UN and SARC deliver life-saving assistance to people in besieged Madamiyet Elsham

On 14 July, UN agencies and SARC launched a phased inter-agency convoy over the course of several days to deliver food, NFIs, WASH and nutrition supplies sufficient for 20,000 people in the besieged area of Madamiyet Elsham and 10,000 people in the non-besieged eastern and northern areas of Madamiyet Elsham in Rural Damascus. The convoy marks the first time since October 2012 that UN agencies or partners have accessed the area to provide humanitarian assistance.

The operation faced challenges including delays due to negotiations on approved quantities and inclusion of relief supplies, procedures for truck movements, and additional screening and processing. Despite these challenges, the operation is on target to deliver all planned assistance, except for medicines.

The delivery of six months’ worth of medicines and medical supplies was not approved by the Syrian authorities. However, two SARC mobile clinics were permitted entry and were able to deliver 1,000 polio and regular immunization vaccines and conduct basic health consultations.

Shortages of basic goods and social services

A rapid assessment conducted during the operation to Madamiyet Elsham indicates that 23,000 people remain besieged. Notwithstanding a ceasefire deal brokered in May, which continues to holds, civilians inside the city continue to face restrictions on movements and shortages of basic goods and services. The assessment found that there has been no electricity for a sustained period, though the water supply is sufficient.

Some basic food supplies are available, though at higher prices than in Damascus. Commercial supplies to the town continue to be tightly regulated, with only two truckloads of vegetables and bread allowed in each day. As a result, bread is rationed at three pieces of bread per family per day, regardless of family size.
Health identified as a priority need by the community

The assessment in Madamiyet Elsham also found that there is a severe shortage of medical supplies, including medicines and basic medical equipment. Moreover, only one health centre is operational, with a very limited number of staff. During the operation, the local community made urgent requests for medicines and medical assistance, including vaccines for polio and routine immunisations.

UN Security Council passes resolution to increase humanitarian aid inside Syria

On 14 July, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2165, which authorized the delivery of relief supplies across conflict lines and through additional border crossings.

United Nations agencies and its humanitarian partners can, with notification to the Syrian authorities, use the border crossings at Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa (Turkey), Al Ya’rabiya (Iraq) and Al-Ramtha (Jordan) in addition to those already in use, to ensure that assistance reaches people in need throughout Syria through the most direct routes.

The resolution also called for the expeditious establishment and deployment of a monitoring mechanism, under the authority of the Secretary General, to assure the humanitarian nature of the consignments crossing the borders.

Since the adoption of the resolution, UN Agencies and partners have commenced preparations to begin cross-border deliveries, including planning, the positioning of supplies, and ensuring logistics capacity. An update on cross-border deliveries will be included in the next bulletin.

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, the Executive Director of World Food Programme, Ertharin Cousin, and Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund, Anthony Lake, welcomed the resolution as a breakthrough in efforts to get aid to Syrians in need.

Water shortages affect 2.5 million people in Aleppo

An estimated 2.5 million people in Aleppo City continue to be affected by water shortages since the breakdown of the main water network on 2 June. Despite negotiations, technical experts and humanitarian actors have not gained access to the site near the Suleiman al-Halabi pumping station to conduct necessary repairs and so the pumping capacity remains at only 50 per cent.

As a result, up to 700,000 people in western Aleppo city and thousands more in eastern Aleppo City are in need of urgent assistance to meet their minimum water needs on a daily basis. Internally displaced persons living in crowded shelters at the edge of the city and host communities lacking the financial resources to purchase drinking water are among the worst affected. Additionally, many people, including vulnerable children, are relying on unsafe drinking water found in a large number of wells in private compounds, thereby increasing their exposure to water-borne diseases.

At least 700,000 people in Aleppo city are in urgent need of assistance to meet their minimum daily water needs following the breakdown of the main water network on 2 June.
200,000 people are provided with safe drinking water daily by WASH sector

WASH Sector members have scaled up their provision of safe drinking water from existing wells to over 11 million liters per day (for approximately 200,000 people) in Aleppo city. Distributions to people in need are made via small networks, water trucking and installation of water tanks. While the repair of the pumping station remains the key bottleneck to responding to the water shortages, WASH partners in Aleppo are supporting alternative modalities to increase safe access to water, including the upgrading of 80 wells.

In parallel, the WASH Sector is collaborating with the Aleppo water authority to develop a contingency response plan using alternative sources of water, including connecting new wells and rehabilitated existing wells in the rural area to the public network. WASH Sector members are also linking communities to local water sources and enhancing water storage capacities of families, including installation of 17 water tanks for 880,000 liters of safe drinking water for 32,900 internally displaced and host community members in 12 neighbourhoods of Aleppo City. In addition, 11 diesel generators were delivered and installed in ten locations to link local wells to communities.

National immunization campaigns continue to prevent the spread of preventable diseases

Eighth round of polio campaigns reach 2.76 million children

The eighth round of the national polio immunization campaign provided polio vaccinations for 2.7 million children under five across Syria. The transportation of vaccines into hard-to-access and besieged areas in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Damascus, Dar’a, Hama, rural Lattakia and Rural Damascus was challenging this round. Given the poor water, sanitation, hygiene and health services in many parts of Syria, the expansion of vaccination activities into hard-to-access areas is essential to achieve the broad population coverage necessary to prevent transmission of communicable diseases, such as polio, measles and tuberculosis.

Almost 750,000 children in high risk districts vaccinated for measles

From 15-26 June, a targeted immunization campaign reached 746,279 children in all 14 governorates of Syria with measles vaccines and vitamin A supplementation. The campaign reached children in high risk areas, including 88,773 children in Aleppo, 83,539 in Al-Hasakeh and 123,144 in Deir-ez-Zor.

To ensure the campaign reached high risk areas – including districts with confirmed measles cases, low coverage, or where children are living in crowded shelters with displaced families – the intervention was implemented in two phases, including via ‘fixed’ health centers and shelters for displaced families as well as mobile teams.
Palestine refugees in Syria remain amongst most vulnerable

Limited access gained in Yarmouk Camp despite local ceasefire

On 7 July, the UN gained access to Yarmouk Camp for the first time since 23 May to distribute food supplies to Palestine refugees and vulnerable Syrians. From 7 -16 July, 3,916 families were provided with family food rations, hummus, jam, dates and some hygiene and nutrition supplies. Despite the local ceasefire, Syrian authorities continued to deny access to Yarmouk between 23 May and 7 July amidst reports of local tensions.

12 people killed as a result of explosions at Dar’a Palestine Refugee Camp

On 15 July, 12 people – nine Palestine refugees and three Syrians – were killed and four homes were destroyed as explosions hit a Palestine refugee camp located on the southern periphery of Dar’a City. Though the majority of camp residents left to seek safety elsewhere during the previous months, a few Palestine refugee families had begun to return to their homes.

Kurdish militia demobilizes149 children in Syria

Amidst continued reports of severe protection violations against children in Syria, including violence and gender-based violence, killing and maiming, abduction, detention, early marriage and recruitment in armed conflict, Kurdish militia groups signed the Geneva Call’s Deed of Commitment to end recruitment and use of children in armed conflict on 5 July.

Following several months of negotiations with Geneva Call, the People’s Protection Units (YPG), the Women’s Protection Units (YPJ), and the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava publically formalized a policy to prevent children under 18 from taking part in hostilities and to protect them from the effects of the conflict. Reportedly, 149 children were immediately demobilized and offered educational classes.

Humanitarian Funding

2014 SHARP is only 26% funded

The 2014 Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) remains significantly under-funded. As of 16 July, the overall plan has received 26 per cent of required funds, leaving a funding gap of over $US 1.6 billion.

Sectors and clusters urgently require $US 948 million to fund priority life-saving interventions for June – December 2014 to meet the urgent needs of millions of people inside Syria.

US$ 948 million is urgently required to fund priority life-saving interventions within Syria for the remainder of 2014.
Humanitarian Response Overview

Food and Agriculture

Needs:

- **An estimated 6.3 million people are in need of food and agriculture assistance.** The revised Food and Agriculture Sector response plan targets 5.47 million people for assistance.
- Local wheat and barley production remain the primary sources of food and provide associated livelihoods for millions of rural people despite low production levels. The economic impact of the conflict has severely diminished the capacity for food imports and is increasingly putting pressure on food prices. Poor households increasingly face difficulty in meeting their basic food needs as a result of reduced purchasing power, loss of income and livelihoods and depleted savings.

Response:

- **In June, agricultural support reached over 18,000 beneficiaries and in-kind food assistance was dispatched for over 3.4 million people.** 81 per cent of the food dispatch plan was achieved, though no food was delivered to Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates.
- By 16 July, food rations sufficient for nearly 2.3 million people have been dispatched a 16 per cent increase from June. This included rations for over 30,000 people in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, which had been inaccessible in June.
- Provision of agricultural support included: vegetable seed packages for 11,123 people in Hama; poultry production packages for 1,351 people in Rural Damascus; animal feed for 4,011 people in Idleb and Rural Damascus; and sheep for 218 vulnerable small livestock herders’ households in Hama and Rural Damascus.
- A new programme initiative was launched to improve diversification of diet for internally displaced pregnant and nursing mothers. 738 women in Hama and Lattakia were provided with four vouchers (SYP 900 each), redeemable for fresh food, including dairy, fruit, vegetables and meat, in participating local retail shops.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Widespread insecurity continues to hinder access to populations in need. None of the planned food allocations and agriculture support for wheat and barley producing farmers reached Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor in June to mid-July.
- Bureaucratic challenges have constrained delivery of food assistance to areas in rural Aleppo, Damascus and Idleb.
- Due to closure of the Nusaybin corridor from Turkey, no food assistance has been delivered to Al-Hasakeh governorate since supplies sufficient for 58,000 people (approximately 25 per cent of 227,170 target beneficiaries) were transported in May. Sector members now plan to use more costly airlifts from Damascus.
- Cash assistance and in-kind food distributions to 440,000 Palestine Refugees were reduced from 12 to 8 monthly cycles as a result of funding gaps.
- If current funding levels persist, more than 700,000 people will be left without agricultural livelihoods support, likely resulting in continued decrease of crop production, further livestock loss and increased dependency on food assistance.

Health

Over 3.4m people were assisted with food and agriculture support in June
Needs:

- **Health Sector response targets 9.3 million.**
  - The Health Resources Availability Mapping System (HeRAMS) revealed that Aleppo, Dar’a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Rural Damascus governorates have the highest number of non-functioning public hospitals in Syria. In Rural Damascus, half of the hospitals are non-functional, while none of the seven public hospitals are fully functioning in Deir-ez-Zor and two are completely out of service.
  - The epidemiological situation remains fragile as the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) continues to record an increase in the number of hepatitis A (2,122) and typhoid (573) cases.
  - It has been reported that 140,000 women are in need for reproductive health and family planning services, including safe delivery for 23,000 women in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Dar’a, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb and Rural Damascus governorates.

Response:

- **486,113 people were provided with health assistance while medicines sufficient for 1,580,611 people were pre-positioned** in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Dar’a, Idleb and Rural Damascus governorates.
  - Mobile teams continue to reach vulnerable and displaced communities, including basic health care and referral services for 80,689 children and women throughout the country.
  - 14,600 women received reproductive health (RH) services, including emergency obstetric care and safe delivery via 40 RH clinics, 28 mobile teams and 3 maternal hospitals in Aleppo, Damascus, Dar’a, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus and Tartous.
  - Through local health authorities and NGOs, 370,824 people were reached with medicines, surgical supplies and medical equipment, including intravenous fluids, multivitamins and dialysis sessions in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Homs.
  - 20,000 patients relocated from Ibn Khaldoun psychiatric hospital in east Aleppo City were provided with mental health medicines.
  - The Health Sector trained 1,869 health staff workers on a variety of health topics.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Delivery of medicines and medical equipment into opposition-controlled areas, including besieged, areas continues to be hampered by increased insecurity, population mobility and by constraints imposed on humanitarian operations by the Government of Syria.
- The limited number of international and local NGOs providing emergency obstetric care and safe delivery services constrains the delivery of medical aid to women in need especially in border areas.

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**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

Needs:

- **WASH Sector response plan targets 10+ million people.**
  - Over one million people in northeastern governorates lack sustained access to drinking water as a result of electricity cuts. In some regions, water supply has decreased by 80 per cent.
  - An estimated 2.5 million people in Aleppo City continue to be affected by water shortages since the breakdown of the main water network on 2 June – up to 700,000 of those residing in west Aleppo City need urgent assistance to meet their minimum daily water needs.

Response:

- **Assistance sufficient for 16.5 million people to access to safe water has been dispatched across Syria,** including through regular delivery of water purification supplies to public and community systems.
- In Aleppo, WASH Sector members continue to scale-up the contingency response, including through water trucking, delivering fuel to ensure continuous operation of the...
Suleiman al Halabi pumping station and implementing hygiene promotion activities amongst IDPs and host communities living in western Aleppo city.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Access constraints have hindered delivery of 80 tons of critical water purification supplies from Damascus to Al-Hasakeh.
- Low number of partners across Syria limits the capacity to respond to rapidly increasing needs for adequate supply of safe drinking water.
- Additional funding is needed to develop local water resource systems in areas which are particularly affected by the drought conditions and have a large number of wells drying out.

**Protection and Community Services**

**Needs:**
- An estimated 9.3 million people are in need of protection and community services assistance.
- An estimated 50 per cent of 6.4 million internally displaced persons in Syria are children.
- On 4 July the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered the second periodic report of the Syrian Arab Republic (CEDAW/C/SYR/2) and raised a range of human rights challenges and violations facing women and girls in Syria during the current conflict.
- Though no overall figure is available, 74 per cent of respondents to the Child Protection Remote Assessment reported separated children and 40 per cent reported unaccompanied children as a result of conflict. Children in Syria face a wide range of protection risks, including neglect, abuse and exploitation, forced labor, trafficking, limited access to education and forcible recruitment into armed forces/groups.

**Response:**
- 111,807 direct beneficiaries were provided with protection and community services assistance. 11,945 people were provided with cash assistance; 21,335 were targeted with awareness-raising; 5,029 people were provided with targeted material assistance; and 73,498 people engaged in recreational activities.
- On 1 July, with the support of the Protection Sector and local partners, the Ministry of Social Affairs launched a Family Tracing and Reunification pilot project in Homs Governorate, including capacity building for 34 protection actors, including social workers, international and national NGOs and community volunteers.
Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs:

- An estimated 4.68 million people are in need of NFIs and 258,000 people are in need of shelter assistance.
- Shelter needs may differ based on target groups, requiring different response for different groups, needs and areas. IDPs in government-controlled areas are served with shelter response through collective shelter rehabilitation and private shelter upgrade.
- IDPs continue to experience multiple displacements, requiring comprehensive packages of NFIs assistance each time.

Response:

- In 2014, 2,469,593 beneficiaries have been supported with a total of 10,268,599 NFIs (20 items per family, on average); while 37,000 individuals have benefitted from the shelter response. From 10 July, a series of at least ten airlifts from Damascus to Quamishli airport in Al-Hasakeh are transporting contingency NFI supplies for 50,000 people.
- The Shelter working group has developed and endorsed guidelines and standard requirements for collective shelter rehabilitation and private shelter upgrade and is developing alternative shelter response options within the framework of national response and recovery plans.
- Sector members have started the procurement of items to be distributed during winter which will include high thermal blankets and winter clothes in addition to the regular package.

Gaps & Constraints:

- NFIs dispatch has reduced significantly since April 2014 due to challenges faced by Sector members to dispatch NFIs from warehouses to partners for distribution within Syria, as well as import of NFIs into the country, since new procedures have been introduced.
- The Shelter response in Syria takes place in a highly regulated environment, with strong government involvement and limited capacity of implementing partners. While government endorsement and support of shelter activities is secured, formal requirements and lengthy procedures to engage in concrete response activities hinders response.

Education

Needs:

- An estimated 3.9 million children are in need of education assistance.
- One million out-of-school children need immediate provision of self-learning education assistance, particularly in hard to access areas in five governorates.
- The scale up of remedial classes and psychosocial support is urgently needed for children who have lost academic years as a result of the conflict.
- Provision of learning materials and textbooks is identified as one of top priorities in the 2014 Back to Learning initiative, which aims support children to return to school during the new academic year which commences on 14 September 2014.
- The establishment of temporary learning spaces and quick repair of damaged school is critical to address the lack and overcrowded of classrooms due to the influx of IDPs and host communities.

Response:

- In 2014, 332,911 children and adolescents, 50 per cent of whom are girls, have accessed education services through provision of remedial classes, education supplies, life skill and vocation training and temporary learning spaces across Syria.
- 123,635 children have benefitted from the distribution of essential education materials across Syria.
• Education Sector members have facilitated remedial classes and psychosocial support through school clubs for 275,166 children in 13 governorates.
• 17,920 children have accessed education through provision of 48 prefabricated temporary learning spaces and 32 repaired damaged classrooms across Syria.
• The implementation of activities at scale will be undertaken in September 2014 when children start schooling for the new academic year.

Gaps & Constraints:
• 2,697 damaged schools still need immediate rehabilitation to be used by children and teachers during the new academic year in September 2014.
• Low presence of credible partners has limited the capacity of the Education Sector to reach more affected children in hard to reach areas.
• The funding gap of 87% out of US$ 103 million has hindered scale up of education responses and may delay procurement of materials, including textbooks for self-learning and school clubs and furniture for establishment of temporary self-learning spaces.
• Monitoring at school level in hard to reach areas has been challenging due to limited access and insecurity.

Nutrition

Needs:
• An estimated 3 million children under five and pregnant and lactating women are in need of emergency nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive services; the Nutrition sector response targets 1 million children under five and pregnant and lactating women.
• Multiple factors have resulted in greater adoption of negative coping mechanisms and have significantly affected the nutrition situation of vulnerable groups in Syria, including: increasing food prices, decreased availability of food, huge waves of displacement, poor infant and young child feeding practices, disruption of services in health, water and sanitation, as well as disruption of livelihoods.

Response:
• In 2014, 773,133 beneficiaries have been reached with emergency nutrition response activities including targeted and blanket supplementary feeding, Multi-micronutrients, treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), Infant & Young Child Feeding (IYCF) promotion and screening. These beneficiaries included a total of 595,651 children under five and 177,482 pregnant and lactating women.
• As part of the wider nutrition sector capacity development, in 2014, 85 health and nutrition workers and volunteers have been trained on community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) and Infant and Young Child feeding (IYCF).
• Towards enhanced prevention and treatment of malnutrition amongst children under five, various nutrition supplies were provided to local NGOs and health clinics, including 173,262 bags of super cereals, to meet urgent nutritional needs of 180,000 children between the ages of 6-24 months.
• Coordination among partners for district level prioritization of nutrition services, and expansion of CMAM into more districts in Aleppo, Hama and Homs, is ongoing.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Lack of capacity among national and local NGOs – no international NGOs have been provided with the mandate to work for community nutrition interventions.
• Funding gap will limit the expansion of services.
### Early Recovery and Livelihoods

**Needs:**

- **An estimated 9.6 million people are in need of early recovery and livelihoods assistance.** The Early Recovery & Livelihoods Sector response targets one million people in Syria.
- More than half of the labor force in Syria, 3.39 million people, is unemployed. Of this total, some 2.67 million lost their jobs during the conflict and whose loss of income impacts the well-being of more than 11 million dependents (SCPR, 2014).
- IDPs are often displaced multiple times, losing their assets and livelihoods.
- Host communities lack adequate resources, including infrastructure as well as local service delivery, to support basic social and health services for IDPs.

**Response:**

- **290 new emergency employment opportunities in solid waste removal were created** in Aleppo (119), Dar’a (106) and Hama (65), benefiting 1,450 people in 37 shelters and indirectly targeting 65,384 community members.
- In 2014, on-going provision of 879 emergency employment opportunities: in Deir-ez-Zor, 318 workers removed 846 tons of solid waste, indirectly benefitting 72,550 IDPs/host communities; in Tartous, 203 emergency workers removed 135 tons of solid waste from 14 shelters, indirectly benefitting 40,000 IDPs alongside a campaign targeting 2,500 people; 232 households in Hama and 120 households in Ar-Raqqa launched food processing workshops following provision of farming tools; and in Al-Hasakeh and Hama, 227 people benefit from vocational training on sewing and food processing.
- Early Recovery Sector members and local partners finalized a comprehensive intervention for restoration of the Old City of Homs and early recovery plan for Homs Governorate. Key components include: support to damage and planning assessments; reconstruction of basic infrastructure; debris management; solid waste management; and restoration of livelihoods.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Both an insufficient number of local partners approved for partnership and tight regulation of national NGOs operations limit local level capacity and constrain implementation of the Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector response.
- In some areas targeted for interventions, local financial transactions services are not in place and constrain implementation of cash for work initiatives.
• A funding gap of 92.8% severely constrains the Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector response.

### Logistics

#### Needs:

- Approximately 20 humanitarian partners are in need of logistics support to deliver the humanitarian response in Syria.
- The availability of transportation and warehousing which are necessary for humanitarian response has become increasingly unpredictable in Syria.
- Road access to key locations is often limited, while securing truck drivers for transportation of items has become increasingly difficult.

#### Response:

- Since January 2014, 16 UN agencies and international NGOs have been assisted with Logistics Cluster common storage and transport services.
- Since 19 June, over 1,336m³ of food and WASH items were temporarily stored at Logistics Cluster common warehousing facilities on behalf of two partners.
- Between 19 June and 16 July, via its free-to-user transport services, the Logistics Cluster transported over 1,670m³ of relief items; over 1,311m³ of Shelter, WASH, Agricultural and electronic items were transported via common transport services on behalf of three partners on 14 vehicles to Al-Hasakeh City, Idlib and Quamishli; the remaining 359m³ were transported as part of the Madamiyet Elsham joint convoy.
- The Logistics Cluster provided two trucks, and funded 38 further trucks, in support of the joint inter-agency and SARC convoy to Madamiyet Elsham, which delivered food, shelter, NFIs, hygiene and nutrition supplies to people in this area for the first time since October 2012.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- New government procedures requiring facilitation letters for the import of relief items no longer allow agencies to swiftly evacuate cargo from port/border crossings, resulting in congestion and demurrage/detention fees.
- The Logistics Cluster revised funding requirement for 2014 is US$16,502,914. As of July 2014, the Logistics Cluster has received US$ 2,387,524 (14%) in funding, leaving a shortfall of 14,115,390 (86%).

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