

HIGHLIGHTS

- One of the harshest winters on record has already dumped snow, rain and freezing temperatures on vulnerable Syrians.
- Airlifts deliver humanitarian supplies to Al-Hassakeh as humanitarian actors find ways to deliver despite insecurity on roads.
- After 1,000 days of conflict, Syria is on the verge of turning back decades of economic and human development while 3 million people are unemployed.
- 3 million children are forced to leave their education.

FIGURES

Population	21.4 m
Under Revised SHARP 2013	New Estimates
# of PIN	
6.8m	9.3 m
# of IDPs.	
4.25m	6.5 m
# of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa	
	2.3 m

FUNDING

\$ 1.4 billion
requested (US\$) for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

71% funded

\$ 3 billion
requested (US\$) for the Regional Refugee Response Plan

67% funded



UNICEF/Rashidi

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Displaced families face one of the harshest winters ever in Syria

People across the Middle East have come face-to-face with the severity of winter as storm front that meteorologists have named “Alexa” brought heavy snow and frigid temperatures to the region. Weather forecasts in Syria over the coming weeks predict a continuation of these below-average temperatures, particularly in mountainous areas. Reports from UNICEF partners highlight the increased vulnerability of families residing in tented shelters as exposure to cold and wet conditions place further strain on the health and wellbeing of children.

Data collected by a government council – appointed committee last week regarding heavy rainfall and floods in rural areas of Al-Qahtanieh (eastern Al-Hassakeh), indicated widespread damage in an area already subject to high levels of vulnerability and food insecurity. Four villages were affected, with over 50 houses destroyed and heavy losses sustained to crops and livestock. In an area heavily reliant upon agricultural production, the assessment indicates that approximately 1,000 people, mainly small-scale farmers and herders, are currently in urgent need of food and non-food assistance.



Credit: Ar-Raqqa Youth Volunteers/ Ar-Raqqa City (11 Dec 2013) – Ar-Raqqa youth volunteers mobile immunization team in action despite difficult weather conditions as part of the UNICEF supported polio immunization camping 8-12 December 2013. Depending on the area, vaccination will be offered at fixed sites at populous locations or by going from house to house. The activities are carried out by national and local health authorities supported by UNICEF, WHO, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and other partners.

New humanitarian response plan targets 9.3 million people in need in Syria

As the conflict in Syria enters its fourth year, 9.3 million people, nearly half the population, are now in need of humanitarian assistance, and an estimated 6.5 million people are internally displaced. Deterioration in food security is evident in several parts of the country which, when combined with worsening water, sanitation and healthcare services, contributes to a growing risk of malnutrition among women and children. There are critical gaps in essential healthcare delivery particularly in trauma, primary, and reproductive healthcare services. Insufficient access to safe water requires urgent attention, in conjunction with poor sanitation and hygiene practices, all of which increase the risk of an outbreak in communicable disease. Psychosocial distress and mental health concerns, the erosion of livelihoods, asset losses, and weakened coping mechanisms need to be urgently addressed. The shortage of adequate and dignified shelter and basic household items, remains a major concern, as is hindered access to education, falling enrolment rates and the availability of safe learning spaces.

On 16 December, OCHA launched the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) 2014. As the coordinated response within Syria, the plan aims to meet the humanitarian needs of 9.3 million people, at a cost of US\$ 2.3 billion.

Airlifts from Iraq and Damascus deliver core relief items, medical equipment and vaccines to Al-Hassakeh

Road access into the northeastern Al-Hassakeh governorate remains challenging for humanitarian actors and no significant deliveries of relief items have reached the region overland since May 2013. However, with the authorization of the Governments of Syria and Iraq for the passage of humanitarian supplies between the two countries, WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR began airlifting urgently needed humanitarian aid from Erbil, Iraq, to Qamishli, Al-Hassakeh. The first chartered flight landed in Qamishli airport on 15 December carrying almost 40 metric tons of food including wheat flour, pasta, oil, sugar, salt, rice, canned beans and bulgur wheat. Two planes have been contracted to do 23 rotations over the next ten days between the two countries, to deliver 285 metric tonnes of goods including blankets, kitchen sets, plastic tarpaulins for shelter, and food rations for 30,000 people for a one month period. This is the first humanitarian airlift of supplies from Iraq into Syria since the onset of the conflict.

UNHCR airlifted vaccines from Damascus for 538,000 children in Al-Hassakeh. In addition to polio vaccines, the UNHCR airlift included vaccines against meningitis, tuberculosis, Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), and tetanus for 150,000 individuals, along with five incubators for the Qamishli Hospital's neonatal unit. This was followed by an airlift of core relief items including 2,000 thermal blankets and 1,000 plastic sheets for winter.

New displacement and needs caused by fighting

Heavy fighting continues to take place in Ghouta and Qalamoun, causing a large number of families to flee to other locations in Rural Damascus, including Al-Ghezlaniya and Jaramana, and to Damascus City. UN agencies report that communities in these locations are unprepared to support the new influx of internally displaced people in particular during the winter season. An estimated 9,500 people have also fled from the

town of Al-Zabadani, west of Damascus city, where humanitarian access has not been feasible since July 2013.

In Al Wa'er neighbourhood, Homs, approximately 50 families are reportedly able to leave the area each day without their belongings, provided they obtain approval from local authorities. These displaced families are primarily relocating to other areas in the governorate, including Al-Edikhar, Al Khader, Karm Shammi. Their registration is currently underway.

The UNICEF hub in Homs conducted a mission to Hama City to assess the humanitarian situation in the Governorate, its first visit in more than two months. Findings highlight an overall tense security situation throughout the governorate with an additional 8,000 families displaced from Aleppo and Rural Aleppo to the Salamiya and Mesaif areas during the past eight weeks. Their most urgent requirements include winter materials (blankets, clothing, etc), in addition to basic services including water, sanitation, health, protection and education. The team, in collaboration with SARC and other partners, has developed a three-month urgent response plan to address the needs of these IDP families and host communities.

Yarmouk and Sbeineh continue to be sealed off, amid unconfirmed reports of growing malnutrition amongst children and elderly residents who remain in those areas. UNRWA is gravely concerned about an estimated 30,000 Palestine refugees still trapped in Yarmouk who are extremely vulnerable and have virtually no way of leaving the area. UNRWA has delivered 3,000 doses of the polio vaccine to Yarmouk through the Palestinian Red Crescent, and remains on standby with a further 2,000 doses and five tons of milk powder. Fifty-eight out of 118 UNRWA school buildings have been damaged and require urgent repair, while 10 out of 23 health centers have been damaged and are inoperable.

UN Humanitarian Chiefs strongly condemn attacks on medical personnel and facilities by all parties to the conflict

On 7 December, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake and Under-Secretary General, Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos, joined together to highlight the impact of the conflict on access to healthcare in Syria. Substantial damage to health facilities across the country continues. Over 60 percent of public hospitals have been damaged or are out of service, while a similar proportion of ambulances have been stolen or badly damaged. At a time when hospitals are overwhelmed with patients, it is vital that these facilities be protected and health staff be allowed to provide urgent medical, surgical and obstetric care to patients without risk. All parties must respect their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians, health facilities and health professionals during conflict and to permit the supply of humanitarian aid, including medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to all communities.

Despite insecurity and serious access challenges, the United Nations and partners have helped vaccinate more than 3.3 million children against measles and polio in recent weeks as part of the national immunization campaign and the start of the first 'national polio immunization week' on 8 December. Over 8,000 women have received reproductive and maternal health services, while medical supplies and training have been provided to ensure that hundreds of thousands of people with chronic health problems are treated. It is in the interest of both parties in the conflict and of all Syrian people to preserve the neutrality and functioning of health infrastructure.

Three million people – 60 per cent of the labour force – are unemployed in Syria

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) index on the Millennium Development Goals has indicated a sharp deterioration of Syria's economy and development following 1,000 days of violent conflict. The report indicated that Syria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) decreased by 45 per cent and domestic oil production has dropped to less than 4 per cent the capacity in 2010 (from 385,000 to 15,000 barrels per day). The loss of production, theft and destruction at manufacturing workshops tops SYP 330 billion (USD 2.4 billion), 70 per cent of it at privately owned enterprises, based on government statistics. Exports are down to 10 per cent what they were before the conflict.

Three million people (out of a total workforce of about 5 million) are unemployed and the number of Syrians below the poverty line has increased by 19 per cent. ESCWA cautions that if current conditions continue until 2015, the total cost to Syria would equal three generations of economic development and two generations of human development.

A Joint Report quantifies the impact of the loss of education on Syria's children

On 12 December, a new report was published by UNICEF, World Vision International, Save the Children and UNHCR, titled 'Education Interrupted' highlighting impact that three years of conflict has had on the education sector, reversing years of progress. Three million children from Syria have been forced to quit their education as fighting has destroyed classrooms, left children too terrified to go to school, or caused families to flee the country.

Intense violence within Syria, large population displacement, the killing and flight of teachers and the destruction and misuse of schools have had severe academic repercussions for children. Many parents report that they have no option but to keep their children at home rather than risk sending them to school and the decline has been the most profound in the areas worst hit by the conflict. In Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama and Idleb less than half of all children today attend school. Aleppo and Idleb have lost a quarter and a sixth of their schools respectively, with attendance plunging below 30 per cent. Overall, more than 4,000 Syrian schools have been destroyed, damaged or turned into shelters for displaced people.

Syria was a regional leader in education enrolment before the conflict, with an estimated 97 per cent primary and 67 per cent secondary school attendance. Country-wide literacy rates at over 90 per cent for both men and women surpassed the regional average. In less than three years, however, the sharpest and most rapid decline in education ever witnessed in the region is occurring in Syria, and with potentially dire consequences for its future.

Overview of the Coordinated Humanitarian Response in Syria

National polio vaccination round reaches more than 900,000 children

The first 'National Polio Immunisation Week' was launched on 8 December in Syria, as part of a WHO and UNICEF supported strategy to immunise all children under five years of age against polio. To date, 17 polio cases have been confirmed: 15 in Deir-ez-Zor, one in Aleppo and one in Douma, Rural Damascus. Preliminary reports from health

centers indicate that more than 917,865 children have been vaccinated by the mid-way point of the campaign. Efforts are ongoing to deliver polio vaccines to the Old City of Homs, Al Houla, Zarra and Talkalaha areas in Homs.

The immunization campaign aims to reach a total of 2.2 million children under five years of age, including those who missed the first round, and is part of a coordinated effort by the Ministry of Health (MoH), UN agencies, SARC, international and national NGOs and other local and international groups providing humanitarian assistance.

Additional polio immunization campaigns will be carried out at monthly intervals until April 2014. UNICEF plans to deliver 10 million doses of the polio vaccine to Syria to enable this campaign, with the first shipment of 2 million vaccines arriving in Damascus on 29 November.

These national campaign weeks in Syria form part of the largest ever immunisation response in the Middle East with the aim to vaccinate more than 23 million children against polio in Syria and neighbouring countries over the coming months. Crucially, the campaign has enabled vaccinations of children on the Syrian borders via established vaccination points. WHO coordinated the review of the regional coordination plan to respond to the polio outbreak in Syria with MoH, UN agencies, and Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in Beirut.



Credit: WHO/
Al-Hassakeh (Dec 2013) – A health professional administers a dose of polio vaccination to children in Al-Hassakeh as part of the first 'National Polio Immunisation Week' in Syria.

UN agencies have appealed to all parties to cooperate, including through temporary pauses in hostilities where needed, to allow vaccination campaigns to reach all children. Data received over the past two weeks indicates the success of the first round of polio vaccination campaign to reach children in contested areas, including 307,105 children in Deir-ez-Zor; 258,060 in Al-Hassakeh; 221,201 in Rural Damascus; and 215,000 in Ar-Raqqa.

Distribution of winterisation items is highest priority as a brutal snowstorm hits Syria

As snowstorms sweep across the Middle East, freezing temperatures are an added challenge for displaced Syrians. UNHCR delivered stoves to Lattakia as part of its winterisation plan to provide communal shelters with heating in areas where fuel needs can be covered by the government. With temperatures below freezing, UNHCR also dispatched thermal blankets and plastic sheeting through its 'winterised' items package to 28,000 households in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous. Each week, UNHCR dispatches 250 trucks throughout Syria carrying relief aid to support some 75,000 persons. UNHCR also managed to reach the area of Dahiyyet al-Assad for the first time with the delivery of core relief items for 500



Credit: OCHA/Makkad
Aleppo City (12 Dec 2013) – Relief supplies from humanitarian agencies are covered in snow at the Syrian Arab Red Crescent warehouse in Aleppo. As SARC and humanitarian actors had planned for the storm, planned dispatch of winterised items to vulnerable people in Aleppo were not disrupted.

families (2,500 people) recently displaced from Deir Attiya, on Qalamoun mountain. In total this year UNHCR has dispatched items to approximately 3,145,000 individuals across all 14 governorates of Syria.

UNICEF plans to reach 2,000,000 children with a package of emergency supplies for the winter. To date, families have received over 450,000 blankets, 28,000 sets of children clothes, 76,000 plastic sheets, and 38,000 soap and other hygiene kits. During the reporting period, UNICEF distributed 30,000 thermal blankets in Homs and Rural Damascus, 8,045 sets of children's clothes in Damascus and Rural Damascus, 3,050 baby blankets in Rural Damascus, and 15,000 plastic sheets tarpaulins in Ar-Raqqa. In Idleb, a hard to reach area where communities are particularly exposed to harsh weather conditions during the winter seasons, 2,500 bags of washing powder (benefiting 12,500 people) and 38,000 bars of soap (benefiting 19,000 people) were distributed through SARC, following the distribution of blankets and plastic sheeting there last month. Despite security challenges, UNICEF supplies have crossed conflict lines to reach 12,500 families (approximately 62,500 people) in Al Wa'er, Al Zafarni, Ein Al Nasr and Deir Foul areas of Homs

Premiere Urgence (PU) has distributed 21,132 winterisation items, including blankets and fitted carpets in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Tartous since launching the winterisation plan on 24 November. PU also distributed 742 hygiene kits in Homs, bringing the total distributed since the beginning of PU's emergency response in October 2012 to 149,909 across five governorates, reaching 749,545 people. SOS Children's Villages distributed 900 winterisation kits, which include coats and blankets, to over 550 families (approximately, 2,750 people) in Damascus. In coordination with Syria Trust, the SOS Children's Village also delivered 970 hygiene kits to the Old City in Damascus, reaching a total number of 9,350 persons so far in 2013.

UNDP has utilised its network of NGOs and local partners to reach 45,000 IDP families (approximately, 225,000 people) across 14 Governorates with 30,000 quilts, 4,000 rugs and mats, 67,000 items of clothing for women and children, winter underwear for 10,500 children in Homs, and 8,000 hygiene kits. As part of asset replacement, UNDP distributed 10,000 kitchen sets benefiting 50,000 IDPs across all governorates.

IOM monitored distribution of 10,140 kits, which included baby diapers, house cleaning and family hygiene items, and blankets to 18,096 people in Aleppo, Damascus, Homs and Rural Damascus - 74 per cent of whom reside with host communities (13,418) and 26 per cent in official collective shelters (4,678). During 2013, IOM distributed a total of 169,885 basic non-food items to 586,896 people across 12 Syrian governorates. Access remains challenging, in particular with the closure of key access routes and highways to Aleppo, Idleb, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Tartous and Ghouta in Rural Damascus, and some NFI partners have faced difficulties in securing materials from the local market.

Food assistance dispatched to 3.3 million people

WFP's November cycle of food dispatches concluded on 3 December and fulfilled 83 per cent of the plan. A total of 660,547 family food rations and 6,089 mt of wheat flour have been dispatched to assist a targeted 3.3 million people in 12 out of the 14 Syrian governorates. Ongoing fighting and security conditions continue to pose severe access challenges, hindering the capacity of WFP to provide assistance at planned scale in a



Credit: UNICEF/RRashidi
Damascus (Dec 2013) – Huda*, 9 years, tries on her new jacket which she received at the IDP school shelter where she has been living for over six months. This coat is part of the warm clothes kit distributed by SARC volunteers and supported by UNICEF. UNICEF aims at reaching two million Syrian children with children with emergency supplies for the winter including blankets, plastic sheeting, and hygiene kits.

number of governorates, particularly in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor. In the November cycle, disruption to access prevented WFP from reaching over 900,000 targeted beneficiaries in these four governorates combined, representing 23 per cent of the overall plan for Syria. Part of the food rations destined for these locations were re-allocated to other areas of high need. WFP has been seeking alternative routes to channel assistance to Al-Hassakeh, including the use of the Yaroubiyeh border with Iraq. However, due to continued security concerns on the use of the Yaroubiyeh corridor, WFP has begun airlift rotations from Erbil.

As an emergency measure against frigid temperatures on 12 and 13 December, WFP provided nearly 10,000 liters of emergency fuel to 10 collective shelters in Damascus city. These quantities will assist families to prepare hot food and have heat for one week and will cover the energy needs of approximately 2,800 displaced people, mainly women, children and the elderly. Further support is planned to an additional 35 shelters in Hama, Homs and Rural Damascus. WFP has committed to provide life-saving deliveries of fuel to support vulnerable internally displaced families living in shelters during the harsh winter days as part of the winter preparedness planning.

Improved security conditions and the reopening of the Khanasar road allowed dispatches to Aleppo to resume during the November cycle. However, while rations are now reaching some parts of Aleppo city, access remains a major challenge in other parts of the city.

The closure of the Damascus-Homs highway for nearly one month due to heavy fighting in the Qalamoun area caused additional delays for WFP operations. Restricted movement along this route affected food dispatches to Hama and Homs, while the disruption of the delivery of packaging material to WFP facilities in Safita and Lattakia led to a slow-down in the production-line of food rations. Though the Government re-opened this route as of 7 December, it has not been cleared for UN agencies and WFP is dispatching the rations for these areas from warehouses in Safita and Lattakia.

Heavy fighting affected several villages in the governorate of Quneitra, resulting in the closure of all road access to the governorate on 2 December. According to preliminary estimates, 10,000 people have been displaced to the central and eastern parts of the governorate while approximately 8,500 people have fled to various locations in Rural Damascus and Damascus city. However, an unspecified number of families remain trapped in the southern and western parts of the governorate, where intense shelling is ongoing. In response, WFP dispatched a total of 15,000 family food rations to the area, 4,000 family food rations within the governorate and 11,000 in the surrounding areas, providing enough assistance for approximately 75,000 people.

First joint humanitarian convoy reaches Khan Shaykun

On 12 December, the UN Hub – Tartous conducted the first cross-line Joint Humanitarian Convoy in the western region of Syria to Khan Shaykun, an opposition-controlled area in northwest rural Idlib. The town currently has a population estimated at 120,000 people (80,000 residents and 40,000 IDPs) and has not received humanitarian assistance from the UN since the onset of the crisis. The UN team, including OCHA Tartous and UNDSS, escorted the trucks carrying relief items, food and NFIs for 3,000 families (approximately, 15,000 people) from UNICEF, IOM, WFP, UNHCR, to the warehouse for off-loading for later distribution to families in urgent need.

Following a brief discussion with the local committee, the UN Tartous-Hub team was able to quickly determine that the humanitarian situation in this area severe and required further assistance urgently.

The Logistics Cluster has transported over 30,600m³ of aid cargo for 16 organisations

Since its activation in Syria, the Logistics Cluster has transported over 30,600 m³ of aid cargo vital to Shelter, Nutrition, Health, WASH, and Agriculture programmes, on behalf of 16 humanitarian organizations in Syria (ACF, AKF, DRC, FAO, IMC, IOM, Mercy Corps, PU, Secours Islamique France, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP and WHO).

Over the past two weeks, the Logistics Cluster transported 488 m³ of agriculture items on behalf of FAO to locations in Syria via its common transport service. In further support of the coordinated response, the Inter-agency storage capacity at the Safita Hub (near Tartous) has been increased to 1,760 m² in December to meet the humanitarian community's needs. In the last two weeks, over 980 m³ of WASH and health items were stored at the Logistics Cluster warehouse in Sahnaya (Rural Damascus) on behalf of IOM, Mercy Corps and WHO.

Palestine refugees are supported by humanitarian assistance to prepare for winter

UNRWA continues to deliver humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees in Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a, Hama, Homs and Lattakia. As part of the 2013 winterisation plan, UNRWA has already distributed 112,352 blankets and 49,217 mattresses, and plans to distribute cash, food, hygiene kits and kitchen sets. Their current response has focused on delivering food and NFIs for winter, including more than 1,202 family food parcels, 2280 blankets, 2102 hygiene kits and 8 newborn baby kits in the last two weeks. Collective shelter upgrades continue, including the installation of additional heating and low voltage lighting, construction of tent platforms to improve drainage and prevent flooding, as well as continued maintenance of water and sewage systems in all 200 facilities.

Regular school classes continue with more than 47,000 Palestine refugee children attending. Four schools are currently running triple shifts in order to meet the growing demand for places at UNRWA educational facilities. In the past week, 30 counselors received training on psychosocial support in Beirut, and will be positioned at UNRWA schools throughout Syria. The Engaging Youth project has provided 1,125 refugee children with psychosocial support and more than 1,370 students in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Lattakia with vocational training. Over 1,930 young people are enrolled in English, French, computer skills, literacy and numeracy courses.

In the last quarter of 2013, more than 159,000 patients were provided with medical consultations, while nine health points have been established to meet the needs of displaced refugees in Aleppo and Damascus. The first round of polio vaccinations finished at the end of November, with 23,583 children vaccinated against the virus. A further 35,198 children were vaccinated against measles mumps and rubella (MMR). The vaccination campaign has been particularly successful due to the high number of students now attending school.

Cash assistance delivers flexible and essential aid to people

In 2013, UNHCR has distributed cash to 184,553 people overall, with plans underway to start providing cash assistance this week for 10,000 families (approximately 50,000 people) in Homs and 5,000 families (approximately 25,000 people) in Tartous.

In Qamishli, Al-Hassakeh, cash assistance is a critical aid modality to enable people to meet their basic needs given that the vast majority of families lost their belongings during displacement and conflict and dispatch of relief items has not reached the area since May 2013. UNHCR has reached 62,616 people in Qamishli, though an internal network problem in the governorate had prevented internally displaced beneficiaries from cashing the checks received since 11 November. On 2 December, BEMO bank resumed cashing the issued checks. Several days of distribution were put on hold the past week while the bank cashed the backlog of distributed checks, leaving 1,052 checks still to be cashed. Given the rise in need in Hassakeh City, UNHCR plans to provide cash assistance for 15,000 families (approximately 75,000 people) with the dual aim of helping them and easing the burden on local communities.

The total number of assisted individuals since January 2013 through UNHCR's cash distribution programme is 184,553. In addition, on 15 December, cash assistance started for 10,000 families (approximately 50,000 people) in Homs and 5,000 families (approximately 25,000 people) in Tartous.

Urgent shelter rehabilitation ongoing

So far in 2013, UNHCR implementing partners have completely rehabilitated 81 collective shelters in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous and are in the process of rehabilitating a further 32 shelters. Première Urgence, a UNHCR implementing partner, has completed the rehabilitation of 23 collective shelters (out of the 81) in Damascus, Tartous, Hama and Homs.

During the reporting period, IOM completed rehabilitation works for 1 shelter in Damascus, targeting 261 individuals. In addition, IOM also completed the winterisation technical assessment for 25 shelters in Damascus and Lattakia in order to start implementing in targeted shelters. Shelter sector agencies have identified additional shelters in need of complete or partial shelter intervention in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Daraa, and Al-Hassakeh, especially to implement winterisation measures to equip families for the upcoming winter. In the last two weeks, IOM identified 13 shelters in six governorates, hosting 1162 displaced, for rehabilitation works. Some challenges have included power cuts, lack of fuel for electrical generators and the dense fall of mortars.

Continued Capacity Building will improve ability to deal with Child Protection Concerns

UNHCR has been involved in a several initiatives to train local NGOs on the principles of humanitarian assistance and the code of conduct for NGO workers. International Medical Corps (IMC) and UNHCR collaborated again to hold a second-round of training on 'Child Protection and Psychosocial Care' for 26 participants from seven national NGOs in Al-Hassakeh, Damascus and Tartous and Damascus.

So far in 2013, IOM, through its partners, has reached over 42,000 individuals, including professionals and frontline workers. IOM has provided training to 351 professionals and frontline workers in Aleppo, Homs Lattakia and Tartous on supportive communication and psychosocial first-aid (PFA) to benefit and support children, youth and their families affected by the crisis. The trainees who benefited from IOM's courses on art-based psychosocial interventions implemented activities for 1,804 people at collective shelters, churches, mosques and community centers in Damascus, Homs, Qamishli and Rural Damascus. UNICEF, in collaboration with TdH Italy, also trained 13 SARC volunteers on the provision of psychosocial support to children affected by the crisis. At the request of SOS Children's Villages, IOM held two-day training on psychosocial needs, supportive communication skills, non-violent communication and psychosocial interventions for seven supervisors of youth houses in Damascus.

The National Committee on Alternative Care, created by MoSA in cooperation with UNICEF, has finalised six major chapters of the draft Alternative Care Law. During the reporting period, the Child Protection Working Group endorsed standard operating procedures for Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) and developed an integrated training plan with partners on child protection.



Credit: UNICEF/RRashidi
Damascus (Dec 2013) – SARC Damascus volunteers complete the profile of IDP women in Damascus shelters. The volunteers explain the process and make sure they have the correct age and gender of children so they right winter pack is provided as part of UNICEF-supported distribution of 100,000 warm clothes kits to vulnerable children around Syria. Culturally appropriate warm clothes will be provided to one hundred thousand most at risk children in Syria by age/size and gender, including newborn babies.

Protecting internally displaced people residing in makeshift shelters from the cold

Under the winterisation framework, shelter sector actors have begun the distribution of “sealing-off kits” in response to the urgent need for quick impact interventions to protect displaced persons residing in informal settlements or makeshift shelters. UNHCR, in collaboration with Premier Urgence, distributed 300 sealing-off kits for 199 private apartments in Rural Damascus for a total of 2,150 vulnerable displaced



Credit: Premiere Urgence/EHanna Sahnaya district, Rural Damascus, (24 Dec 2013) — Premiere Urgence enables winterised shelter support for internally displaced Syrians ahead of the snowstorm. Plastic sheeting is added to fix the wire mesh.

people. In addition, IOM completed information surveys for sealing-off kits at 17 buildings in Rural Damascus, targeting 440 affected persons, and for 1 building in Homs, targeting 8 displaced individuals. During 2013, IOM completed information surveys for a total of 79 Buildings in Rural Damascus, targeting 1,947 beneficiaries, and for 54 buildings in Homs, targeting 1,257 IDPs. A key benefit of the sealing-off kits is that these can be easily assembled and erected by beneficiaries who have been recruited as skilled labour for the purpose, providing them with a means of income.

Expanded support for growing psychosocial needs of displaced Syrians

Psychosocial support has been identified as one of the most pressing needs of children in Syria. IMC, in coordination with SARC, provided psychosocial support, through recreational activities, counselling and early childhood training programmes, to 2,562 beneficiaries in 10 communal shelters, and various centres and primary health clinics in Damascus. The total number of displaced benefitting from this assistance since the beginning of 2013 is now 19,596.

In order to respond to the prevailing psychosocial concerns of displaced persons, the joint project agreed between UNHCR and UNFPA with implementation by SARC, initiated in April, aims to provide all levels of Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). During the reporting period, as part of the project, the MHPSS mobile teams visited five shelters in Damascus and Rural Damascus. These teams facilitated sessions with groups of mothers, men and adolescents, conducted targeted play activities with children, and provided essential support activities for children, mothers and adolescents, including art-based activities, music and singing. There was significant IDP participation, with 768 persons in attendance, bringing the total reached through the project so far to 16,009 displaced Syrians.

UNICEF, through its implementing partners, reached 2,524 children in Damascus, Dar'a, Homs, Rural Damascus and Tartous with psychosocial support. Specialised psychological and psychiatric services were provided to 38 individuals through SARC clinics in Damascus and Rural Damascus. UNICEF also provided psychosocial support to 292 mothers through mothers groups in Tartous and 74 adolescents through stress management and life skill programs in Quneitra. A total of 33,176 children and adolescents continued to receive psychosocial support through the adolescents programme, bringing the total reached for 2013 to 145,220. In collaboration with SARC, UNICEF organized an open day focused on child protection and rights in Maskana area of Homs City, benefiting 161 children.

However, despite increased access to certain areas, the volatile security environment continues to severely constrain access into other locations, hindering the ability of humanitarian actors to independently monitor and assess the situation of IDPs and ensure programmes are appropriately adjusted to meet their needs. In addition, the cold weather in most areas of the country has obstructed delivery of psychosocial support and other activities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene assistance aims to reduce vulnerability to disease and poor health

As part of UNICEF's intervention to support contingency water supply mechanisms through water storage in conflict prone areas, 26 water tanks of 45 m³ capacity were delivered to As-Sweida, Hama, Homs and Idleb Water Authorities to benefit 80,100 people. The water tanks will ensure continuous access to safe water during the frequent periods of disruption due to damage or breakage in the main system.

Over the past two weeks, the following critical water and hygiene supplies were dispatched: 2,000 bags of washing powder (2.5 kg each) for 10,000 people; 233,800 soap bars benefiting 116,900 persons; 2,000 water containers for 5,000 individuals; and 300 packs of plastic garbage bags (1,000 bags each).

In Tartous, UNICEF is installing 10 units of prefabricated toilets at the Al Karnak collective shelter, where 238 displaced families are hosted. The installation is being done in partnership with the SARC branch in Tartous, which manages the shelter. Similarly, UNICEF delivered five prefabricated toilet and shower units to Aleppo City for installation in IDP shelters to benefit at least 500 individuals living in the shelters. In Homs, UNICEF in partnership with a local NGO provided a solar powered water heating system to ensure access to hot water for 110 people living in Al-Ameen Tower shelter in Homs City. A parallel intervention is ensuring access to safe drinking water through provision of a water tank. IDPs living in the shelter are also benefiting from hygiene and sanitation education. In addition, 2,000 Baby hygiene kits were distributed at Insha'at neighbourhood of Homs City and 25,000 people received two bars of soap in Hasya town in rural Homs.

In Lattakia, 1,000 litres of pesticide has been delivered to the municipality to conduct pest control at IDP shelters, benefitting an estimated 600,000 IDPs and host community members. The recent field monitoring visit showed that the total utilized volume has reached 535 litres.

In Damascus, 210,000 plastic garbage bags were sent to SARC for normal distribution to IDP shelters to assist in waste management at household level, targeting 7,000 people for one month.

Millions of Syrians receive medical and trauma care services and supplies in 2013

In 2013, WHO reached 3,383,495 direct beneficiaries through the distribution of medicines and equipment, as well as healthcare delivery. The organization also reached 1,188,500 beneficiaries through delivery and distribution of medical kits (IEHK, burns, midwife, emergency, diarrhoea and surgical). At present, 403 sentinel sites of the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS) are reporting from health facilities related to MoH, NGOs and private health care providers nationwide. Numerous trainings on health subjects, including polio, chemical hazards, surveillance, malnutrition and mental health, were provided to almost 2,500 health professional from all governorates. Between June and October 2013, health assessments were conducted in 21 hospitals in the 7 most affected governorates of the country through the crucial support of WHO focal persons operating from targeted governorates and 36 partner NGOs and local health authorities. Technical equipment, medicines and medical supplies, as well as staff, were provided in support of the UN mission to investigate the chemical weapons incidents.

Over the past two weeks, WHO supported health authorities in Damascus with medicines and medical supplies (life-saving and essential medicines) for 47,095 direct beneficiaries. As part of the UN-assigned destruction of chemical weapons in Syria, 95 individuals representing SARC, local media organizations, MoH, Ministry of Higher Education

(MoHE), hospitals and health directorates were trained on chemical hazards, aspects of CW and decontamination methods.

As part of WHO's initiative to integrate mental health into provision of basic health services, 29 psychiatrist and mental health specialists from the MoH, MoHE, MoD, MoE, local NGOs, SARC and UN agencies were trained on diagnosis and management of mental health conditions and on referrals when specialized services are needed. To reinforce the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) capacity, 58 health professionals working in public health laboratories from Dar'a and Quneitra were trained on sample collecting techniques, reporting and diagnosis. As part of continuous efforts to promote adoption of safety measures in case of emergency, Emergency First Aid training courses were conducted for 111 MoH staff. Eighteen health professional from Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra and Rural Damascus were also trained on sample collection, and sputum smears and cultures for Tuberculosis.

In 2013, UNICEF enabled a total of 339,363 children to have medical check-ups through 62 mobile medical teams across all governorates and 24 fixed centres in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Quneitra and Rural Damascus. Their target is to reach 570,000 IDP children by the end of this year (children reached during the reporting period 7,000).

IMC, in coordination with SARC, responded to the health, mental health and psychosocial needs of displaced populations from 19 November to 10 December by providing: 3,417 consultations at two static clinics in Barzeh and Jaramana; and 1,789 consultations to IDPs in official and non-official collective shelters in Damascus via two mobile medical mobile teams and units. Together, they opened a new medical point in Sanamen, Dar'a to provide health services through curative care, specializing in internal medicine and gynecology along with provision of medicine which has provided 356 consultations. Plans are in progress to open a new primary health care clinic to serve the internally displaced population and support the overburdened health system in Tartous. The clinic space is currently under renovation and hiring of staff is underway but further progress has been constrained as IMC has not been granted approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to travel to Tartous to finalise the remaining work due to security concerns.

In response to high unemployment, increased poverty and severe socio-economic impacts of the conflict, UNHCR primary health care services scaled-up capacity to reach more people in need. Through the end of November 2013, more than 266,000 beneficiaries, in 8 primary health care settings were supported by UNHCR in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Damascus and Rural Damascus, in cooperation with its implementing partners, SARC, GoH/DoH in Al-Hassakeh, and Al Taalouf NGO. The scale-up was achieved largely in Al-Hassakeh polyclinic, where the number of beneficiaries jumped from 15,706 in October to 24,711 in November (a 57% increase) due to the vaccination campaign operating in the polyclinic, the support for longer functional hours in all clinics and the availability of additional medicines. Al-Hassakeh clinic is providing free health services in a governorate where 151,825 internally displaced people are registered and will have the chance to receive free health services.

UNDP, in partnership with a local NGO specialized in medical and rehabilitation services, is currently providing physiotherapy services and disability aids to the injured and persons with disability in Aleppo. This programme, in which services are provided both at the NGO center and in patients' homes, expects to reach 1,600 people. IOM has assisted 178 people with 170 wheelchairs and 8 disability kits since the onset of the crisis, in addition to providing the MoH with 15 types of life-saving medical equipment to enhance the capacities of emergency departments of selected hospitals to cater to the increase of patients needing emergency care. An estimated 17,283 people should benefit from this enhanced capacity.

Reproductive health vouchers cover essential hospital costs for prenatal, delivery and post-natal care

Since the start of the crisis, approximately 110,000 vouchers for reproductive health have been distributed in Syria using 23 outreach mobile teams and a network of volunteers.

UNFPA launched the distribution of reproductive health vouchers, through Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) 'one-window system', to enable women to access services, such as emergency obstetric care and delivery services, free-of-charge. In times of economic and political instability, as well as weakened infrastructure and services, there is an increased risk of maternal death, especially where critical intervention for antenatal care and safe delivery cannot be secured. The crisis in Syria has exacerbated problems of access to proper reproductive healthcare in many areas, threatening the lives of mothers and newborns, in particular when pregnancy becomes complicated.

WHO conducted a workshop in Beirut to train 28 health professionals from MoH, MoHE and local NGOs from 10 governorates on reproductive health interventions, safe abortion care and management of incomplete abortion, and the role of health professionals.

In November, the life of a 22-year old pregnant Syrian woman, Radia, from Homs changed forever when she was widowed. The reproductive health voucher system was able to change Radia's life for the better. Emotionally burdened from the death of her husband and displacement from her home, she was afraid that she would not be able to cover the cost of delivery, especially given that complications required surgery. However, she was approached by a UNFPA-supported mobile team, which provided her with information on reproductive health as well as a reproductive health voucher, which covered all of her hospital costs.*

Nutrition supplies enable prevention of malnutrition

The pre-positioning of nutrition supplies continues as part of a plan to prevent childhood under-nutrition. One thousand boxes of High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) were delivered to an NGO in Rural Damascus, enough for 5,000 children for one month. In Hasya town in rural Homs, HEBs were provided to over 4,000 children. WFP provided almost 80,000 young children with supplementary nutritional support. This included 21,790 children aged 6-59 months receiving a supplementary food ration of Plumpy'Doz® and 56,890 children in the north-eastern governorates and in Aleppo provided with Nutributter® to address micronutrient deficiencies amongst children aged 6-23 months.

On 9-10 December, UNICEF organized a 'Nutrition in Emergency' training (NIE) for 50 health workers from various governorates.

More than 900 vulnerable stranded migrants received repatriation assistance in 2013

In 2013, IOM has provided emergency evacuation and repatriation assistance to a total of 921 vulnerable stranded migrants with 21 nationalities who have been affected by the crisis in Syria, including facilitating the safe return of 37 stranded Filipino, Ethiopian and Bangladeshi migrants over the past two weeks.

Protection monitoring in shelters leads to immediate follow up and referrals

So far in 2013, UNHCR has conducted visits to more than 278 shelters in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous. Most of these shelters have been visited consistently with focus group discussions, needs assessments and individual interviews taking place.

Following improved access in recent months, a team of protection monitors have concentrated efforts on reaching the 62 official and non-official shelters identified in the Al-Kisweh area. Al-Kisweh has reportedly received 47,000 newly displaced during 2013, most of whom are women and children. During 13 shelter visits, housing some 725

IDPs, the main protection concerns noted by IDPs were related to documentation, education, health problems and child protection concerns, in particular separated children. Through UNHCR implementing partner, Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD), legal awareness sessions on personal status documentation, such as child birth registration, the issuance of ID cards and family books, were provided for 90 internally displaced persons in five IDP shelters. In addition, five separated children, living with extended family members were identified. Other concerns relating to access to education and educational materials were referred to UNICEF, while UNHCR will follow up on health problems identified which included tuberculosis and chicken pox. A more comprehensive assessment is being conducted of the needs there. UNHCR also supports unaccompanied or separated children with targeted material support through SSSD.

Winter cereals production targets 28,000 households

FAO, in cooperation with SARC and the Federation of Chambers of Agriculture, is distributing 7,150 metric tonnes of winter cereals (wheat and barley seeds) in the Governorates of Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Hama and Idlib supporting 28,000 vulnerable farming households in response to an estimated 40 percent lower than average level of wheat production. FAO is also distributing 8,900 mt of animal feed to 13,000 small-scale herder households to sustain livestock during the winter. During 2014, in close coordination with the Food and Agriculture Sector, FAO intends to promote agricultural self-reliance and improve food security in Syria through the implementation of a range of activities that will preclude further erosion of livelihoods, revive income-generating opportunities and increase the local availability of agricultural produce.

Essential legal assistance and livelihood interventions for displaced Syrians and vulnerable refugees

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) launched comprehensive activities for socio-economic restoration of disrupted livelihoods in both Damascus and Homs governorates, with the aim of increasing participant's self-sufficiency and to mitigate the risk of exploitation and abuse. These programs included skills activities for 487 individuals, in addition to advanced vocational training for 209 persons in Damascus and 175 persons in Homs. DRC also launched a rapid initiative for self-resilience by reviving 13 micro-grant projects in Damascus, in the field of sewing, hairdressing, cooking and handicrafts.

DRC reached 4,604 people at six community centres in Damascus, Dar'a, Homs and Rural Damascus, of which 90 per cent are IDPs, bringing the total number of displaced reached since the beginning of 2013 up to 14,000. In addition, DRC provided 1,137 persons with legal, social, health and psychosocial services. A further 13 benefitted from direct legal interventions in courts on family-related matters and domestic relations including divorce, custody, marriage, lack of documentation and missing relatives.

Since the beginning of 2013, UNHCR's registration team has worked closely with DRC's legal counseling unit on the renewal of expired recognition letters in community centres. This service is provided to individuals who are not able to approach UNHCR's offices due to lack of documentation, security concerns, disabilities, serious illness and unaccompanied elderly. Since December 2012, 171 displaced refugees have benefitted from this service.

Essential support and 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence

UNFPA notes a disturbing trend of growing sexual violence (GBV), in particular by radical Islamic armed groups. Due to societal norms, which condone certain forms of GBV and reinforce survivor's stigma, victims of GBV have been reluctant to report incidents. However, UNFPA's partners in the field, including Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) and SARC, have noticed that GBV survivors are increasingly recognizing that political violence and unrest is not an excuse to permit the perpetuation of gender-based violence, especially against women. UNFPA, with SFPA and SARC volunteers, through mobile and fixed clinic services, provided psychological first aid, psychosocial support

and counseling for over 3,400 women residing in the worst-affected areas in Aleppo, Damascus, Homs and Rural Damascus.

The Secretary General's campaign UNITE to end violence against women in which he proclaimed the 25th of each month 'orange day' inspired UNHCR supported female outreach volunteers in Dahit Qudssaya, Rural Damascus, to make a special orange ribbon for all female participants to wear. Activities centred on the theme "Safety in School: Teachers and students unite to make schools SGBV-free" targeting refugees and IDPs in different areas in Damascus, both inside and outside the shelters. So far more than 650 individuals have benefited from this outreach campaign which included: 7 awareness sessions for 168 participants, 3 reading sessions for 40 participants, stress release for 80 women, drawing for 250 children, picture naming for 70 children, story writing for 45 children, and the screening of relevant movies.

Emergency employment opportunities enable people to meet their basic needs

Throughout 2013, within the framework of the 'Humanitarian Livelihoods Programme', UNDP supported the restoration of livelihoods and enabled strengthened resilience of 55,000 families (approximately, 275,000 people) with a focus on most vulnerable groups, including female-headed-households and people with disabilities.

Approximately 5,000 local laborers were employed under the UNDP cash-for-work employment scheme, enabling them to earn some money towards meeting their basic needs.

The work they delivered, the removal and disposal of solid waste, improved local environmental and health conditions benefiting 700,000 IDPs and affected communities. Local volunteers

participated in hygiene

promotion campaigns which accompanied garbage collection activities, with 400 volunteers engaged in Deir-ez-Zor. Labor-intensive rehabilitation of 30 roman wells in Hama improved the availability of water for IDPs and affected communities living in target areas. With partners, including more than 15 local community-based organisations, a broad range of micro and small businesses were revived in Damascus, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous, to create 3,000 job opportunities. The businesses, prioritised by the target communities, aimed to support restoration of dysfunctional local markets, or those where shops had closed as a result of the crisis. Local committees established in target neighborhoods select the beneficiaries and monitor field activities.

The winterisation plan for UNDP adopted a livelihoods approach and targeted the revival of approximately seven small industrial facilities and workshops employing 300 workers in Aleppo, Damascus and Homs, where businesses were disrupted because of the crisis.

IOM conducted a vocational training for 39 of the most vulnerable IDPs in an official collective shelter in Damascus. The trainees have since used the training to produce bread, clothes, and blankets which will be distributed to IDPs sheltering with the local community. In Al-Hassakeh and Damascus, UNDP launched a women-tailored vocational training programme targeting more than 500 internally displaced women living in different shelters, including a number of women with disabilities who work from their homes. After the trainings, women are provided with toolkits to launch a business and local volunteers



Credit: UNDP/
Qamishli, Al-Hassakeh (Dec 2013) – Through emergency employment schemes, women are provided opportunities to generate income through the revival of micro – to small businesses in areas where the markets have been disrupted due to conflict.

deliver raw materials and collect items produced by women with disabilities. The partner NGOs who conducted the trainings agreed to ensure the employment of a minimum of 80 percent of the trainees in facilities in Al-Hassakeh, depending on the residency and/or place of displacement of the families.

Specialised assistance enhances children's access to education

Over 132,000 children received school supplies, including in Dar'a, Homs and Idlib, some of the hardest to reach areas in Syria. Supplies included school bags, early childhood development kits, "school in a carton", recreation kits, and other school materials.

In Tartous, the lack of space and school furniture is threatening the retention of current students and enrolment of new displaced children arriving to the governorate. UNICEF's continued advocacy for additional learning space to accommodate the large influx of students in the most populated areas in Tartous has led the Department of Education to identify a building in Tartous city. Once renovated, the building will be able to absorb at least 1,500 IDP students. Renovations will be complemented by provision of prefab toilet units to ensure students have access to sanitation and hygiene facilities.

UNHCR has been providing remedial classes, since 2008, to refugee children inside Syria who have had gaps in their education caused by displacement since 2008. This programme has since expanded to include displaced Syrians. Through four partners in Damascus and Rural Damascus, in 18 public school institutes and in 5 shelters, 7,188 IDP children are receiving remedial classes to help breach the gap. During the last week alone, from the Community centre in Aleppo, 10 children from the ages of six to 9 were learning about the letters of the Arabic alphabet, 9 children aged 14 and above were provided with classes on basic literacy whilst 90 children between grades 9-12 were provided with basic support in English, Arabic, math, physics and chemistry.

A joint review by UNICEF and key education partners analysed results for delivering education to children in Syria in 2013 and gaps to inform UNICEF's education strategy for 2014. While significant progress has been made to enhance learning, through provision of school supplies, the Back to Learning Campaign as well as remedial education, gaps remain in addressing rehabilitation of damaged schools, provision of furnished prefabricated classrooms, self-learning resources, textbooks and teaching materials.

More than 2.3 million Syrian refugees

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 16 December 2013
Egypt	130,720
Iraq	207,053
Jordan	567,111
Lebanon	842,482
Turkey	539,761
North Africa	17,139
Total	2,304,266

Source: UNHCR as of 16 December 2013. 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

Syria appeal 71 per cent funded

The coordinated response from within Syria, the Revised SHARP 2013, is 71 percent funded. The Inter-sector coordinated winterisation framework was launched early

November, to coordinate prioritized winterisation activities targeting 3 million people at a cost of US\$179 million.

Within the framework, UNICEF plans to reach 2,000,000 children with a package of emergency supplies for the winter and additional funds are urgently required to provide vital winter-related emergency supplies.

UNRWA provides cash, food, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, mattresses and blankets as part of its winterisation response which is currently less than half funded, with a gap of 55.5 percent.

Response plan	Original Requirements (USD)	Revised Requirements (USD)	Funding Received (USD)	% funded
Revised Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) 2013	519,627,047	1,409,812,466	995,474,497	71
Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) 5	1,044,112,554	2,981,640,112	1,986,640,749	67
Total funding to Appeals (SHARP + RRP)	1,563,739,601	4,391,542,578	2,982,115,246	68

Source: FTS tracking as of 16 December 2013

On 11 December, the UK announced it will provide winter tents, warm clothing and heaters as part of an allocation of nearly GBP 60 million (approximately \$98 million) to help hundreds of thousands of Syrians, especially children, cope with the onset of winter. The allocation for the winterisation response inside Syria is GBP 19 million (approximately \$ 31 million) for UNICEF, HCR, IOM and NGOs.

Over USD 16 million in new pledges for the ERF

Over the past week, the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) received new pledges, including \$10.1 million from Germany, \$4.7 million from Sweden and \$1.4 million from Spain, dramatically changing the funding landscape. These new pledges bring the total funds received for the ERF since it was launched to \$68 million. The \$20 million now remaining in the budget enables the ERF to respond with flexibility and speed to emerging needs and under-funded priorities within Syria and the region.

For further information, please contact:

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

Emanuela Calabrini, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, calabrini@un.org, Tel. (+1) 917 367 3210

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