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HIGHLIGHTS

- Poor water, sanitation and hygiene systems, compounded by lack of safe water supply and reduced health response capacity, cause high risk of outbreak of water- and food- borne diseases during the summer.
- Three out of every four Syrians live in poverty, while more than half of the population is extremely poor.
- Implementation of new logistics procedures from the Government of Syria has constrained delivery of the humanitarian response during May and June.
- Life-saving interventions prioritized by humanitarian actors operational inside Syria cost US\$ 948 million.



Poor water, sanitation and health conditions result in high risk of outbreak of disease

Water and sanitation systems have significantly deteriorated over the past year as the main water supply networks have broken down, pollution of water has spread, and the lowest spring rainfall in decades has resulted in drought-like conditions. Increasing interruptions of access to safe water supplies, at times because of deliberate actions by the parties, have compounded the already high risk of water and food borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, hepatitis A and watery diarrhea. These risks are particularly high in areas where people live in crowded conditions during the summer season.

Reports of suspected and confirmed outbreak of disease in areas highly affected by conflict

The Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) has reported 1,211 cases of suspected typhoid in Deir-ez-Zor, mostly in Abu Kamal and Al Mayadin.

The Ministry of Health has confirmed a measles outbreak, with 160 confirmed cases in districts of Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Lattakia. The Directorate of Health in Al-Hasakeh has warned of increased cases of diarrhea and leishmaniasis, as well as a shortage in water purification supplies. An increase in number of diarrhea cases has reported through the EWARS.

The disruption and overburdening of health systems and facilities caused by the conflict weakens the response capacity during an outbreak, contributing to the rapid spread of these diseases, including across conflict lines.

Summer response strategies target disease prevention, detection and mitigation interventions

The WASH and Health sectors inside Syria have developed respective summer response strategies to enable targeted identification of need and rapid response. These approaches include: detection, prevention and mitigation interventions include easy and consistent access for delivery of water purification supplies; effective public health and WASH promotion activities; repair of water and sewage networks; delivery of adequate supplies, including diagnostic kits, medicines, vaccines and other appropriate

An inter-sector task force will urgently re-launch to coordinate effectively towards prevention, detection and mitigation against outbreak of water- and food-borne diseases amongst the vulnerable population in Syria.

FUNDING

\$ 2.3 billion

requested (US\$) for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

25% funded

\$ 4.2 billion

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

27% funded

Sectors undertake mid-year review of the Syria Humanitarian Assistance and Response Plan

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) endorsed the mid-year review of 2014 Syria Humanitarian Assistance and Response Plan (SHARP), including a trend analysis, updated sector strategies and funding analysis. Each sector reviewed 2014 achievements, changing needs, constraints to the delivery of response and prioritized strategies and projects. The final plan is pending endorsement by the Government of Syria.



Implementation challenges for new logistics procedures hinders delivery of assistance

In May, the Government of Syria initiated new procedures which require additional layers of authorization for convoy and inter-agency movements. While the UN and partners advocated for a streamlined approach to the facilitation letters required for trucks to move through government-held checkpoints, the roll-out of the new procedures proved challenging for the movement of relief supplies. In May, delivery of in-kind food assistance, representing the largest logistics program, concluded with assistance dispatched for some 3.2 million people, 14 per cent less than April and 20 per cent less than March.

Meanwhile, most inter-agency humanitarian support missions and convoys were delayed. The Government verbally communicated verbally new conditionalities for this mechanism, including verification of beneficiaries and real-time distribution of relief supplies, as well as rescinding decision-making for Governors in areas covered by UN Hub mandates. The impact is particularly acute in areas such as Idleb, where inter-agency convoys are one of the few successful modalities for providing assistance to around one million people in need of humanitarian aid in the governorate, including 500,000 IDPs.

Inter-agency missions deliver some assistance cross line to people in need

On 29 May, the Governor of Aleppo approved the UN Hub – Aleppo to dispatch an unaccompanied inter-agency convoy of 15 trucks carrying food, NFIs, medicines, hygiene and nutrition supplies for up to 26,250 people to Big Orm, Afrin, Azaz and Tel Rifaat.

On 28 May, the UN Hub – Homs delivered food, NFIs and medicines for at least 50,000 people in Ar-Rastan area of rural Homs, though medicines for approximately 2,116 more

people would have been delivered if they had been approved. In the same convoy, food and NFIs for approximately 10,750 people were delivered in Krad Dasniyeh and Ein al Nasr areas.

Three out of every four Syrians now live in poverty

The Syria Center for Policy and Research report indicated that, by the end of 2013, three out of every four Syrians lived in poverty. More than half the population (54.3 per cent) is living in extreme poverty where they are unable to secure basic food and non-food items sufficient for the survival of their households. Some 20 per cent of the population lives in abject poverty; those living in conflict zones and besieged areas face varying degrees of hunger, malnutrition and starvation.

Almost 80 per cent of the labor force is out of work

According to the report, more than half the labor force, 3.39 million people, are unemployed – close to 80 per cent, or 2.67 million, of whom lost their jobs during the conflict. The total economic loss from the start of the conflict to end of 2013 is estimated at US\$ 143.8 billion and public debt continued to grow in the second half of 2013 to reach 126 per cent of GDP.

Syrian human development regressed by more than four decades during conflict

Syrian human development regressed by more than four decades during the conflict. With a Human Development Index measure of 0.472, Syria has fallen from the “medium human development” cluster of nations into the “low human development” group, largely as a result of weakening performance in education, health and income categories.

Preliminary outcomes of the education sector review indicated that two million children and adolescents are out of schools or at risk of dropping out due to impact of insecurity and access limitation in host communities and hard to reach areas. Despite challenges, partners will continue scaling up response in these areas by implementing alternative education such as remedial classes and self-learning when the new academic year starts in September 2014.

Overview of coordinated humanitarian response

Health sector partners provide support for national polio and measles vaccination campaigns

The second phase of the polio outbreak response launched on 15 June with the eighth ‘national immunisation days’ (NIDs) campaign aiming to reach 2.9 million children across Syria. In addition, three more rounds of NIDs and one sub-National Immunization Day are planned from July to December 2014.

10.5 million doses of oral polio vaccine were delivered to the Ministry of Health (MoH) on 6 June. Overall, a total of 28.5 million doses have been procured by health sector partners – enough to cover the polio outbreak response through September 2014.

In support of a national measles vaccination campaign which aims to reach 50 per cent of children between 6 months to 10 years of age living in high risks areas, the health sector delivered 1.32 million doses of monovalent measles vaccine to the Ministry of Health on 29 May. The health sector also delivered syringes, safety boxes, cool boxes and other parts of the cold chain, vaccination cards, and public health information materials at the local level. The deliveries should be sufficient to respond to the measles outbreak confirmed by the Ministry of Health and to sustain routine vaccination programs through the remainder of 2014. Health sector partners will further support the campaign by providing technical assistance as well as financial support and transportation for vaccinators.

The provision of primary health care services through mobile teams and fixed health centers continued to reach vulnerable and displaced communities with basic health care and referral services for complicated cases. During the reporting period, 24,363 children and women were reached, bringing the total number of people served with primary health care to 158,368.

Meanwhile, 183,451 health consultations were provided to Palestine refugees via 14 operational health centers across Syria from January to March 2014. In addition to the establishment of 9 health points in Aleppo and Damascus, one ambulance was refitted as a mobile clinic to enable provision of health care to displaced Palestine refugees.

Food assistance reaches hard to access areas in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Idlib and Rural Damascus

The June dispatch cycle for in-kind food assistance started with notable deliveries of assistance to the hard-to-reach areas, including Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor. Rations sufficient for 184,605 people were transported to Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates between the end of May and the first two weeks of June. In addition, over 32,000 family food rations were handed over to partners in Ar-Raqqa and 4,900 food rations were offloaded in Deir-ez-Zor at the end of May dispatch cycle. By mid-June, approximately 46 percent of the dispatch plan for the Ar-Raqqa was delivered, representing a 17 percent increase compared to what was achieved over the entire May cycle.

Meanwhile, seven villages in rural Aleppo were provided with food assistance for the first time since July 2013: almost 6,000 family food rations, sufficient for 30,000 people for one month, reached Al Bab, Manbej, Al Bab and Maskanah, in eastern rural areas of the governorate. Following the inter-agency access to western rural Aleppo, an additional 2,700 family food rations, sufficient for 13,500 people, reached Big Orm on 6 June.

Acute shortages of yeast sharply curtailed bread production in Al-Hasakeh, causing a shut-down of major bakeries in Al-Hasakeh city and Ras Al Ain. 86 metric tons (mt) of yeast was delivered to Quamishli via an emergency airlift from Damascus, almost half of which was dispatched to ten bakeries in Al-Hasakeh city and other rural areas of the governorate, improving access to bread for 500,000 people for one month.

As drought-like conditions and limited access to grazing areas due to insecurity reduce grazing opportunities, food sector partners have provided animal feed to 1,815 livestock keeping families (approximately 12,705 people), including 1,555 families in Hama, 230 families in Idlib, and 30 families in Rural Damascus. As part of a larger backyard poultry program aiming to facilitate access to fresh and nutrient-rich foods at household level, 426 families (approximately 2,982 people) received poultry packages, including 15 laying hens and poultry feed.

Protection interventions target vulnerable groups

Some 2,973 internally displaced persons received legal counseling, legal intervention and legal awareness-raising. Overall, a total of 4,889 people have been reached in 2014. The top issues were documentation assistance, including birth registration, as well as gender-based violence (GBV) related issues.

Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) were provided to 15,639 children and adolescents in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous.

2013 'Back to Learning' campaign concludes, reaching 1 million children

The 2014 'Back to Learning' campaign concluded with the delivery of 19,825 school bags to Al-Hasakeh City and Quamishli. Overall, the campaign reached one million children with education supplies to promote access to education during the crisis.

Three pre-fabricated classrooms were delivered to a school in Al Wa'er neighborhood of Homs City. Overall, a total of 13 classrooms have been delivered in Al Wa'er and 24 installed in Homs and Rural Damascus in 2014. 11,883 children benefitted from rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities, electrical connections and doors and windows, as well as implementation of hygiene awareness activities in 14 schools in different parts of Al-Hasakeh City. Meanwhile, 782 adolescent youth have been provided

with training and support for life-skills, non-formal education and other empowerment activities; overall a total of 9,743 adolescents have been assisted in 2014.

Interventions to facilitate access to education for Palestine refugees children continued during the reporting period. 120 students in Yarmouk were provided accommodation in safer areas for the duration of their exams. In addition, a satellite vocational training center, was opened in Homs for students who are unable to reach Damascus. More courses are due to open in Aleppo and Dar'a ahead of the new academic year. 444 young refugees are currently receiving careers guidance in Damascus, Dar'a, Homs and Lattakia.

Fieldwork for the rapid nutrition survey of children completed

Distribution of nutrition supplies continued, including through inter-agency convoys, .In Aleppo, supplies were delivered for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), for 1,000 children, for 1,111 pregnant and lactating women for three months. Supplementary foods sufficient for 90 children were also provided in Quamishli.

Targeted interventions for Palestine refugees included the delivery of supplies for treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition, such as supplementary foods for 150 children under 5; nutritional supplements for 1,666 pregnant and lactating women and 3,000 children for one month. Mid-Upper Arm circumference measuring (MUAC) and electronic mother/child scales were also delivered to an outpatient treatment center to support screening activities.

Fieldwork related to the third phase of the rapid nutrition survey of children affected by conflict has been completed, providing survey data from all governorates except Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa.

Emergency employment opportunities created for internally displaced people benefit the wider community as well

The Early Recovery and Livelihoods sector initiatives reached an estimated 369 new direct beneficiaries over the past month, including 306 IDPs in Aleppo, for whom

emergency employment opportunities in solid waste removal and disposal were created. Two hundred tons of solid waste was removed per day, benefitting the 125,680 people who live in the targeted neighborhoods and shelters. Further, the initiative included integrated public health and hygiene promotion activities practices targeting both IDPs and host communities.

Initiatives to enhance the resilience of people whose livelihoods have been impacted by the conflict and crisis reached 63 direct beneficiaries. Forty-three women-headed households in two villages in Banyas area of Tartous were provided equipment and tomato seeds as part of a business revival initiative. Twenty laborers in Homs were provided with employment through initiatives including: a carpentry workshop which contributed to provision of desks for a school rehabilitation initiative; a sanitation workshop offering rehabilitation services to IDPs in informal shelters; local laundry service for IDPs; local clothes store; and a minimarket.



Credit: UNDP/AJawish
Homs (June 2014) – Vulnerable laborers participate in carpentry workshop in Insha'at area of Homs.

Syria Logistics Cluster airlifts food, health, WASH and NFIs to Al-Hasakeh

From 26 to 29 May, the Syria Logistics Cluster organized four emergency airlifts from Damascus to Quamishli on a cost-sharing basis. Over 300 m³ of urgent WASH, health, food and electronic relief items reached Al-Hasakeh, a governorate that remains largely inaccessible by road from within Syria.

The Syria Logistics Cluster supported inter-agency convoys, transporting over 1,700 m³ of aid cargo, including WASH, shelter, food, protection and health items.

Traditional coping mechanisms for Palestine refugees reaching their limits

Traditional coping mechanisms for the refugee community are reaching their limit. Inflation continues to deepen existing levels of poverty, limiting refugees' ability to secure basic food items, while repeated displacement has left many refugees seeking shelter with host families or in crowded collective shelters, compounding existing vulnerabilities.

Seventy-one per cent of surveyed Palestinians in Damascus have been displaced at least once; 45 per cent of refugees are living on day-to-day income and only 10.5 per cent of refugees have sufficient financial reserves to last them for the next three months. These conditions have pushed many to reduce expenditure on food (skipping meals and reducing the quality).

By June 2014, over 426,000 Palestine refugees received at least one round of cash assistance (US\$ 64/person), while an additional 50,000 refugees in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Lattakia have been provided a second round of cash assistance. Complementary food and NFI programs ensured distribution of food parcels to 10,286 families in Damascus, sanitary items to 3,767 women and 4,602 children in wider Damascus, and hygiene kits to 4,151 families in Yarmouk Camp.

More than 2.8 million Syrian refugees

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 20 June 2014
Egypt	137,906
Iraq	225,475
Jordan	597,328
Lebanon	1,108,202
Turkey	789,469
North Africa	23,367
Total	2,881,747

Source: UNHCR as of 20 June 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.

Funding overview

SHARP is 25 per cent funded, leaving millions of people at risk

As of June 2014, the 2014 Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) is severely underfunded, having received \$571 million, or only 25% of total requirements. In comparison, the 2013 SHARP was funded at 36% at the mid-year point and had received 75% funding by the end of 2013. Delays in funding have had direct and negative impact on assistance provided to people in need inside Syria in 2014, with several critical activities at risk of down-sizing or suspension.

The lack of funding puts millions of people at risk of hunger, disease or death. Every \$1 million humanitarian partners fail to mobilize will have direct consequences.



Humanitarian actors require US\$948 million to fund priority life-saving interventions for the next six months

The humanitarian response inside Syria urgently requires \$948million for the next six months (June - December 2014) to meet the priority life-saving needs of millions of people inside Syria. Timely funding is essential to ensure an uninterrupted supply of items and the most economical means of transportation.

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) for Syria calls for proposals for WASH

As of 7 June, the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) for Syria has received US\$29.49 million, enabling rapid response and covering gaps in response as prioritized by sectors.

In June, the ERF in Syria is finalizing proposals from UN agencies, international and national NGOs for urgent water, sanitation and hygiene response in high-risk areas across Syria.