messaging, technical support and incentives for national NGO volunteers to reach all areas of the country. By 26 January, 14 million doses of the vaccine have been imported, with an additional 4 million polio vaccine doses planned for importation by the middle of April 2014. Three cold rooms were installed to increase the capacity of vaccine storage in



Credit: WHO/AMahmoud  
Damascus, Syria (Jan 2014) – An infant being vaccinated at a health centre in Damascus during the second national vaccination days against polio.

Aleppo and one in Idleb. Fuel and refrigeration support, as well as incentives for SARC volunteers, facilitate delivery of the vaccines to hard-to-reach areas. Further, in order to enable effective outreach and optimise the impact of future national polio vaccination campaigns, three review workshops were conducted for 204 health professionals from all governorates, representing the Ministry of Health and SARC, to review the result of the first and second polio NIDs.

### **Increased capacity aims to enable progressive scale-up of emergency food assistance**

To enable plans to progressively scale up emergency operations to target 4.25 million people across all 14 governorates in Syria in response to growing food insecurity, food sector members are implementing strategies for increased capacity. As part of the strategy to expand the partnership base for food assistance operations, two additional NGOs were added in Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor governorates. The 20 trucks donated to SARC in November are now operational. The trucks are expected to facilitate timely deliveries in and around Damascus and Rural Damascus.

In line with expectations that geographical reallocation will improve the efficiency of food dispatches and reduce security threats, facilities in Damascus, Lattakia and Safita (Tartous) are being restructured to increase their daily production of food rations to maximise their capacity to cover the requirements for central and northern Syria. While the production capacity of Damascus packaging facilities is also being strengthened to serve the southern governorates.

January food ration dispatches remain on going. This includes regular emergency assistance programming as well as the more than 25,000 people who were recently displaced from Adra Umaliyeh and are now being assisted with family food rations distributed by SARC in collective shelters in different locations of Rural Damascus. In response to the yeast shortages in Al-Hasakeh, on 9 January, 1 metric ton of yeast was airlifted from Lattakia to Quamishly airport in Al-Hasakeh to be channelled to bakeries in Quamishly to assist approximately 85,000 beneficiaries.

As part of the winterisation strategy, 5,000 litres of fuel were dispatched to cover the heating requirements of 16 collective shelters in Hama. Additional fuel dispatches to 22 shelters in Homs are planned at the end of this month.

### **Health and medical supplies and services provided for Syrians**

During the reporting period, medicines or services sufficient for more than 489,465 people have been provided. Health authorities in Damascus were provided with non-communicable diseases medicines for 24,680 direct beneficiaries. Health authorities, local NGOs and SARC in Aleppo were provided with medicines and medical supplies (life-saving, communicable and non-communicable diseases medicines) for 317,309 direct beneficiaries, and medical kits to serve a population of 38,400. Health authorities and SARC in Hama with life-saving, communicable and non-communicable diseases medicines and medical supplies for 79,658 direct beneficiaries, and medical kits to serve a population of 12,200 (this includes the supplies delivered via the joint humanitarian convoy).

Primary health care services continue to reach IDPs and host communities. During the reporting period 30,637 received medical check-ups and other routine care was provided through 62 mobile medical teams in 14 governorates and 24 fixed centres in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Quneitra and Rural Damascus. Health facilities in Aleppo have provided health care to nearly 2,500 patients.

### **Urgent rehabilitation of shelters and private shelter upgrades protect displaced people from the cold**

The shelter sector strategy aims to ensure all repairs include winterisation work, specifically roof, wall and floor insulation. Shelter sector members rehabilitated five collective shelters in Lattakia, benefitting 1,343 displaced persons; four collective shelters in Dar'a; and two collective shelters in Homs. Shelter sector members have identified additional collective shelters in need of rehabilitation, as well as conducted technical assessments in unfinished buildings eligible for private shelter upgrades targeting facilities hosting over 7,000 people in Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a, Homs and Rural

Damascus. Since the onset of the crisis, sealing-off kits have been implemented in 333 living spaces in Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a, Homs, Lattakia and Rural Damascus.

In response to the displacement of approximately 35,000 people from Adra Umaliyeh in December and January, a shelter in Al-Tal was rehabilitated, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Governor of Rural Damascus, through the installation of prefabricated shower and toilet units to accommodate 2,500 people.

### **Community-based support provides critical assistance for vulnerable displaced Syrians**

Community-based protection strategies aim to provide safe spaces for essential support and to strengthen the capacity to cope for the most vulnerable people in Syria through assistance and community-led support interventions. A full range of community and protection services, which also promote social cohesion and reconciliation, have been provided in community centres in Aleppo, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, and Tartous. Interventions have reached: 4,600 people, of whom 90 per cent are Syrian, at six community centres in Damascus, Dar'a, Homs and Rural Damascus; 132 individuals benefitted from advanced vocational training and livelihoods in Damascus; children with supplementary classes for completing elementary and secondary education, including more than 200 children at elementary level in Dar'a; 235 people benefitted from start-up grants, asset replacement and technical assistance, as well as women with support to make and sell handicrafts in Homs; people with recreational classes in Rural Damascus, including almost 100 children with a safe place to play; and 80 persons with disabilities with physical therapy equipment in Tartous.

*A community-based initiative (CBI) programme offers vital support by providing grants to community groups, enabling them to implement solutions to meet their own needs. In one such initiative in a small village in Rural Tartous, twenty-one members of a displaced community organised a clothes recycling scheme which has benefitted an estimated 750 people. This scheme has now expanded to Bseireh village (Deir-ez-Zor) with prospects of moving to Lattakia.*

### **Vulnerable IDPs continue to receive essential 'winterised' non-food items**

As new or multiple internal displacement has continued in 2014, NFI sector colleagues have noted that large numbers of internally displaced people have fled to areas where poorer host communities are already challenged by shortages in supplies and are unable to provide adequate accommodation during the winter season.

In 2014, following NFI Working Group recommendations based on assessments, the standard winterised package also includes winter clothes and solar lanterns. As a result of the positive response from the donor community to the Winterisation Programme, Shelter/NFI sector members continue to deliver: winterisation kits, including five coats and three blankets for each family, to 1,400 households (approximately 7,000 people) in Damascus; 2,711 internally displaced families (approximately 13,555 people) in coastal Lattakia and 10,955 people in Aleppo; 5,600 sets of children clothes in Aleppo and Rural Damascus; 7,000 high thermal blankets in Homs and Rural Damascus; core relief items, including blankets, carpets and clothes to an estimated 140,000 people in Al Kisweh, Rural Damascus; and winterisation packages for more than 15,000 people in Aleppo from 15-22 January.

Following the widely reported airlifts of non-food items into Al-Hasakeh, 2,016 families (approximately 10,080 people) in Al-Hasakeh City and 2,400 families (approximately 12,000 people) in Quamishly have received the winterised packages, including thermal blankets. In order to mitigate crowd control issues, as large numbers of people in urgent need of these items gathered, and expedite delivery to people, numerous distribution points were established.

While security concerns continue to constrain access, 58,000 basic non-food items, including mattresses, blankets, adult and baby diapers, plastic boots, and winter clothes, were delivered to 153,796 individuals in Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Idlib, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous.

## **Local water authorities provided with resources to enable improved availability of safe water**

Enabling improved capacity of local water authorities to make clean water available to residents remains a key element of the water sector response strategy. Damascus Water Authority was supported with 27 tonnes of water supplies, sufficient to benefit 4,000,000 people; twenty metric tonnes were also delivered each to Lattakia and Tartous, benefitting 2 million people.

In hard-to-reach Idleb, 5 generator sets (three 250-KVA and two 350-KVA) were delivered to and installed by the Water Authority in Idleb Governorate. The generator sets are expected to enable access to safe and clean water for approximately 700,000 people.

In Homs, a 256 KVA generator was provided and installed in Marmarita town to enable access to clean drinking water for 25,000 people. In addition, three electrical control panels have been provided to Altanour pumping station – replacing old control panels that had been installed in 1973 which will benefit 1.3 million people in Homs. Homs Water Authority received 20 tonnes of water purification supplies, sufficient to benefit 900,000 people.

## **Strategic interventions aim to enable prevention, detection and rapid treatment of nutrition concerns**

Pre-positioning of nutrition supplies continues as part of the efforts to prevent children from falling in to the risk of under-nutrition. The following supplies, sufficient for one month nutrition treatment, were provided to an NGO in Aleppo: 5,000 boxes of High Energy Biscuit (HEB) for 25,000 children; 2,000 boxes of PlumpyDoz for 18,000 children; and 50,000 sachets of multi-micronutrients for 1,666 children and pregnant and lactating women.

A two-day 'Nutrition in Emergency' training (NIE) was conducted for 39 participants including doctors and volunteers from UNRWA, Syrian Arab Red Crescent and local NGOs. A workshop for 120 health and nutrition professionals was conducted to reinforce the nutrition surveillance system and improve the national nutrition data. The workshop aimed to develop a mechanism for the integration of nutrition surveillance activities with vaccination services at the primary health care level.

## **Joint Humanitarian Convoys deliver one-off, multi-sector assistance**

On 16 January, the Syria Logistics Cluster, UN and SARC supported a joint humanitarian convoy dispatching 493 cubic metres of WASH, shelter and food items to benefit 5,000 families (approximately 25,000 people) in 32 hard-to-reach villages in eastern rural Hama governorate. Medical supplies and medicines were dispatched bilaterally to the local health office.

On 16 January, the Logistics Cluster, UN and SARC facilitated a convoy to Jdaidet Shebani loaded with 206 m<sup>3</sup> of WASH, shelter, hygiene and food supplies, and reproductive health kits to benefit up to 10,000 people; as well as life-saving, communicable and non-communicable medicines for 6,767 direct beneficiaries, and medical kits to serve a population of 1,000.

On 18 January, the Logistics cluster, UN and SARC supported a convoy to Ghouzlanieh loaded with 144 m<sup>3</sup> of WASH, shelter, hygiene and food supplies to benefit up to 10,000 people; as well as life-saving, communicable and non-communicable medicines for 5,951 direct beneficiaries, and medical kits to serve a population of 1,000.

During the reporting period, six inter-agency convoys have been taken place across conflict lines to deliver assistance in hard to reach areas of eastern Hama (for 5,000 families), Rural Damascus (for 20,000 people) and Aleppo (for 15,000 people).

## **Psychosocial support continues to provide relief for internally displaced persons**

Psychosocial support has been identified as one of the most pressing needs to mitigate the effect of conflict-related trauma, caused by displacement, loss of relatives, separation from family members and witnessing acts of violence. Health practitioners are witnessing an increase in the number people displaying signs of post-traumatic stress disorders,

psychosomatic illness, depression, anxiety and even violence. In response, the protection sector's strategy includes the promotion and protection of mental health.

The Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) project reached 2,154 affected persons, including women, children, and adolescents, with significant participation of internally displaced persons. Psychosocial support and counseling were provided to displaced Syrians, with particularly vulnerable cases referred to psychiatrists and psychologists in SARC clinics for consultations. Throughout January 2014, 2,941 vulnerable people in Damascus and Rural Damascus were assisted with mental health and psychosocial support.

As part of the capacity-building of local NGO caregivers for mental health and psychosocial consideration training and bi-weekly technical support sessions, on 14 and 20 January, 45 local NGO staff from Damascus and Aleppo were directly supervised, benefitting 195 children and youth. However, due to increasing violence in Aleppo, the branch there was closed down and children as well as their caregivers were moved to the Damascus branch.

### Emergency reproductive health care reaches women

In As-Sweida, Damascus, Hama, Homs, and Rural Damascus, 3,100 women were provided with reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care (EmOC) benefitting 1,600 women and safe delivery for 350 women through reproductive health vouchers. The Ministry of Higher Education Obstetric and Gynecological University Hospital has reported a 10 per cent increase in the utilisation of EmOC services, which it attributes to its safe location in the city and the improved quality of care.

### Children and adolescents provided with psychosocial support and recreational activities

Psychosocial support (PSS) services continue to reach children and adolescents bringing the total number of beneficiaries reached since the beginning of the year to 151,090 in on going services. Essential psychosocial and protection services were provided to 5,224 children in Damascus, Dar'a (including rural areas), Homs (including rural areas), Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous. In addition, a total of 51,970 adolescents continue to receive PSS support through the Adolescents programme, with 8,820 reached during the reporting period.



Credit: UNICEF/MSibai  
Homs City (Dec 2013) – Child playing during the Open Day at Maskana. Activities included face painting, painting on canvas, handicrafts, competitions and tele-match activities in addition to the “decision fingerprint” activity, which is where a child puts their fingerprint on a right that they have chosen for themselves after being explained what their rights are under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In Damascus and Rural Damascus, 47 children received specialised psychological and psychiatric services which cater for the special needs of children affected by the crisis. Additional support was provided to 24 mothers in Damascus and 37 adolescents on stress management and life skills.

More than 830 children, many of whom have special needs, were provided with art, theatre and educational activities which support positive social interaction and aim to raise awareness on certain basic health and safety issues.

In January, the Child Protection Technical Discussion Group (CPTDG) meeting, with participants from the UN, the Ministry of Social Affairs and international and national NGOs, finalised the concept note on a comprehensive approach to capacity-building for child protection actors in Syria, uniting all stakeholders behind a common set of goals coordinated and adapted to evolving situation in a holistic manner. Key areas for training include coordination, psychosocial support (PSS), risk education (RE), family tracing and reunification (FTR), gender-based violence (GBV), children and armed conflict, case

management, and child protection systems as a comprehensive and sustainable approach to preventing and responding to child protection issues.

### **Increased focus on Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence**

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response has become an increasingly vital issue requiring a more intensified response, especially in hard-to-reach areas. GBV screening and counselling services were provided to approximately 600 women by Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) clinics in Damascus and Rural Damascus, in addition to PSS and psychological first aid (PFA) services and other humanitarian support interventions for 430 women. Sixty GBV survivors received medical counselling, community services and social and legal advice.

### **Vulnerable stranded migrants receive repatriation assistance**

Since December 2013, facilitation of safe return to their home countries was delivered for 108 vulnerable stranded Filipino, Ethiopian, Bangladeshi, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Moldovan and Burkinabe migrants. Identification of cases continues to be achieved via referrals through ongoing collaboration with diplomatic missions in Syria and the region, as well as through networking with local community leaders to identify pockets of stranded migrants in need of assistance.

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene**

Critical water and hygiene supplies were delivered for distribution as follows: In Al-Hasakeh, 656 basic family water kits benefiting 3,280 people living in IDPs collective shelters in Qamilishi and Al-Hasakeh towns were distributed. In addition 2,855 hygiene kits were sent to SARC in Daraa. In Aleppo, 325 IDPs out of a targeted 500 in collective shelters, the majority of whom are children, women and people with special needs, benefited from hygiene and sanitation programmes. Most of the IDPs are children, women, and people with special needs. The activities, which targeted 3 collective shelters, ranged from hygiene promotion to enhancement of water storage capacity and rehabilitation of sanitation and drinking water facilities. Another local NGO in Aleppo supported 1,125 IDPs in collective shelters out of 1,200 targeted. The activities, which targeted 8 collective shelters concentrated on enhancement of water storage capacity and rehabilitation of sanitation and drinking water facilities.

### **'Back to Learning' education supplies continue to reach children across Syria**

Distribution of the "Back to Learning" education supplies continues across Syria with 100,000 children receiving school supplies, including school bags, recreation kits, early childhood development kits and other school supplies in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Palestine refugee children in the UNRWA-run schools. However, it proved challenging to deliver supplies to Al-Hasakeh and parts of Aleppo due to access constraints. In addition, 848 desks were delivered to the Ministry of Education for a total of 2,544 children for distribution to schools in Rural Damascus governorate.

### **Adolescents' specific needs addressed through targeted programming**

3,580 adolescents girls and boys received first aid, adolescents health and PSS sessions through interactive activities and peer education in As-Sweida, Damascus, Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous. Approximately 200 adolescents from four collective shelters and areas hosting displaced families in Tartous benefited from adolescents health activities, personal hygiene promotion and life skills, as well as other recreational activities. Eighty adolescents benefited from peer education sessions about adolescent health and reproductive health in two collective shelters in Qudsayya suburb near Damascus. 36 Ministry of Education teachers received capacity building training on issues related to adolescents' participation and environmental clubs in Damascus. Also, 1,200 adolescents were reached through environment awareness initiatives in Damascus. 735 Adolescents participated in training related to Vocational Awareness, Life skills, cultural and arts activities in Aleppo. Additionally, 62 new volunteers received capacity building in business and vocational awareness in Aleppo.

## Palestine refugees continue to benefit from assistance despite growing access and security challenges

Over 12,900 food parcels were distributed to Palestine refugees in Damascus in the past two weeks. The third round of cash assistance is nearly complete, with more than 94,900 families receiving 12,000 SYP (approximately US\$84) per person. Nearly 5,000 refugees have received blankets and mattresses so far in January. To address continued hygiene concerns in collective shelters, 3,441 packs of diapers and 3,216 packs of sanitary towels were delivered.

In recent weeks, three additional health points were opened in Damascus (bringing the total to 9), including one adjacent to the area where the Khan Eshieikh health centre has been closed for several months due to lack of access. The latest round of vaccinations ensured 13,299 children between the ages of 0-15 received booster jabs against polio, measles, mumps and rubella.

In order to fill learning gaps caused by the conflict and enable refugee students to continue with their secondary education, remedial classes have started for 5,016 9th grade students. While regular school classes continue, supporting more than 47,000 students to attend classes, including four schools which are currently running triple shifts in order to meet the growing demand.

1,125 Palestine refugee children continue to receive psychosocial support through the 'Engaging Youth' project, which also provides vocational training to more than 1,370 students in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Lattakia. Over 1,930 young people are undertaking courses in English, French, computer skills, literacy and numeracy in those locations.

## More than 2.4 million Syrian refugees

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 31 January 2014
Egypt	133,023
Iraq	217,144
Jordan	593,186
Lebanon	902,247
Turkey	580,304
North Africa	18,345
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,444,249</b>

Source: UNHCR as of 31 January 2014. For updated figures and more information: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. The above figures are based on numbers registered in each country and/or those who are assisted while waiting for registration.

## Donors pledge nearly US\$2.3bn at Kuwait Conference

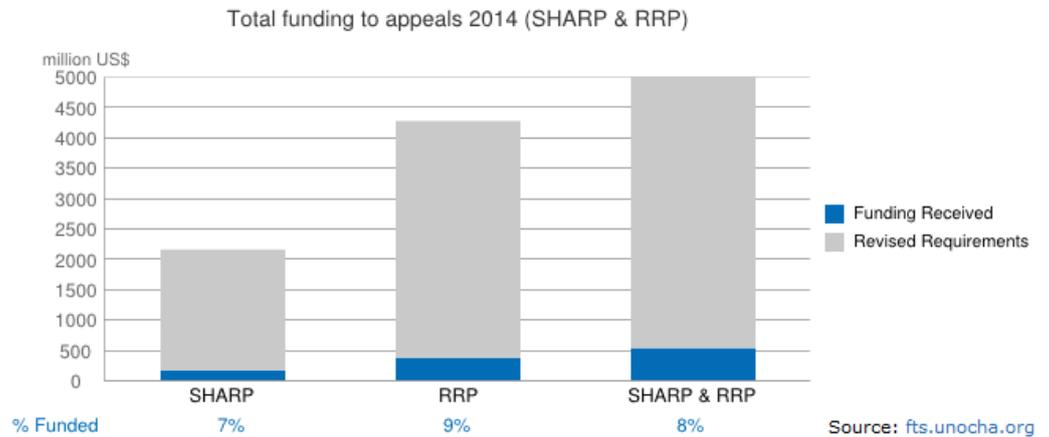
### Donors commit to support Syrians in need of assistance

The financial requirements for the Syria crisis continue to escalate in line with the growing needs. The Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) and the regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) require, respectively, \$2.3 billion and \$4.2 billion to support 9.3 million people in Syria and up to 4.1 million Syrian refugees and 2.7 million host country nationals until the end of 2014.

In order to seek the necessary financial resources to address the Syria crisis, a High-level Pledging Conference was held in Kuwait on 15 January 2014 in which 40 Member States pledged about \$2.3 billion for the Syria humanitarian response, demonstrating their continuous generosity and commitment to support Syrians. In order for humanitarian actors to continue scaling up assistance in favour of the population affected by the crisis, it is critical that these pledges are converted into committed and disbursed funds promptly. The continuous engagement of the donor community for the humanitarian response remains crucial.

### Overview of the SHARP and RRP

As of 31 January, the 2014 SHARP has received \$158,145,936 out of the needed \$2,276,149,354 (7 per cent) and the RRP has received \$367,448.346 out of the \$4,264,717,711 requirements.



For further information, please contact:

**Raul Rosende**, Head of Office, Syria, [rosende@un.org](mailto:rosende@un.org), Tel. (+963) 953 300 075

**Emanuela Calabrini**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, [calabrini@un.org](mailto:calabrini@un.org), Tel. (+1) 917 367 3210

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at [syria.unocha.org](http://syria.unocha.org) | [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)