

## **FACT SHEET: TIMELINE AND FIGURES**

The Syria crisis began on March 15, 2011 as a peaceful protest against the government of the Syrian Arab Republic. The conflict began to escalate in mid-2012 and in 2013 the number of people fleeing to neighbouring countries rose markedly. UNHCR teams have been helping the displaced within Syria and in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt.

### **Chronology of Syria's Displacement Crisis**

- Mar 2011** Syrian crisis begins with peaceful protests that spread nationwide in April.
- May 2011** First camps for refugees open in Turkey.
- Mar 2012** UNHCR appoints a Regional Refugee coordinator for Syrian Refugees.
- July 2012** Za'atri Refugee Camp opens in Jordan.
- Sept 2012** UNHCR scales up relief operations inside Syria and across the region. UNHCR chief, António Guterres and Special Envoy Angelina Jolie visit refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.
- Oct 2012** UNHCR urges European Union states to uphold their asylum principles by ensuring access to their territory, access to asylum procedures and harmonizing their approaches in the review and granting of asylum claims.
- Nov 2012** UNHCR aid reaches 300,000 displaced people across Syria.
- Dec 2012** Neighbouring countries host half a million refugees.
- UNHCR and partners launch a US\$1 billion Regional Response Plan for Syrian refugees in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt.
- Mar 2013** The number of Syrian refugees reaches 1 million, outpacing projections.
- UNHCR calls for safe passage of humanitarian convoys inside Syria as needs grow amid intensified civil conflict.
- Apr 2013** António Guterres warns the UN Security Council that almost half of Syria's 20.8 million population could be in need of humanitarian help by the end of 2013.
- Jun 2013** UN humanitarian agencies, on behalf of dozens of aid organizations, announce the biggest aid appeal in history, totalling some US\$4.4 billion. This includes almost \$3bn for humanitarian relief in the region surrounding Syria (the Regional Response Plan), \$1.4 bn for the aid response inside Syria (the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan). On top of this, US\$830 million is requested for the governments of Jordan and Lebanon.

- July 2013**      On the first anniversary of opening, Za'atri camp hosts 120,000 refugees.
  - Aug 2013**      The number of Syrian refugee children passes 1 million.
  - Aug 2013**      Spike in arrivals of Syrian Kurd refugees in northern Iraq, including almost 50,000 in a two-week period.
  - Sept 2013**      The number of Syrian refugees passes the 2 million mark, compared to 230,000 one year earlier. The number of internally displaced stands at 4.25 million.
- UNHCR and government ministers from Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq meet in Geneva and pledge joint action to seek greater international help for host countries struggling to cope with the Syrian refugee crisis.
- Growing numbers of Syrians seek to reach Europe by sea.
- Germany accepts first group of Syrian refugees for temporary relocation.

### The Rising Curve of Displacement

## Syrian refugees

