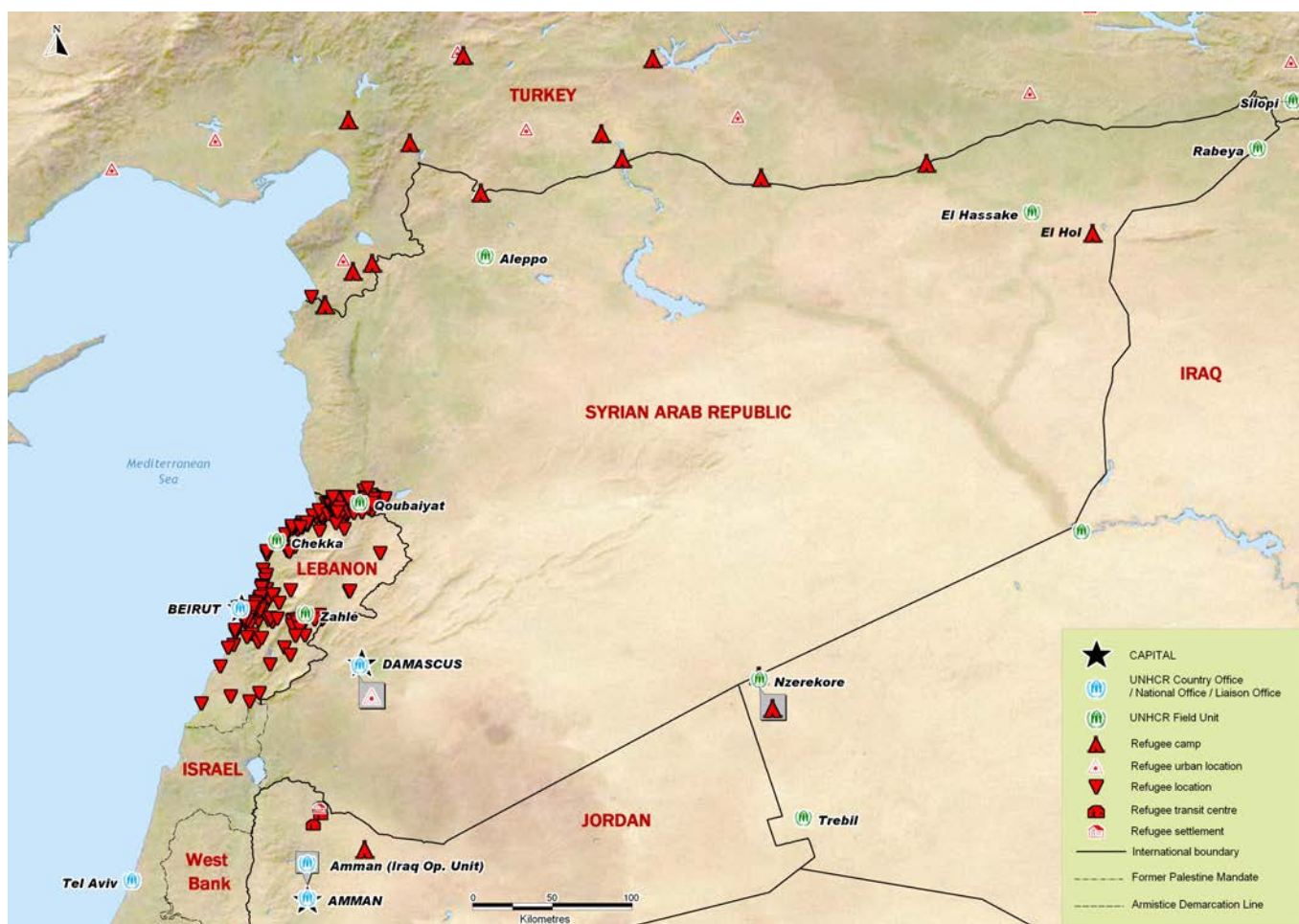


SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



Working environment

The context

A year and a half of unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) has displaced thousands of people and had a dramatic effect on one of the largest urban-refugee populations in the world. At the time of writing, the violence had reached Damascus and its

suburbs, home to the vast majority of refugees from Iraq and other countries. Faced with growing risks to their lives, many refugees and asylum-seekers have opted to return to unstable countries of origin.

As of September 2012, estimates of the number of Syrians who had fled their homes for safer areas of the country ranged from 1.5 to 2.5 million. UNHCR has developed a multi-sector emergency programme, within the framework of the UN Syria

Planning figures for the Syrian Arab Republic

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Afghanistan	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750
	Somalia	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
	Iraq ¹	480,000	51,300	310,000	39,300
	Various	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750
Asylum-seekers	Iraq	700	700	700	700
	Afghanistan	190	190	190	190
	Somalia	180	180	180	180
	Various	740	740	740	740
IDPs	Syrian Arab Rep.	2,500,000	700,000	2,500,000	1,000,000
Stateless people	Stateless	150,000	-	150,000	-
Total		3,138,710	760,010	2,968,710	1,048,010

¹ Refugee figure for Iraqis is a Government estimate.

Humanitarian Response Plan and in collaboration with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC).

Security constraints have forced UNHCR to adjust and curtail some activities. For instance, it has closed its facilities in Douma, north of Damascus. UNHCR has also reduced the number of its international staff in the country. Regular reviews of operating procedures aim to reduce the risks to staff and beneficiaries.

Despite the challenging situation, the Syrian authorities have continued to host and accommodate refugees. For its part, UNHCR, in partnership with the SARC, has maintained essential services and protection to persons of concern.

● *The needs*

The protection and assistance needs of refugees have increased as the situation in the country has deteriorated. The incidence and severity of security and protection incidents affecting refugees rose perceptibly in mid-2012, with reported killings, kidnappings, domestic violence, threats and harassment.

Surveys of refugees reveal that they are beset by rising prices, a scarcity of livelihood opportunities and ballooning rents in the

safer areas. Most refugees are entirely dependent on material assistance provided by UNHCR and other organizations. Rising levels of fear and isolation among refugees require UNHCR to reinforce its psychosocial and community services support. As a result of the drastic reduction in processing and departures in 2012, third-country resettlement remains a critical need.

Achieving its protection and assistance objectives requires that UNHCR continues its engagement and joint activities with national counterparts and other partners in the refugee programme. In 2013, UNHCR will need an adequate number of staff, sufficient access to refugees and affected Syrians, and the necessary funding to respond to shifting circumstances and humanitarian priorities.

| **Strategy and activities** |

UNHCR's strategy is to maintain contact with the various refugee groups through multiple outreach channels, adapting activities to meet evolving needs while minimizing risk to beneficiaries and staff. It also aims to develop partnerships that enhance national capacity.

Main objectives and targets for 2013

Favourable protection environment

- A national legal framework on asylum is developed.
 - ☞ *Advocacy and capacity-building help to build a national legal framework on asylum.*

Security from violence and exploitation

- The risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is reduced and the quality of the response to it is improved.
 - ☞ *Some 700 individuals benefit from counselling services.*
 - ☞ *At least 300 SGBV survivors receive legal assistance.*
- The protection of children is strengthened.
 - ☞ *Implementing partners are assisted to enhance their capacity to prevent and respond to SGBV affecting children, as well as to provide direct assistance and multi-sectoral responses in complex cases.*

Fair protection processes and documentation

- The quality of registration and profiling is improved or maintained.
 - ☞ *Registration and renewal activities are undertaken in compliance with guidelines.*

Basic needs and essential services

- Services for SGBV with specific needs are strengthened.
 - ☞ *Some 11,000 refugee and asylum-seeker families receive cash assistance on a monthly basis.*
 - ☞ *Some 20,000 Syrian affected families are assisted with one-time cash grants.*
- The population of concern has adequate quantities of basic and domestic items.

- ☞ *Approximately 50,000 affected Syrian families receive basic non-food items (NFIs).*
- Food security is improved.
 - ☞ *Some 71,500 refugees are provided with cash as food assistance.*
- The health of the population improves or remains stable.
 - ☞ *Some 100,000 refugees benefit from primary health care.*
- The population has optimal access to education
 - ☞ *Remedial classes benefit 3,000 refugee and Syrian children who dropped out of school, while special classes target up to 1,000 refugee children with learning and psychosocial difficulties.*

Community empowerment and self-reliance

- Community mobilization is strengthened and expanded.
 - ☞ *Services are decentralized to promote local responses tailored to community needs through networks bringing together refugee outreach volunteers and local partners.*
- Self-reliance and livelihoods opportunities are improved.
 - ☞ *Various types of vocational training and the fostering of partnerships with development agencies and new national institutions increase opportunities for self-reliance among people of concern.*

Durable solutions

- The potential for resettlement is realized.
 - ☞ *Some 5,100 individuals are submitted for resettlement and the departure of 3,500 individuals is facilitated.*
- The potential for voluntary return is realized.
 - ☞ *Some 3,000 Iraqi and non-Iraqi refugees are assisted to return in safety and dignity.*

UNHCR's presence in 2013

□ Number of offices	3
□ Total staff	327
International	22
National	138
UNVs	1
Others	176



A Syrian IDP mother and her child wait at the Nabk distribution centre.

UNHCR / B. DIAB

Key activities include timely protection work, such as counselling and detention interventions, preventing and responding to SGBV and providing legal services, food, shelter, health care and education. The refugee outreach system will be maintained, and services will be delivered as close as possible to refugee-hosting areas.

While responding to the urgent emergency-response needs thrown up in Syria, UNHCR will continue to implement durable solutions, notably resettlement, as well as help to draft refugee legislation in order to pursue long-term solutions to refugee problems.

The strategy to respond to the needs of Syrians affected by the crisis will be implemented within the context of the UN humanitarian plan. It will aim to build on the relationship with the SARC and adapt structures and staffing to deliver material aid and protection most effectively. Activities have centred on the identification of affected areas, registration of displaced families and delivery of relief

items, including blankets, mattresses and hygiene kits.

UNHCR has supported individual and communal shelter projects through cash assistance and rehabilitation work, respectively. It provides health care to Syrians through SARC clinics and has established community services projects among affected groups. Coordination through inter-agency sector groups helps ensure coherence and avoid duplication of effort.

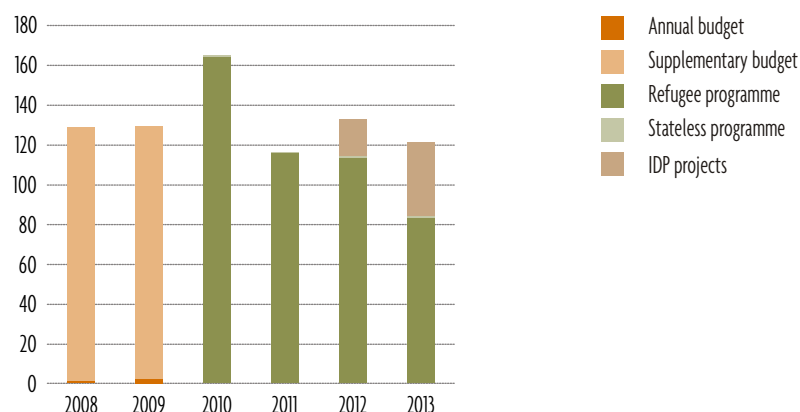
Providing documentation and protection to asylum-seekers, along with emergency assistance to the most vulnerable cases, underpins UNHCR's strategy for this group. UNHCR will continue to support the authorities' efforts to prevent and reduce statelessness.

● Constraints

The main challenge for UNHCR in Syria is to assist people of concern in very insecure conditions. Since mid-2012, UNHCR has been working with the UN Country Team

UNHCR's budget in the Syrian Arab Republic 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



and the authorities to resolve practical and administrative obstacles in order to expand its operational space. International sanctions, combined with the impact of the conflict on industrial output, have led to shortages of medicines and domestic items. The supply disruptions have obliged UNHCR to resort increasingly to international procurement.

Organization and implementation

● Coordination

UNHCR counts on its constructive relationships with the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and the SARC to facilitate policy and operational coordination. Other important counterparts are the Ministries of Labour, Education, Higher Education, Health, Local Administration, and Social Affairs, as well as international NGOs and local associations. UNHCR's devolution of responsibilities to national partners engaged with refugees has been affected by the unrest, as many national partners now place less emphasis on longer-term goals. Similarly, most of the embassies and donor representatives who had been working closely with UNHCR, including on resettlement, have suspended activities in Syria.

The UN response to the unrest within the country is set out in the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan. The plan established a series of inter-agency sectoral working groups, with UNHCR leading the community-services and NFIs/shelter groups.

The signing of the negotiated 2012-2016 UN Development Assistance Framework for the Syrian Arab Republic has been put on hold, extending the duration of the current UNDAF.

Finally, UNHCR Syria continues to mobilize humanitarian stakeholders in the region and to liaise with offices in neighbouring countries on solutions for all groups of concern.

Financial information

Although the overall number of refugees is declining, their needs have increased due to new and exacerbated vulnerabilities. Syrian families affected by the crisis represent a new group of concern to UNHCR, resulting in the 2013 budget being 30 per cent higher than that for 2012.

The 2013 budget for the Syrian Arab Republic will be further revised in order to cover additional needs related to the Syria crisis which could not be assessed at the time this budget was approved.

Consequences of a funding shortfall

- Some 5,000 refugee and asylum-seeker families would not receive financial assistance.
- 20,000 Syrian families would not receive NFIs.
- Some 28,000 refugees would not receive cash for food assistance.
- 40,000 refugees would not have access to primary health care.

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies

Al Bassel Centre for Heart Diseases
General Assembly of Damascus Hospital
Ministry of Higher Education
Office of the Governor of El Hassakeh

NGOs

Action contre la faim Spain
Al-Nada Development
Danish Refugee Council
Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement
Première Urgence
Syrian Arab Red Crescent
Syrian Society for Social Development
Syrian Women's Association

Operational partners

Government agencies

Ministry of Education
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Local Administration
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor

NGOs

Help
International Medical Corps

Others

Danish Red Cross
ICRC
IFRC
IOM
UNDP
UNFPA
UNICEF
UNOPS
UNRWA
UNV
WHO

2013 UNHCR's budget in the Syrian Arab Republic (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment				
Law and policy	338,311	214,849	0	553,161
Administrative institutions and practice	349,908	0	0	349,908
Access to legal assistance and remedies	287,754	0	0	287,754
Access to territory and non-refoulement	31,971	0	0	31,971
Public attitude towards persons of concern	384,180	0	0	384,180
Subtotal	1,392,125	214,849	0	1,606,974
Fair protection processes and documentation				
Reception conditions improved	185,692	0	0	185,692
Identification of statelessness	0	137,876	0	137,876
Registration and profiling	1,779,203	0	0	1,779,203
Refugee status determination	677,607	0	0	677,607
Civil registration and civil status documentation	136,112	0	0	136,112
Subtotal	2,778,614	137,876	0	2,916,491
Security from violence and exploitation				
Prevention and response to SGBV	1,573,549	0	743,024	2,316,574
Freedom of movement and reduction of detention risks	255,601	0	0	255,601
Protection of children	725,503	0	543,024	1,268,528
Subtotal	2,554,653	0	1,286,049	3,840,702
Basic needs and essential services				
Health	10,013,348	0	9,433,271	19,446,619
Food security	19,320,274	0	0	19,320,274
Water	42,265	0	0	42,265
Sanitation and hygiene	535,736	0	0	535,736
Shelter and infrastructure	501,174	0	0	501,174
Access to energy	0	0	3,071,512	3,071,512
Basic domestic items	57,265	0	5,807,862	5,865,127
Services for people with specific needs	28,268,321	0	15,092,952	43,361,273
Education	6,446,457	0	0	6,446,457
Subtotal	65,184,840	0	33,405,597	98,590,437
Community empowerment and self-reliance				
Community mobilization	1,439,562	0	0	1,439,562
Co-existence with local communities	57,908	0	0	57,908
Self-reliance and livelihoods	4,287,296	0	0	4,287,296
Subtotal	5,784,766	0	0	5,784,766
Durable solutions				
Voluntary return	1,162,571	0	0	1,162,571
Resettlement	699,231	0	0	699,231
Reduction of statelessness	0	355,602	0	355,602
Subtotal	1,861,802	355,602	0	2,217,404
Leadership, coordination and partnerships				
Coordination and partnerships	74,531	0	0	74,531
Donor relations and resource mobilization	463,384	0	0	463,384
Subtotal	537,915	0	0	537,915
Logistics and operations support				
Logistics and supply	1,698,558	0	2,521,785	4,220,344
Operations management, coordination and support	2,011,215	0	0	2,011,215
Subtotal	3,709,774	0	2,521,785	6,231,559
Total	83,804,488	708,328	37,213,431	121,726,246
2012 Revised budget (as of 30 June 2012)	114,043,980	495,299	18,463,219	133,002,498