Strategic objectives

1. **PROTECTION**
   Promote protection of and access to affected people in accordance with International law, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL).

2. **LIFE SAVING ASSISTANCE**
   Provide life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance to people in need, prioritizing the most vulnerable.

3. **RESILIENCE**
   Strengthen resilience, livelihoods and early recovery through communities and institutions.

4. **HARMONIZED COORDINATION**
   Strengthen harmonized coordination modalities through enhanced joint planning, information management, communication and regular monitoring.

5. **ENHANCED RESPONSE CAPACITY**
   Enhance the response capacity of all humanitarian actors assisting people in need in Syria, particularly national partners and communities.

Responding collectively

In complementarity to the response provided by the Government of Syria, humanitarian actors responding inside Syria aim to assist up to 12.2 million people. Despite the scale-up of the response, critical gaps remain and sustaining humanitarian response will be necessary throughout 2015.

Humanitarian actors operating in Syria have embarked on the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach, where the 2015 Syria Strategic Response Plan (SRP) provides an overarching framework for humanitarian response inside Syria. Bringing together humanitarian actors working in Syria and neighboring countries for the first time under a single strategic framework, the plan aims to increase the effectiveness of the response by improving the identification of needs and gaps inside Syria and strengthening the harmonization of response activities across the different hubs, thus reducing overlap and duplication of efforts and increasing outreach.

The 2015 Syria response plan covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015, aiming to address large-scale humanitarian needs throughout all 14 governorates, using the most direct and effective routes to deliver assistance. The strategy has been developed in consultation with the Government of Syria.

Produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in collaboration with humanitarian actors.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Situational overview

Humanitarian needs in Syria have increased twelve fold since the beginning of the crisis, with 12.2 million in need of humanitarian assistance, including 7.6 million internally displaced people and more than 5.6 million children in need of assistance. An estimated 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in hard to reach areas and locations.

9.8 million people are considered food insecure, including 6.8 million in high priority districts. Meanwhile, 11.6 million people are in urgent need of access to clean water and sanitation. Water availability has decreased to less than 50 percent of its pre-crisis levels. More than half of Syria’s hospitals have been destroyed or badly damaged and, today, it is estimated that only 43 percent of hospitals are fully functional. An estimated 1,480 women give birth in dire conditions everyday due to the weakening of the healthcare system and outbreaks of communicable and vaccine-preventable diseases (including polio and measles) has increased.

Roughly a quarter of schools have been damaged, destroyed or used as collective shelters and for other purposes than education. An estimated 1.2 million houses have been damaged or destroyed and more than 1.6 million people are in need of shelter. A series of Rapid Nutrition Assessments conducted in 13 governorates between March and July 2014 indicate a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 7.2% and a Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rate of 2.3%. Population groups considered most vulnerable to malnutrition include IDPs, children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. Similarly, due to multiple displacements, 9.9 million are in need of life saving and essential NFIs. Palestine refugees are particularly affected, with 64 per cent of registered Palestine refugees displaced, 280,000 internally and a further 80,000 abroad.

A number of drivers, including the crisis, unilateral economic and financial measures imposed on Syria, the deepening economic decline, the drought and reduced availability of basic services have contributed to the exacerbation of the humanitarian situation over the past year. Humanitarian access to people in need remains constrained by the closure of many key border points, violence, bureaucratic procedures, safety and security concerns, the presence and activities, of terrorist groups.

A political solution to the crisis in Syria needs to be found. Until then, displacement as well as humanitarian and protection needs of civilians may worsen in 2015. Humanitarian action will take place in a context of increased crisis and a more complex and demanding operational environment.

While humanitarian needs have increased by about 31 percent since the same period last year, humanitarian actors under this plan are requesting for US$ 2.9 Billion to effectively respond to the needs of 12.2 million people across the country. The net increase in funding requirements represents a 5 per cent increase from SHARP 2014 and the Syrian Humanitarian Response from Turkey, totalling $2.9 billion. The fact that the increase in the overall appeal requirement is less than the increase in needs is testimony to the greater efficiencies brought about through the Whole of Syria approach.
To achieve the five strategic objectives, humanitarian organisations require $2,893,419,593 in 2015 for humanitarian response inside Syria to assist up to 12.2 million people in need. This requirement reflects resources needed to reach shared goals taking into account the collective implementation and absorption capacity of partners in a Whole of Syria approach.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE STRATEGIC RESPONSE PLAN

To see the country’s humanitarian needs overview and strategic response plan, and donate directly to these country plans, view the specific country pages on the OCHA website. Each country plan has links to online information on participating organizations and persons to contact concerning donations.

www.humanitarianresponse.info/appeals

DONATING THROUGH THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF)

CERF provides rapid initial funding for life-saving actions at the onset of emergencies and for poorly funded, essential humanitarian operations in protracted crises. The OCHA-managed CERF receives contributions from various donors – mainly governments, but also private companies, foundations, charities and individuals – which are combined into a single fund. This is used for crises anywhere in the world. Find out more about the CERF and how to donate by visiting the CERF website: www.unocha.org/cerf/our-donors/how-donate

DONATING THROUGH THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNDS (ERF)

ERFs are smaller multi-donor pooled funds that provide NGOs and UN agencies with rapid and flexible in-country funding to address critical gaps in needs during an emergency. ERFs operate in Afghanistan*, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia*, Kenya*, Myanmar, Pakistan, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Yemen and Zimbabwe*.

Further information on ERFs can be found here: http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/humanitarian-financing/emergency-response-funds-erf

IN-KIND RELIEF AID

The United Nations urges donors to make cash rather than in-kind donations, for maximum speed and flexibility, and to ensure the aid materials that are most needed are the ones delivered. If you can make only in-kind contributions in response to disasters and emergencies, please contact: logik@un.org.

REGISTERING AND RECOGNIZING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. Its aim is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity to show the total amount funding and resource gaps in humanitarian appeals. Please report your contributions to FTS, either by email to fts@un.org or through the on-line contribution report form at http://fts.unocha.org.
WHAT IF
... WE FAIL TO RESPOND?

If humanitarians are not able to raise funds and deliver aid for the Syria crisis...

- 6.2 million people will not be provided with a monthly family food ration.
- 1 million people will not be supported with trauma care and 2.9 million children will not receive the necessary vaccinations.
- 7.5 million people will not be able to meet their basic Non-food items needs.
- 3.5 million children and adolescents will not have access to formal and non-formal education opportunities.
- 8.1 million people will not benefit from access to improved WASH facilities and services.
- 460,000 Palestine refugees will not be able to receive multi-sectoral assistance.
- 850,000 girls and boys, including children with special needs and caregivers will not benefit from psychosocial support initiatives.
- 300,000 IDPs living in IDPs sites and camps will not be provided with lifesaving assistance.
- 1.5 million children will not be able to receive multiple micronutrient supplements for 6 months.