

In focus: Syria

The scale of the crisis

More than two years after the start of the conflict, UN OCHA estimates that 6.8 million people are in need (an increase of 5.8 million people over the past year). Moreover, more than 93,000 people have been killed since the conflict began, with an average of 5,000 per month since July 2012.

The number of refugees is continuously increasing. UNHCR estimates that approximately one million people have fled Syria since the start of the year, and more than 1.6 million since the beginning of the conflict. The majority of refugees end up in neighbouring countries (474,669 in Jordan; 513,560 in Lebanon; 376,640 in Turkey; 158,669 in Iraq; 79,267 in Egypt). Around 51% of the refugees are children and 76% of refugees are living in urban areas outside camps. Among the 525,000 Palestinian refugees in the country, UNRWA estimates that 424,000 require humanitarian assistance, with the number increasing fast.

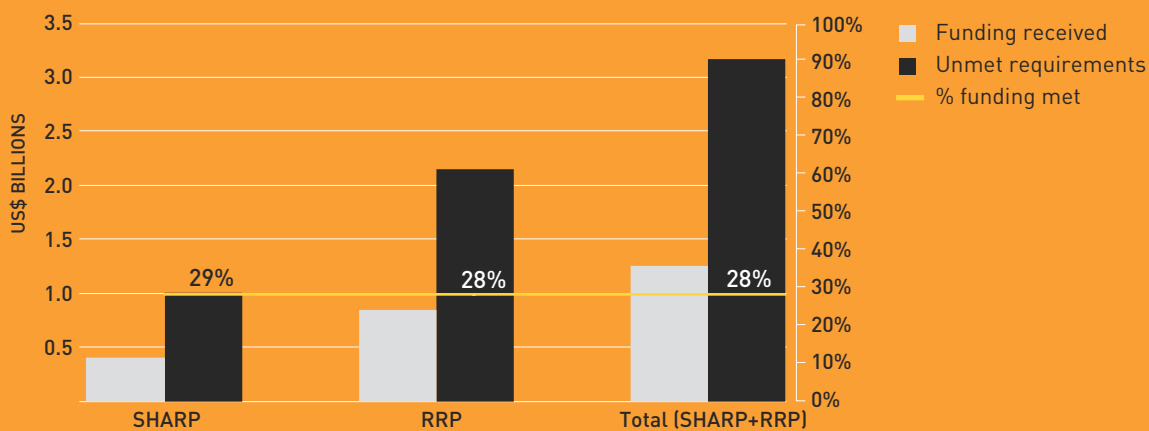
The UN estimates that by the end of 2013, over half the Syrian population will be in need of humanitarian assistance.

At the same time the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is large and fluid, as many Syrians have been displaced multiple times. Since early 2013, the number of IDPs in Syria has more than doubled, from an estimated 2 million to 4.25 million people, 46% of whom are children; UNHCR estimates that the number of children could reach 3.45 million by the end of 2013. The majority of IDPs are from Aleppo and Rural Damascus – 1,250,000 and 705,200 people respectively.

UN agencies, together with ministries, the Red Cross and international NGOs, also estimate that 4 million people in Syria are food insecure; among other needs, they also underlined the necessity to provide safe drinking water for 10 million people and sanitation for 5 million.

This increasing scale of the crisis is being addressed by a broadening humanitarian partnership, which now includes 14 UN agencies, and 14 international NGOs.

FIGURE 3.3: SHARP AND RRP FUNDING, 2013



Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data

Humanitarian assistance

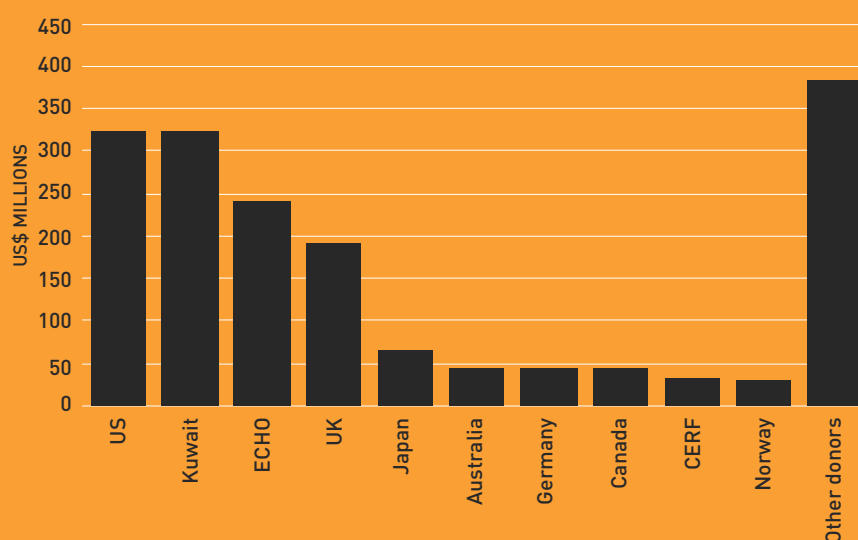
UN CAP appeals tend to involve strong collaboration with crisis-affected country governments. This is not possible with the Syrian regime, hence Syria is not included in the UN CAP. The two main funds for Syria are the Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) for people inside the country, and the Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) for refugees in the region. After a recent revision, the UN estimates that US\$1.4 billion is needed for 2013 for the SHARP and US\$3.0 billion for RRP. Including the two appeals from the governments of Lebanon and Jordan (US\$449 million and US\$380 million respectively) the total value of US\$5.2 billion represents the largest ever UN appeal. As of 5 June 2013, US\$1.2 billion had been contributed to these two appeals, with funding of the RRP and SHARP standing at 28% and 29% respectively.⁶

At their UK Summit on 18 June 2013, G8 leaders confirmed additional contributions of almost US\$1.5 billion to meet humanitarian needs in Syria and its neighbours.

At the time of writing, the United States, Kuwait and the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) had contributed the largest volumes of humanitarian assistance in 2013.

In 2013 a new Emergency Response Fund (ERF) for Syria was established. ERFs enable a wide range of donors, especially those without a strong country presence, to make a contribution and enable funding to be allocated responsively to changing needs and to support local organisations as appropriate. As of 10 June 2013, donors had contributed nearly US\$37.5 million to the ERF; the principal donor has so far this year been Kuwait, with US\$12.0 million. The ERF has allocated US\$15.5 million to projects in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

FIGURE 3.4: TOP 10 DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SYRIA CRISIS, 2013



Note: The 'other donors' category includes previous years' carry-over stocks (i.e. stocks physically in-country at 31 December) and carry-over contributions (i.e. funds committed by the donor at 31 December), not spent or used in the previous year, and now to be applied to projects in the current year. Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data