

Primary
Data

Secondary
Data

Expe-
rience

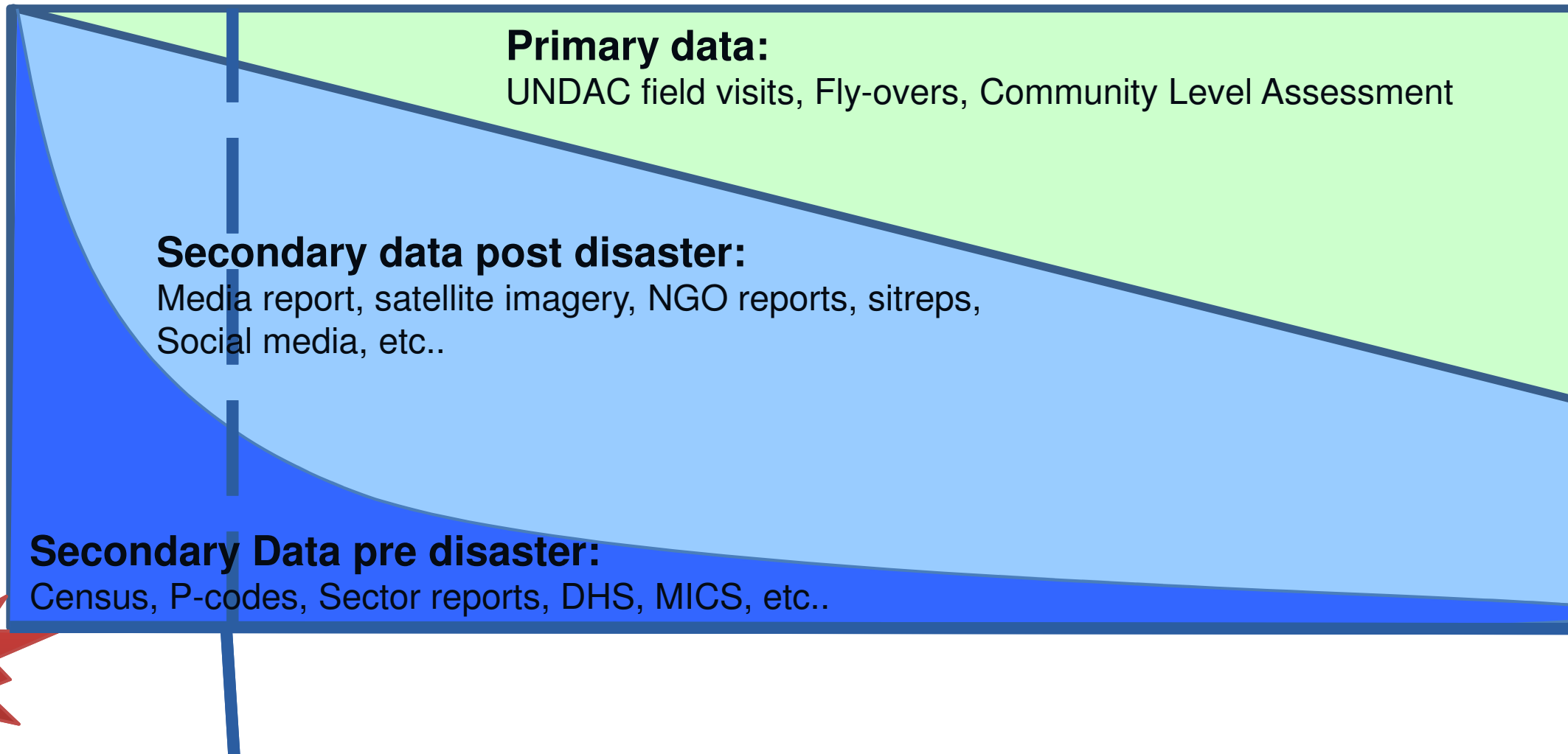
DATA COLLATION
Reservoir/Docking Station

ANALYSIS

- Situation analysis
- Assumptions
- Scenario's
- Information Gaps

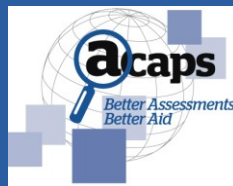
DISSEMINATION

Types of information over time



Secondary Data Review Syrian Arab Republic 14.12.11 – 20.02.12

ECB || Emergency Capacity
Building Project



Date of publication: 20.02.2012
Prepared by: ACAPS, Geneva
Nature of the crisis: Internal unrest

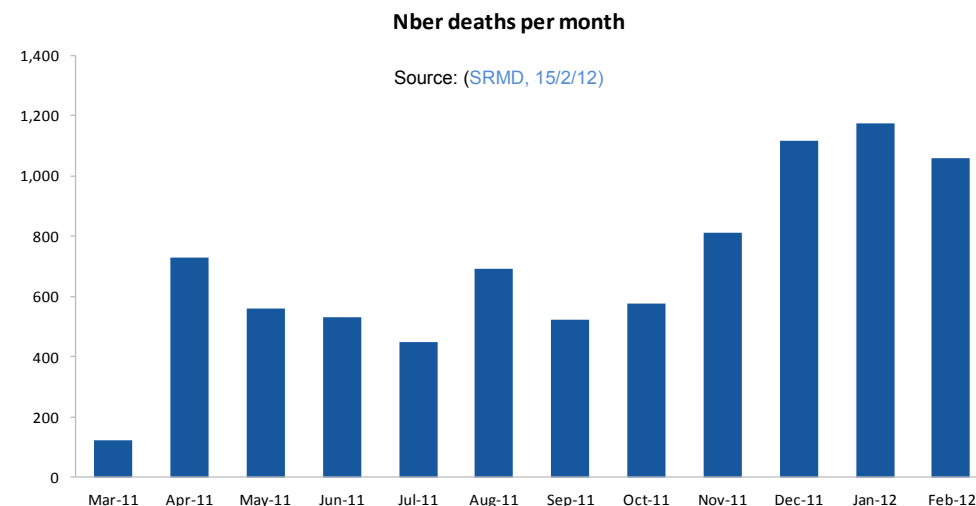
NOTE: This document is an update of the SDR published on the December 13, 2011. The updated information is represented with red full dots throughout the document.

About this document: This document is a desk study in which estimates of scale, severity and likely impact of a natural or man-induced disaster are determined. It aims to inform decision making for preparedness and emergency response. Information has been gathered through a review of secondary data, field studies on-going during the emergency, contact with individuals working in the field, use of lessons learned and experience from past similar crises or disasters. The SDR is intended to complement and integrate assessment-related information from other agencies and feedback is welcome on how this document can be improved (Operations@acaps.org). ECB and ACAPS thank agencies and NGOs who have shared the data and analysis which made this report possible. **Disclaimer:** Information provided is provisional as it has not been possible to independently verify field reports. As this report covers highly dynamic subject, utility of the information may decrease with time. Please use the most recent update. **References:** Please note that each element between parenthesis has a hyperlink to the web source.

Disaster update (December 13 – February 20)

- Throughout January and into February violence has increased in Syria. Human rights groups say that Assad's forces have killed at least 500 people in Homs between February 4 and 13 (AFP, 13/2/12). Homs has become the major center of both resistance and reprisal, fueled in part by increasingly bold army defectors who want to bring down President Bashar Assad's autocratic regime by force (CBS, 11/2/12). The intensifying assault by Government forces upon Homs and other urban locations is escalating the risk of a humanitarian crisis in Syria. Thousands of Syrians reportedly no longer have safe access to food, water and medical care (UN, 10/2/12). Witnesses have confirmed that the humanitarian situation in Homs is dire. Residents are not able to leave the areas under attack, and experience acute deficit of food and medical supplies (HRW, 9/2/12).
- According to the OCHA, almost three million people have been affected by the civil unrest in Syria, since the start of the uprising in March 2011. This includes thousands who have fled the country, and many more who have sought refuge with family and friends away from their homes. Food and fuel prices have risen and the economy is in decline (IRIN, 22/12/11).
- On December 26, the Arab League sent a monitoring mission consisting of 165 members to Syria. The mission was suspended on January 28, citing an upsurge of violence (VOA, 28/1/12).
- On February 4, the UN Security Council voted on draft resolution S/2012/77, which backed an Arab League plan of January 22 to resolve the crisis in Syria. The draft resolution was vetoed by China and Russia and therefore not adopted (UN, 4/2/12).

- President Assad has called a constitutional referendum for February 26 which would effectively end nearly 50 years of single party rule (Aljazeera, 16/2/12).
- On February 16, the UN General Assembly voted in favor of a nonbinding resolution condemning human rights violations in Syria and calling for an end to the violence (UN, 16/2/12).
- As of February 15 2012, 8,334 people have been reported killed since the start of the uprising in March 2011. As depicted in the bar chart below, the number of deaths per month have increased as the violence has progressed, with 1,118 deaths reported in December 2011 and 1,174 deaths reported in January 2012. Furthermore, during the **first two weeks of February** (February 1-15), 1,058 deaths have been reported (SRMD, 15/2/12).



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Key Priorities

Most affected areas

- Urban centres, particularly the cities of Homs, Hama and Damascus, where violence has intensified through the end of January beginning of February.

Most affected groups

- The entire population of Syria is potentially at risk, as areas are becoming impacted by the on-going fighting, violence, killing and internal displacement in the country, particularly in the urban areas.
- Injured protestors, those needing medical care, and medical service providers.
 - Detainees and those subject to human rights violations.
 - Persons displaced internally by the violence.
 - Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers seeking safety across international borders.
 - Children.
 - Iraqi and other refugees dependent on humanitarian assistance.

Priority Interventions

- Ensure humanitarian access to reach those in greatest need (especially medical and access to essential services and provisions).
- Impartial and safe access to medical care, ensure medical care for injured protestors and other Syrians fleeing across the borders to neighboring countries.
 - Mitigation of protection risks for violence affected people, including children, older persons, persons with disabilities and minority populations.
- Supply of food and NFIs to urban residents in areas affected by violence and to IDPs displaced by the violence.
- Ensure shelter for affected populations, in particular IDPs, in the current cold season.
- Safeguarding of hospitals to ensure that the injured, and the medical personnel treating them, are safe from attacks.
- Support agencies and local medical staff who have access within Syria.

Information gaps and needs

- **Accurate and current numbers of injured, missing, dead and displaced are not available**, and contradicting official numbers reported within Syria.
 - Access has prevented humanitarian stakeholders from assessing needs in areas of concern. This lack of accurate information, especially about most vulnerable groups such as children, older persons, and the sick and disabled and female-headed households, is an issue across the Middle East ([HPN 7/11](#)).
 - Information is lacking on the effects of the uprising on pre-existing shelter challenges experienced by Iraqi and Palestinian refugees, and persons displaced through drought.

- Data on the location, living conditions and priority needs of persons displaced as a result of the current unrest is lacking. It has been dangerous to assess the situations of people displaced as a result of Government actions ([IDMC 11/11](#)).
- There is lack of information regarding the status of Syrian refugees in Turkey ([TRC 14/11](#)).

On going Assessments

- The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and its Syrian partner, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch And All The East (GOPA) currently have teams of staff visiting IDPs resettled in Damascus to conduct a rapid needs assessment ([ACT Alliance, 10/2/12](#)).
- A high-level Red Crescent team was in Jordan in the second week of February to assess the actual conditions and requirements of Syrian refugees on the ground so as to launch relief operations ([WAM, 12/2/12](#)).

Operational Constraints

Humanitarian Access

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are the only aid agencies providing support to affected persons in Homs. The two agencies have distributed food supplies and medical kits to the local population ([IRIN, 22/12/11](#)).
- The escalating violence has made it impossible for humanitarian organizations to deliver the food assistance scheduled for 15,000 vulnerable people in Homs in January and February. There are extremely worrying reports of people being denied access to medical care, and of medical practitioners being harassed ([UN, 10/2/12](#)). According to ICRC, in the last few days, either before doing medical missions or while trying to do them, they have been advised at army checkpoints not to proceed because the situation does not allow for this to happen ([Reuters, 10/2/12](#)).
- To deliver food, medicine and other urgently needed supplies requires cooperative partners on the ground in Syria. At present, the Syrian opposition to Assad is diffuse, disorganised, and often not in control of defined areas ([Fox, 11/2/12](#)).

Threats to and attacks on members of the humanitarian community.

- On January 25, the Secretary General of the SARC, Dr Abd-al-Razzaq Jbeiro, was killed while traveling in a vehicle clearly marked with the Red Crescent emblem following meetings at the SARC headquarters in Damascus ([SARC, 25/01](#)).
- Humanitarian workers in Syria are facing increasing threats to their lives ([UN, 10/2/12](#)).

Restrictions related to medical treatment

- Medical physicians are required by law to immediately notify security services of the arrival of a wounded person at a health facility, regardless of the severity of injuries. This leads to the patient's arrest and causes challenges to the already limited operational space (IFRC 24/10).
- Wounded patients and doctors in Syria are reported pursued, and risk torture and arrest at the hands of the security services (MSF, 8/2/12).
- Sick and wounded people, and those who treat them, are facing difficulties in both accessing and providing medical care (UN radio, 11/2/12).
- A deterioration of the situation in the past weeks, characterized by increased violence is affecting ICSC's ability to meet the needs of the wounded, to carry out first aid and medical evacuations (Reuters, 10/2/12).
- Medical supplies are running out. At least three field hospitals in Homs have been hit by attacks. There are challenges with managing the dead, including storage and burial, and wounded are bleeding to death as it is too dangerous for rescuers to bring them to safety (Reuters, 9/2/12).
- Access to blood supplies is minimal, with the sole blood supplier controlled by the Ministry of Defence (MSF, 8/2/12).

General operational constraints

- Humanitarian agencies face challenges linked to resource availability, donors' awareness of the needs and vulnerabilities of urban IDPs and refugees, as well as in keeping the supply chain effective with limited funds (CAP MYR 2011).
- Homs has emerged as the most restrictive governorate since anti-Government protests erupted in mid-March, with communication cut off and checkpoints restricting movement in and out of neighborhoods (War/Peace 15/11, ICG 24/11).
- During military operations, water, electricity and communications are known to be cut-off for days at a time disrupting communication channels and operations in health centers (IRIN 26/09).

Lessons Learned

Civil Unrest

- Syria's Government has historically dealt harshly with domestic opposition. Tens of thousands were reported killed during the crackdown on the 1982 uprising of the Muslim Brotherhood in Hama (BBC 28/11).
- In Libya, attempts to eradicate the last pockets of loyalists to the regime triggered civilian massacres (ICG 2011). After a period of chaos, it has proven difficult for new authorities to control the different factions. The new Government in Libya still lacks effective control over all armed groups (RI 8/11).
- Based on MSF experience in Libya and Bahrain, and on stories from patients and doctors in Syria, the likely pattern is that the wounded cannot be treated in the

public hospitals managed by Government authorities where they may be especially vulnerable (MSF, 7/2/12).

- Analysts from the Washington Institute, advise that humanitarian actors should draw upon experiences from Bosnia war in the 1990s. Firstly, to avoid "designating safe havens without a credible military structure to protect them." Secondly, to not "send in peacekeepers without a strong mandate for them to shoot back." Thirdly, to "use airpower to protect the enclaves and maintain humanitarian corridors." (Reuters, 19/2/12).

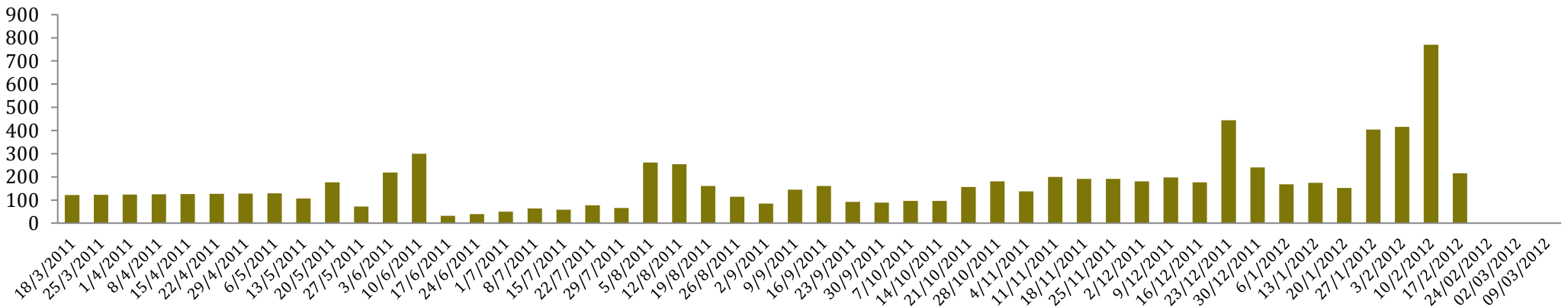
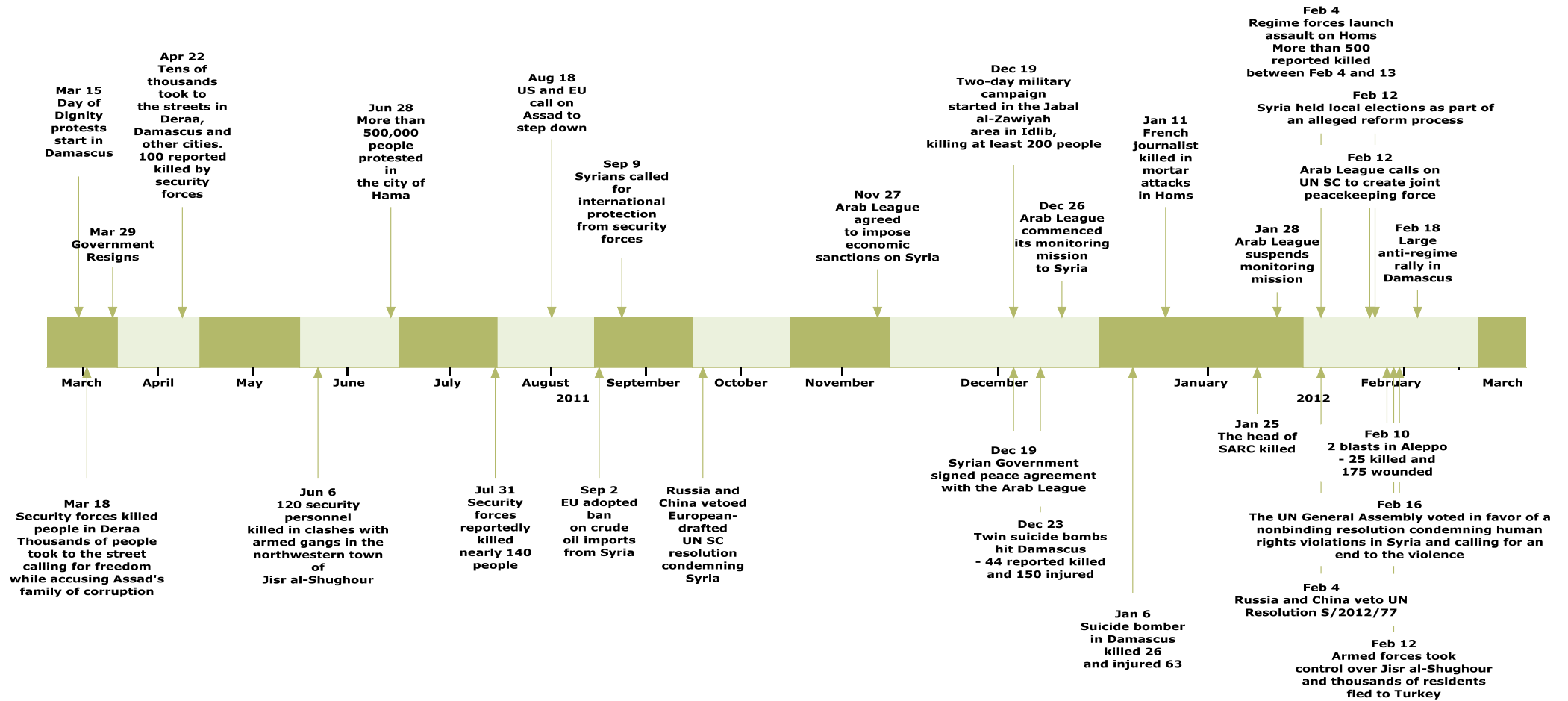
General

- Prolonged civil unrest causes market supply failure, inaccessibility or unavailability of basic subsistence means, decreased staple food and animal product availability, reduced food access from purchase due to increased market food prices, loss of income, decreased sales of own production. This leads to decreased amounts of consumed food and a lower quality of diet (ACAPS 2011).
- Direct consequences of conflict on the health of the population are generally intentional injuries by combatants. Indirect consequences are infectious and non-infectious diseases, unintentional injuries and PTSD (HPN 2007).
- During conflict, access to health facilities and supplies can be limited, and medical staff is often harassed by Government officials if they treat protesters (Koser 11/2011).
- In Libya, the good pre-crisis health care situation, the resilience of the sector and the fact that most IDPs were integrated in host families kept the non-conflict related death toll low (IMC 2011). These factors are also present in Syria.

Refugees and IDPs

- During civil unrest, it is important that food aid to refugees and others continues to avoid putting beneficiaries at increased risk (WFP 2011).
- When violence escalated in Libya, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants returned or fled to third countries. However, these movements are not well documented. Since the unrest intensified, re-settlement programmes for refugees in Syria have slowed down considerably (UN 2011, Koser 11/2011).
- Humanitarian actors foresee that the economic deterioration induced by the current instability in Syria will represent a major challenge for refugee families both financially and socially (UN 2011).
- So far, IDPs are mainly staying with host families, but global evidence indicates that even short periods of displacement are stretching already limited resources of the host families (IDMC 2011).

Syria crisis timeline of events and death counts March 2011 – February 2012

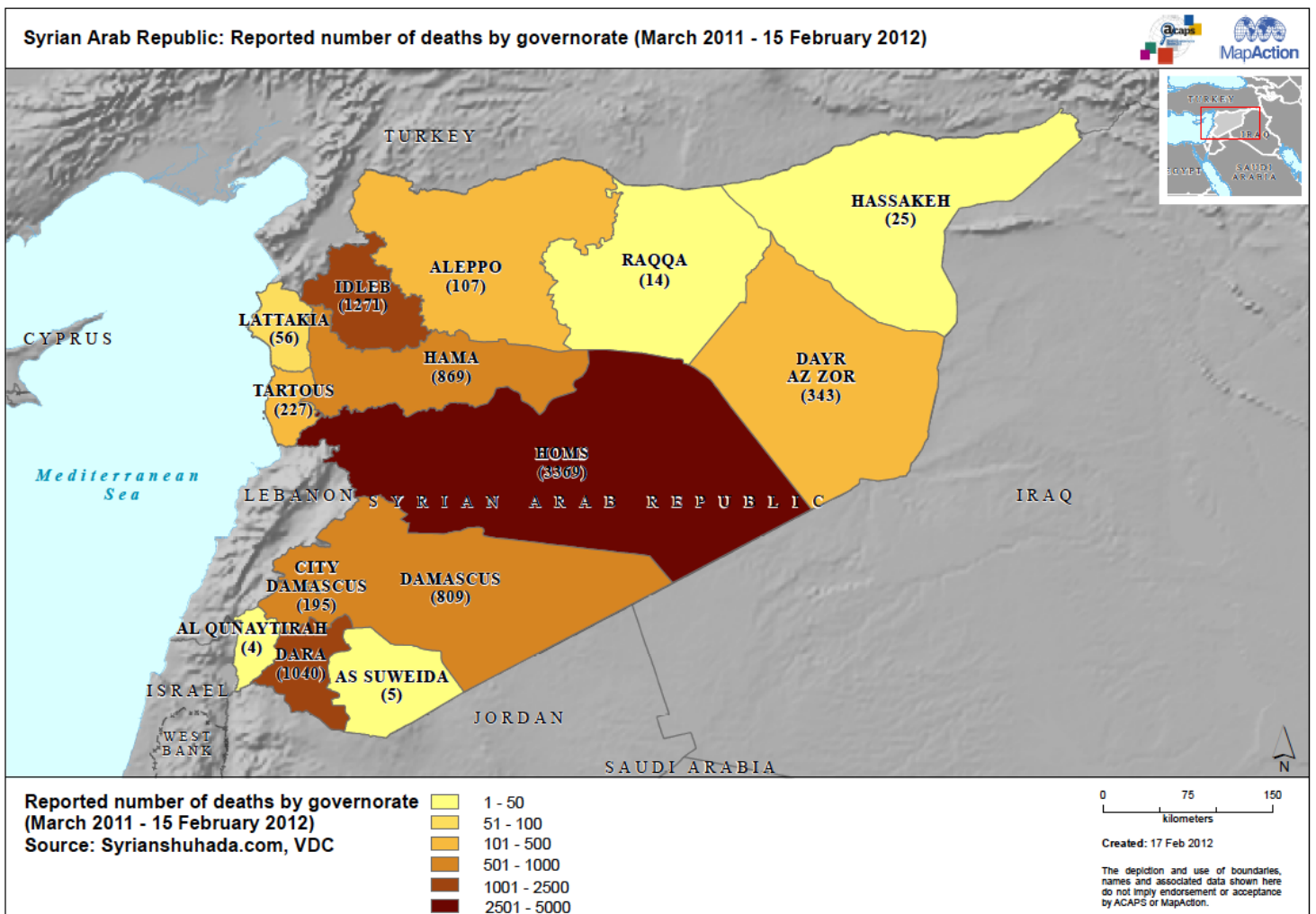
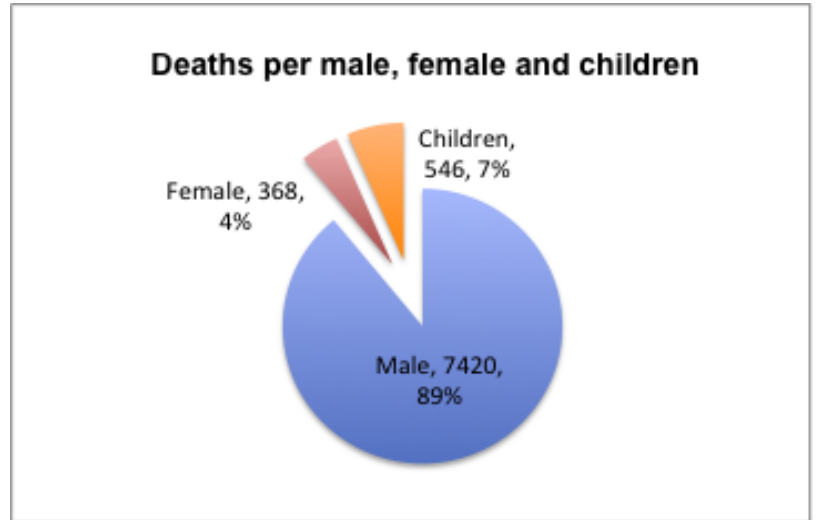


Deaths since the uprising

Disclaimer: The number of reported deaths in Syria used in this report, are the ones reported by the Syrian Revolution Martyr database. Other sources may report different figures.

The pie chart to the right shows the total reported deaths in Syria since the uprising in March 2011, disaggregated by male, female and children. Of the majority of the people killed, 89% are male, 4% are female and 7% are children. Among the 546 children reported killed between March 2011 and February 15 2012, 80% (438) were boys and 20% (108) were girls (SRMD, 15/2/12).

The below map provides an overview of the deaths as per the 14 governorates in Syria. As indicated in the map, the governorate hardest hit by the violence is Homs, with 3,369 deaths. Within Homs, the neighborhoods that have been the most affected by violence, in terms of number of deaths, are Khalidiya and Pope Amr, with 523 and 368 deaths respectively (SRMD, 15/2/12).



Source: (SRMD, 15/2/12)

Displacement profile

Since March 2011, anti-Government protests in Syria have continued to grow and have led to military action between armed groups and Government forces resulting in internal displacement of Syrian civilians throughout the country as well as a rise in the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey ([ACT Alliance, 10/2/12](#)).

IDPs displaced during uprising in Syria

- Exact figures of temporary and longer-term displacement in the country have been difficult to obtain. IOCC and GOPA are in the process of collecting these figures ([ACT Alliance, 10/2/12](#)).
- While many displacements have been temporary, the conflict has caused damage and destruction of homes and farmland caught in the crossfire, leaving families homeless and forced to flee from the violence ([ACT Alliance, 10/2/12](#)).
- Some of the IDPs are moving out of the Homs, Hama and other conflict zones to safer towns and cities that have not been impacted by the conflict but in general movements are several restricted by the military presence around urban areas. Once the families are safely settled, some of the men are returning back to their homes in order to keep their jobs and protect their property ([ACT Alliance, 10/2/12](#)).

Refugees in Syria

Iraqis

- Syria currently hosts one of the largest urban refugee and asylum-seeker populations in the world, with more than one million refugees from Iraq ([ACT Alliance, 10/2/12](#)).
- According to UNHCR/MoDM-recorded statistics, 28,230 Iraqis were registered as returnees from Syria in 2011, compared to the combined number for 2010 and 2009 of 29,135 ([UNHCR, 1/2/12](#)).

Palestinians

- Many Palestinian refugees were displaced in 1948 when Israel was established, a small number fled during the Six Day War in 1967, and several thousand more quit war-torn Lebanon for Syria in 1982. Palestinian refugees living in Syria today number over 496,000. Of these, 75% live in Damascus ([UNRWA 2011, ODI 12/2011](#)).

Refugees from Syria

- According to the Turkish and Lebanese Governments, more than 25,000 people fled Syria in 2011, though many have since returned. The UN has said there are pockets of humanitarian needs in the country, including reduced livelihoods, food insecurity and temporary cut-offs from basic services, which is said are likely to increase with the on-going violence ([IRIN, 12/1/12](#)).

Lebanon

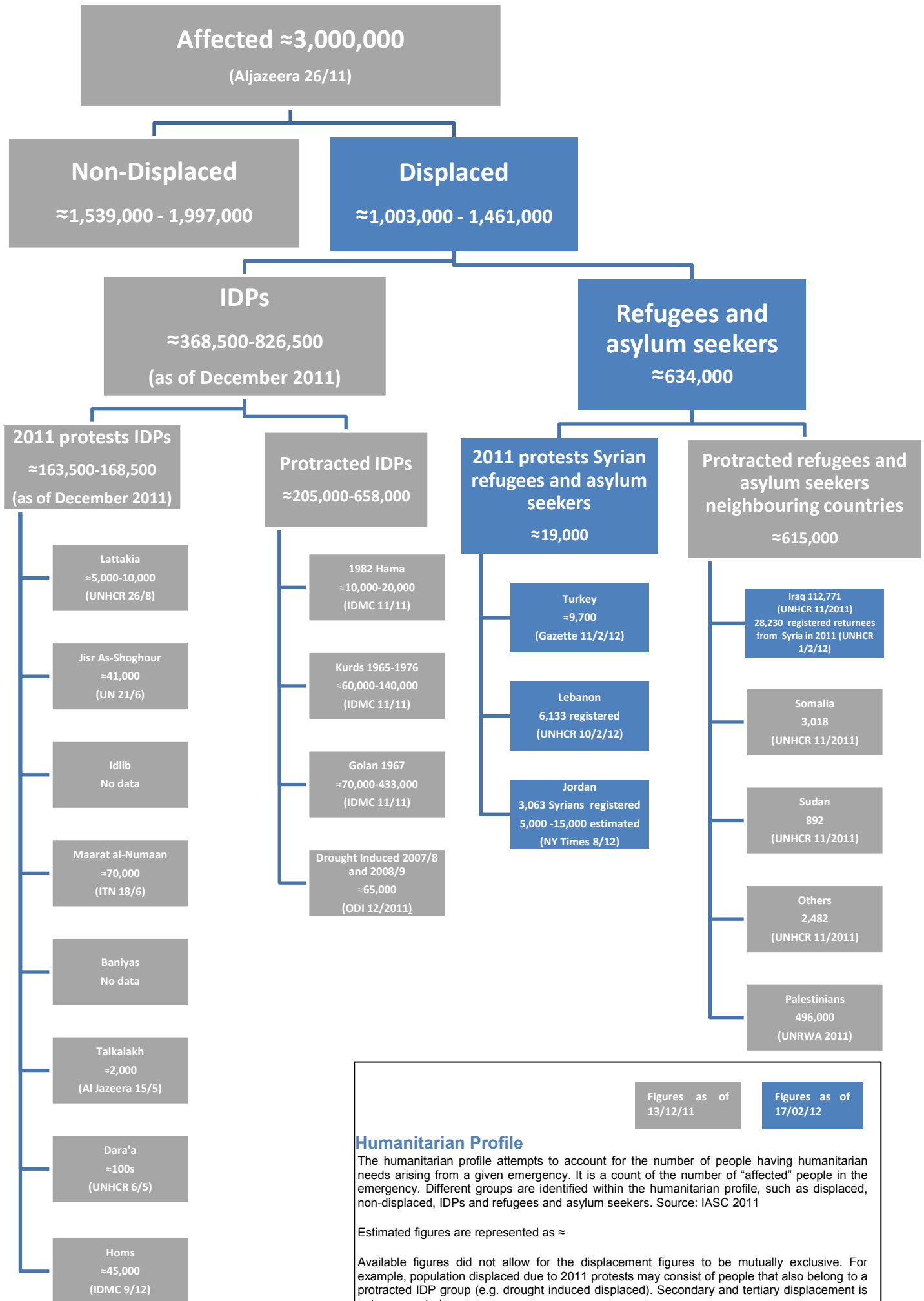
- Since April 2011, UNHCR and the HRC registered and assisted over 11,000 Syrians in Lebanon ([UNHCR, 10/2/12](#)).
- There are currently 6,133 registered Syrians with UNHCR and the High Relief Commission (HCR) in northern Lebanon. Among these, 62% are children between the ages of 0 and 18. Women account for 49.8% of the registered Syrian refugees while there are 50.1% men ([UNHCR, 10/2/12](#)).
- Most of the refugees live with host families, while just over 200 people are accommodated in 3 abandoned schools in northern Lebanon ([UNHCR, 20/1/12](#)).

Turkey

- In Turkey, the official number of Syrian refugees has increased to 9,700 from 7,200 two months ago ([Gazette, 11/2/12](#)).

Jordan

- UNHCR has registered 3,063 Syrians in Jordan and says the number is rising, but this number does not reflect all the Syrians who have crossed the border, legally or illegally, since some do not register with the UN. Jordanian media have published several estimates, ranging from 5,000 to 15,000, but these cannot be verified ([NY Times, 8/2/12](#)).
- The UAE Red Crescent is intensifying its field efforts to deliver emergency humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon ([WAM, 12/2/12](#)).



Figures as of 13/12/11 Figures as of 17/02/12

Humanitarian Profile

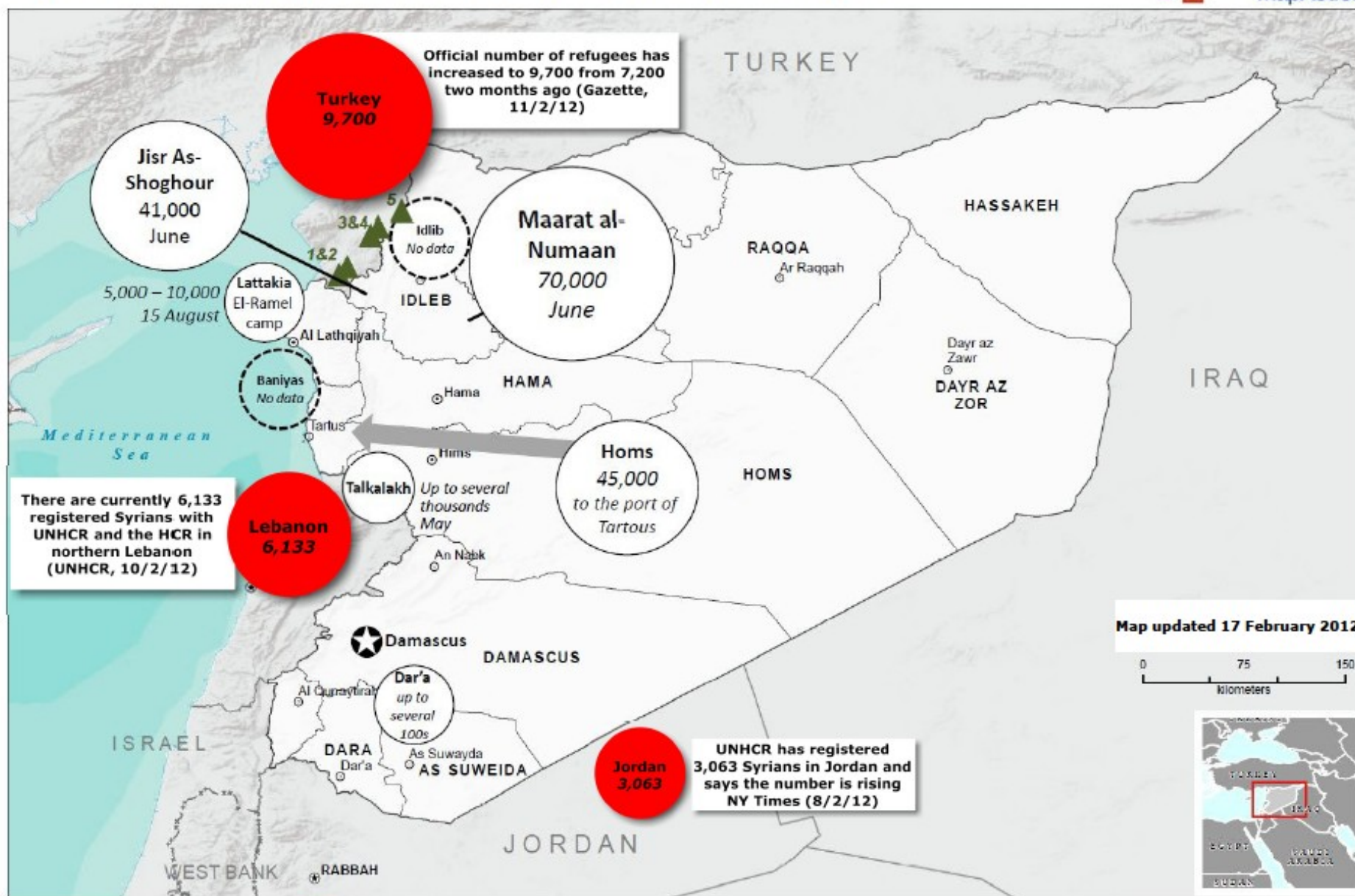
The humanitarian profile attempts to account for the number of people having humanitarian needs arising from a given emergency. It is a count of the number of "affected" people in the emergency. Different groups are identified within the humanitarian profile, such as displaced, non-displaced, IDPs and refugees and asylum seekers. Source: IASC 2011

Estimated figures are represented as ≈

Available figures did not allow for the displacement figures to be mutually exclusive. For example, population displaced due to 2011 protests may consist of people that also belong to a protracted IDP group (e.g. drought induced displaced). Secondary and tertiary displacement is not represented.



Syria: 2011 displacements and current refugees



○ Syria Protests: Temporary displacement 2011

● Syria Protests: Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries as of February 2012

The depiction and use of boundaries, names and associated data shown here do not imply endorsement or acceptance by MapAction or ACAPS

Key National Stakeholders

The Baath Government

The Baath Government is the current ruling regime in Syria. Although officially a parliamentary republic, Syria is *de facto* an authoritarian single party state with the Baath Party holding power since 1963. The first President, Hafez al-Assad, remained in power until his death in 2000 when he was succeeded by his son, the current president, Bashar al-Assad ([HRW 2010](#)).

The Baath Government has seen authoritarian rule at home and a strong anti-Israeli policy abroad. In 1967, Syria lost control of the Golan Heights to Israel. Civil war in Lebanon allowed Syria to extend its political and military influence in the region. Syria pulled out of Lebanon in 2005 having come under intense international pressure after the assassination of Lebanese former premier Rafik Hariri. Following the death of Hafez al-Assad in 2000, Syria underwent a degree of relaxation. Hundreds of political prisoners were released. But the granting of real political freedoms and a shake-up of the state-dominated economy has not materialized ([BBC 28/11](#)).

The Republican Guard

This is the elite force that protects the regime from domestic threats. It commands the 4th Armoured Division. Led by the President's youngest brother, Maher al-Assad, the Guard is the only military unit permitted to enter Damascus. When mass pro-democracy protests began in the southern city of Dera'a in March 2011, the 4th Armoured Division was sent to crush them. Rumours persist that Maher will challenge his brother's rule, but there is no evidence he has sufficient power to challenge his rule ([BBC 18/5](#)).

The Shabeeha

The Shabeeha are armed gangs and militias run by members of the al-Assad family ([SyriaRevolts 21/05](#)). Membership of the Shabeeha is drawn largely from President Assad's minority Alawite sect, which dominates the Government, security services and military ([BBC 17/08](#)). The Shabeeha had been concentrated in the Mediterranean region, where they benefit from smuggling through the ports in the area. With the outbreak of unrest in 2011, they have been used to suppress dissent in cities such as Damascus, Homs and Aleppo, and in border areas to Lebanon and Jordan. According to Syria's National Organization for Human Rights, the Shabeeha have tried to create divisions between the Alawites and the Sunni Muslim majority, and between Muslims and Christians ([Bloomberg, 1/6/11](#)).

The Free Syrian Army

The Free Syrian Army (FSA) is the main opposition army group in Syria, which was formed by defecting officers on July 29 2011 and is led by Col Riyad al-Asad ([BBC, 9/11/11](#)). Their main objectives are to: work with the people to bring down the system; protect the people from the armoured killing machine of the system; and call all members of the Syrian army to defect and join the FSA ([Syria Comment, 29/7/11](#)). In

mid October the group put its membership at 15,000, and in mid November, Col al-Asad told the Turkish news agency that 400 soldiers had defected that week in a sign of growing momentum. The FSA is based in a refugee camp in Turkey ([BBC, 15/11/11](#)). In January, residents of the town of Zabadani, which is approximately 40km north-west of Damascus, said it had been "liberated" by FSA fighters ([BBC, 8/2/12](#)).

The FSA has mounted sporadic attacks on Syrian security and regular army forces, in and around Homs and Idlib provinces. The FSA poses little challenge to Syrian forces in terms of numbers and military capabilities, however, its emergence has worried various opposition factions who fear it might escalate the crisis and trigger a civil war. The FSA is decentralised and poorly organized. Statements from defected soldiers declaring allegiance to rival militias reflect the numbers of defections within its own ranks. Colonel Al-Asaad, the official FSA leader, has no connection with most operations that take place in the name of the FSA, except those carried out by defectors crossing borders from Turkey and Lebanon into Syria. Otherwise, decision-making is left to local commanders and their units ([Guardian 08/12](#)).

The Syrian National Council (SNC)

The Syrian National Council (SNC) was formed in October 2011. It is chaired by Burhan Ghalioun, and comprised of groups from across Syria's fractured opposition landscape. The SNC includes: The Damascus Declaration for Democratic Change grouping - a movement born during the so-called "Damascus Spring" of 2000/2001 which called for broad democratic reform, and was suppressed by the Government, The Muslim Brotherhood, Local Co-ordination Committees, which are grassroots movements that have led demonstrations across the country; the Syrian Revolution General Commission (SRGC), a coalition of 40 opposition grassroots groups; and the Kurdish factions, tribal leaders and independent figures. The SNC wants the Government to be overthrown, and rejects any form of dialogue with it. It has officially rejected foreign military intervention, but has urged the international community to "protect the Syrian people"([BBC, 8/2/12](#)).

The Local Coordination Committees (LCC) and the Syrian Revolution General Commission (SRGC)

These are both SNC grassroots movements involved in organizing protests via multiple social media platforms. LCC and SRGC pro-SNC protests have resulted in more demands from Syrian social media users for foreign intervention ([BBC, 9/11/11](#)).

The National Coordination Committee (NCC)

The NCC, which was formed in September 2011, is made up of opposition blocs in inside of Syria. It calls for peaceful change, opposes military intervention and reportedly believes members of the current Government can play a role in a transition. The NCC rejects foreign invasion, as they see this equally as dangerous as tyranny ([BBC, 8/2/12](#)).

Key International Stakeholders

The Arab League

The Arab League (AL) is a regional organization of 22 Arab states founded in 1945. Article 2 of the Pact states that: the purpose of the League is to draw closer the relations between member States and co-ordinate their political activities with the aim of realizing a close collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries (Yale 2008). On August 7, the AL condemned the actions of the Syrian Government for the first time (Aljazeera, 10/2/12), and on November 27, the AL agreed to impose economic sanctions on Syria, which included freezing of Syrian Government assets in Arab countries, stopping dealings with the Syrian central bank, suspension of commercial flights to and from Syria, halting investment by Arab governments for projects in Syria, and a travel ban on senior officials (BBC, 27/11/12). Syria's participation in the AL was suspended in November 2011 (NYT 12/11).

On December 19, the Syrian Government signed a peace agreement with the AL, where the Syrian Government pledged to end violence against peaceful protests, release detained protesters, withdraw armed elements from cities and residential areas, and allow Arab and international media unhindered access to all parts of Syria. Syria also pledged to grant AL monitors unhindered and independent access and guaranteed the safety of witnesses from reprisals (HRW, 20/1/12). On December 26, the AL commenced its monitoring mission to Syria, comprising of civilian and military experts from Arab countries and Arab non-governmental human rights organizations. The 165 members of the monitoring team were divided into 15 zones and 20 cities and districts across Syria. The monitoring mission was suspended on January 28 due to critical deteriorating conditions and rising violence in Syria (VOA, 28/1/12).

The AL called on February 12 for the UN SC to create a joint peacekeeping force for Syria and urged Arab states to sever all diplomatic contact with President Bashar Assad's regime (Guardian, 12/2/12). AL called for the UN SC to adopt a resolution that provides for an immediate cease-fire in Syria, the protection of civilians and overseeing a humanitarian effort for victims of the violence. It demanded that regime forces lift the siege on neighborhoods and villages and pull troops and their heavy weapons back to their barracks (Guardian, 12/2/12).

The UN

The UN Security Council (SC) has since the uprising in Syria proposed two draft resolutions to resolve the crisis in Syria, both have been vetoed by Russia and China, one on October 4 2011, and one on February 4 2012 (Reuters, 4/2/12).

On February 16, the UN General Assembly (GA) voted in favor of a resolution condemning human rights violations in Syria and calling for an end to the violence. The GA called on Syria to abide by its obligations under international law, and

demanded that the Government, in line with the 2 November 2011 Action Plan of the League of Arab States, and its decisions of 22 January and 12 February 2012, without delay, stop all violence and protect its people, release all those detained during the unrest, withdraw all armed forces from cities and towns, guarantee peaceful demonstrations and allow unhindered access for Arab League monitors and international media. The resolution was approved by 137 votes to 12 against and 17 abstentions (UN, 16/2/12).

Russia and China

Russia and China have twice exercised their vetoes in the UN Security Council and blocked resolutions aimed at ending the violence in Syria. On October 4, Russia and China vetoed a European-drafted UN Security Council resolution condemning Syria and threatening it with possible sanctions (Reuters, 4/2/12). On February 4, Russia and China vetoed the vote on draft resolution S/2012/77, which backed an Arab League plan of January 22nd to try to resolve the crisis in Syria (UN, 4/2/12). On February 16, Russia and China were among the 12 votes against the UN GA resolution (BBC, 17/2/12).

Analysts say political and strategic concerns are Russia's primary motivation for backing Syria. Moscow is pushing back against what it sees as excessive Western interventionism in sovereign states, and fears losing an old ally that is its last foothold in the Middle East. Economic ties, including valuable military contracts and energy investments, also play a key role. According to a report from the global analysis firm Oxford Analytica, Russia has long been Syria's primary military supplier and currently has about USD 4 billion worth of contracts for future arms deliveries to Damascus. With the loss of arms sales to Iran following UN sanctions, and the cancellation of contracts in Libya after the Gadhafi regime was overthrown, the list of Russian arms customers in the region is reducing. The close military ties between the two nations have also yielded Russia's only military base outside the former Soviet Union, a naval facility in the Mediterranean port of Tartus. Beyond the arms trade, Russian companies have made a number of investments in Syria. The projects are worth roughly \$20 billion and include some from Russia's powerful energy sector, such as a natural gas production facility and pipeline (CNN, 10/2/12).

According to analysts, the most important factor behind China's veto was its diplomatic cooperation with Russia. Another factor is the Chinese Communist Party's ideological hostility to democratic transitions. Ever since the Arab Spring brought down long-ruling dictatorships in the Middle East, the party's propaganda machine has spared no effort in portraying the events in the region in the most negative light. Fearing a similar upheaval in China, the party has tightened its censorship and intensified persecution of dissidents (NYT, 7/2/12).

Following its vote against the UN GA resolution, China sent its deputy foreign minister Zhai Jun to Damascus, who on February 18 met with both President Assad and the opposition (Guardian, 18/2/12).

The EU and US

In late April and early May, the US and EU imposed sanctions on Syria, on August 18, the US and EU call on Assad to step down, and on September 2, the EU adopted a ban on crude oil imports from Syria ([Aljazeera, 10/2/12](#)). The US closed its Embassy in Damascus on February 6 and Britain has recalled its Ambassador ([Guardian, 6/2/12](#)). The following day (February 7), France, Italy, Germany and Spain recalled their Ambassadors from Syria ([Guardian 7/2/12](#)).

During the first week of February, EU started a campaign for tighter sanctions against Syria, with the aim to freeze assets of the central bank and ban the trade in diamonds, gold and other precious metals. The measures are scheduled agreed by February 27 ([Alertnet, 8/2/12](#)).

On February 7, German federal prosecutors arrested a Syrian and a German-Lebanese dual national on suspicion of spying on Syrian opposition supporters in Germany over several years. Following this, the foreign minister announced on February 9 that four Syrian embassy employees had been evicted from Germany ([Guardian, 9/2/12](#)).

Friends of Syria

The “Friends of Syria” group was created after Russia and China vetoed the UN SC draft resolution S/2012/77, and consists of the United States, its European allies and Arab nations working to end the uprising against Assad's authoritarian rule ([Fox, 13/2/12](#)). A meeting of this group has been planned in Tunisia on February 24 ([Reuters, 12/2/12](#)).

Scenarios

Probability level

- Highly unlikely
- Unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely
- Almost certain

Impact level

- No impact
- Impact does not exceed local capacities
- Impact is likely to exceed local capacities
- Humanitarian intervention needed
- Large scale humanitarian intervention needed

		Severe Impact of Economic Sanctions Scenario					
		Probability level				X	
		Impact level				X	
Assumptions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new round of tighter economic sanctions imposed by the EU and the Arab League further increases economic pressure on Syrian financial markets (central bank) and businesses (Economist 18/02, EU 13/02). • Increased diplomatic/political pressure on Syria's economic partners in the region as well as economic pressure due to disrupted trade routes and channels (Economist 18/02, BBC 11/2011). • Economic sanctions in Syria accelerate the severe economic crisis characterised by a sharp drop of consumption, massive cash withdrawals, capital outflow, unpaid loans, failing currency, a tumbling stock market, negative growth, inflation (the Syrian currency has lost dramatically in value) and high unemployment (ICG 7/2011). ○ Lack of economic opportunity in Damascus and other urban centres resulting in closed shops and markets limiting the availability of food and other basic needs items (ICG 7/2011). ○ Loss of Government control over price of key agricultural products (FT 04/2011) causing sky rocketing prices for meat, milk and baby milk powder (80% increase), and cereals. ○ Cross-border trade is hard-hit by transport delays caused by security-related road closures and increased costs of petrol and oil (FT 04/2011). ○ Sharply increasing prices of heating oil, gas and foodstuffs, and overall imports. 					
Impact		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The overall economic crisis severely impacts food security in Syria, which is already affected by high food prices. ○ Economic migration to neighbouring countries, overstretched resources in families hosting IDPs and refugees. ○ Increased rural to urban migration. 					
Operational constraints		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escalating violence inhibits humanitarian organizations to deliver food and medical assistance in conflict centres such as Homs. ○ Limited space for humanitarian operations, including EVS (electronic voucher system). ○ Challenges in maintaining food and medicine stocks which may be subject to raids. ○ Limited access to affected rural populations and challenges in assessing humanitarian needs of IDPs and refugees in diverse urban environments. 					
Priority needs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency food distribution to groups most at risk. ○ Targeted food assistance to the most vulnerable groups: Iraqi refugees, women and children, and IDPs. ○ Livelihoods support, cash for work, and food for work measures. ○ Impartial and safe access to medical care. ○ Provision of essential emergency medicine and medical care. ○ Registration and needs profiling of IDPs and refugees. 					

Growing militarisation of protest movement Scenario		Probability level				
		Green	Yellow	Orange	Red (X)	Black
		Impact level				
		Green	Yellow	Orange	Red (X)	Black
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regime forces are unable to suppress the opposition, which successfully asserts its position, seeking to arm itself (CSIS 08/02). Neighbouring countries and/or allies supply weapons to the opposition forces. In line with the international pressure put on the regime, sanctions, punitive measures and official condemn of violence an increasing number of international actors are willing to support the opposition logistically (Reuters 16/02). Communications in Syria are becoming increasingly difficult as telephone, Internet and mobile phone links are usually cut off. Therefore support to the protest movement with means of telecommunication plays a crucial role (Reuters 16/02). The FSA attempts to serve as an umbrella for self-directed armed groups, including participation by disorderly militias involved in spreading chaos, sectarian retribution and criminal activity. But opposition forces lack leadership, organisation command and control. Opposition forces gain pockets of control. Fragmentation and power vacuum allows for external fundamentalist groups to influence the conflict (Guardian 12/02). Fundamentalist fighters and proxies report directly to foreign parties. The regime grows weaker and more violent, involving neighbouring countries as diversions. 					
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security services and proxies are subject to ever-increasing attacks. Regime forces progressively lose their mobility as well as control over portions of the country, forcing them to retreat. There no longer is a permanent loyalist military presence in parts of Idlib, Hama and Homs governorates, enabling the armed opposition to further regroup and organise. Governorates of Dayr Zor and Dera'a follow a similar path. As defections mount and the army is under ever greater stress, the regime cannot muster sufficient military resources to reverse the trend. Short-term displacement in villages and cities before and during clashes. Destruction of houses and property causes longer displacements. Large groups of IDPs within the country. Cross border movements with Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan increase, with long-term displacement of refugees in camps and with host families up to 1,6 million affected. 					
Operational constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insecurity increases inaccessibility for humanitarian actors. Hard to monitor urban areas create lack of awareness of needs. Selective procedures at the border restrict most vulnerable migrant groups from entering and accessing essential services. Humanitarian actors prone to attacks by armed militia groups. 					
Priority needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Populations trapped in conflict areas with heavy fighting face protection risks, especially women and children. Emergency health and surgical care for the injured. Emergency assistance to displaced and conflict affected populations, including food assistance. Registration and needs profiling of IDPs and refugees. 					

International Intervention Scenario		Probability level				
		Green	Yellow (X)	Orange	Red	Black
		Impact level				
		Green	Yellow	Orange	Red (X)	Black
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing international pressure following the GA resolution from February 16th, due to ever-intensifying violence against civilians, no humanitarian access and severe humanitarian needs prompts demands from international actors such as the Arab League to deploy an international peacekeeping force. Establishment of safe havens for opposition forces in neighbouring countries intensifies tensions in the region. Opposition forces regroup in neighbouring countries recruiting allies along sectarian lines and allegiances. Increased mutual mistrust and resentment between members of opposing camps within Syria. Frequent clashes induce resettlement of groups in like-minded areas, confirming a worrying pattern of sectarian segregation (Iraq scenario) (Economist 28/01). Alawite villages involved in repressing demonstrators (Rabi'a, Hama and Qabu, Homs) and those who have remain uninvolved in the uprising face large-scale retribution. 					
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence against opposition forces and civilians will intensify in the wake of a military intervention, which will further halt humanitarian operations and result in a very high humanitarian impact. A growing number of military defectors. Localised Alawite and other minority groups become increasingly militarised. Regime retains considerable manpower and that support base is radicalised even as it narrows. Reorganised around a hard-core elite composed of ruling family members and loyalists whose determination to fight has only heightened as their involvement in months of repression has grown. 					
Operational constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaccessibility for humanitarian actors. Humanitarian actors as well as ambulances, health services and local medical staff are subject to targeted violent attacks. Water, electricity and communications can be cut off, disrupting communication channels and in hospital services. 					
Priority needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population trapped in conflict areas and cities with violent clashes face major food shortages and gaps in medical service provision. Protection for affected population. Emergency health care and secondary surgical care for the injured. WASH and food assistance. Emergency assistance to displaced population in the border regions. Registration and needs profiling of IDPs and refugees. 					

Current Situation

Increase in food prices

- Syria is struggling to afford and secure domestic food supplies as a result of the EU ban on oil imports, which has put severe strain on the country's finances. According to European traders, Syria's state grains agency, which traditionally purchases soft milling wheat via international tenders, is finding it difficult to secure food at competitive prices (Wall street Journal, 10/1/12).
- The Syrian Ministry of the Economy says that Syrian food prices in the country surged at the end of 2011, with some items increasing by up to 37% compared with the same period in 2010 (Aljazeera, 15/1/12).
- Reports from a Damascus suburb are that prices of some locally-produced basic food products have increased by 30 to 50 %, while some imported food products are no longer available in the market (Al Arabiya, 23/1/12).
- On the black market the value of the pound against the USD has fallen to 62 SYP to \$1, indicating a loss of 25% of their purchasing power since the beginning of the violence (Aljazeera, 15/1/12).

Food Production

- Prolonged unrest is causing disruptions in food distribution channels leading to localised shortages in markets (GIEWS 14/10).
- UNHCHR reports existing *pockets of need* among groups of people who were already vulnerable before the current crisis began, including farmers affected by drought since 2007 and Palestinian refugees, 60,000 of whom live below the poverty line (IRIN 26/09).
- Syria's National Sugar Company, a privately owned refiner with a capacity of one million tonnes a year, has halted production because of poor security in the country (Reuters, 5/2/12).

Food distribution to IDPs in Syria

- In Homs, SARC volunteers are distributing food, medical supplies, blankets, and hygiene consumables to thousands of people affected by the increasing violence. A convoy loaded with these supplies entered Homs on February 12, while a similar convoy reached the city of Bludan. The SARC and the ICRC are planning further missions to continue providing humanitarian aid to people affected by the unrest in Syria (ICRC, 13/2/12).

Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan

- In Lebanon, UNHCR with partners are distributing food and non-food items to the displaced on a monthly basis (UNHCR, 20/1/12).

Livelihoods

- Syrians were grappling with high food prices from early 2011, but the situation has deteriorated for households who have lost assets as a result of the ongoing conflict and from drought (UN 11/11).
- Even before the protests began, the Syrian economy faced major challenges linked to poverty, which affects 14% of Syrians, and from unemployment, which hit more than 20% of the workforce. The Syrian Economy Minister noted in November that Government subsidies on basic necessities like oil by-products, electricity and certain food products are not going to last, the Syrian economy is passing through an emergency period (AFP 10/11).
- Thousands of subsistence farmers, working in cities such as Dera'a, have returned home because of the insecurity, leaving jobs behind. Others are unable to harvest crops because of social unrest. Livestock feed is hard to come by, and food prices increasing (IRIN 26/11).
- Businesses have closed in multiple districts in Damascus and in suburbs and provinces. According to the Syrian National Council the aim is to generate civil disobedience that encompasses all sectors and forces the regime down (Reuters 12/12).

Key priorities

Most affected areas

- Regions in particular need of food include Al Hasakah and Al Raqqah in the north and north-east, which suffered as rains reduced Syria's 2011 cereal crop by 11% based on the last five-year average (Wall street Journal, 10/1/12).
- Conflict affected areas, including Hama and Homs.

Most affected groups

- People in urban areas affected by the current upsurge in violence, particularly residents of Homs and Hama.
 - Farmers
 - Urban poor
 - Unemployed
 - Female headed households
 - Refugees on food assistance

Recommendations for intervention

- Ensure safe access to food in the most affected urban areas.
- Distribution of food to conflict stricken areas that are being cut off from access to food and other goods.
- Pre-positioning of food in areas within Syria and in border areas in case of increases in population movement.
- Implement various cash interventions including cash for work and food for work.
- Continued support through EVS.

Current Situation

Within Syria

- According to MSF, wounded patients and doctors in Syria are directly targeted, and risk torture and arrest at the hands of the security services. Medicine is being used as a weapon of persecution. Most of the wounded do not go to public hospitals for fear of being arrested or tortured ([MSF, 8/2/12](#)).
- In the city of Homs, nine prematurely born babies have died due to the lack of incubators ([Guardian, 8/2/12](#)).
- Shells reportedly struck a makeshift hospital in the Bab Amr neighbourhood of Homs on February 6, resulting in casualties. Reports indicate that hospitals, which were already struggling to cope with many injured in recent weeks, are now overwhelmed or inaccessible, and people have set up makeshift clinics throughout the city, with few or no medical supplies ([OHCHR, 8/2/12](#)).
- WHO has made a call that health facilities should be treated as neutral premises. WHO is alarmed that with the ongoing crisis in Syria, sick and wounded people, and those who treat them, are facing difficulties in both accessing and providing medical care ([UN radio, 11/2/12](#)).
- ICRC notes that there is a deterioration of the situation in the past weeks, the increased violence is affecting the ability to come to the rescue of wounded, to do first aid and medical evacuations ([Reuters, 10/2/12](#)).
- In Homs, between blasts of rockets and mortar fire, Syrians are using loudspeakers to call for blood donations and medical supplies ([Associated Press, 9/2/12](#)).
- According to Human Rights Watch, makeshift hospitals in besieged opposition areas of Homs are overflowing with dead and wounded from Government bombardments and snipers. Medical supplies are running out and at least 3 field hospitals have been hit. Rooms are full of corpses while in the streets wounded people are bleeding to death as it is too dangerous for rescuers to bring them to safety ([Reuters, 9/2/12](#)).
- MSF reports that it is extremely difficult to treat major trauma cases and provide post-operative care for wounded in Syria. Furthermore, the clandestine health workers cannot obtain blood from the central blood bank, which is controlled by Syria's Ministry of Defence. This is the only blood supplier in the country ([MSF, 8/2/12](#)).
- MSF currently does not have access to Syria, and has been seeking official authorization to aid the wounded in Syria, so far without success. The organization is treating patients outside Syria and is supporting doctors' networks inside the country, through the provision of medicine, medical supplies, and surgical and transfusion kits ([MSF, 8/2/12](#)).

Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan

- Among the Syrian refugees in Lebanon, between September 19 and February 10, there have been 281 patients administered into hospitals mostly covered by the High Relief Commission (HRC). In addition, there have been 903 patients who have received primary health care from different health centers and mobile medical units ([UNHCR, 10/2/12](#)).
- With the increase of the people fleeing from Syria and seeking refuge in Lebanon, many of whom have physical wounds, MSF has dispatched medical teams to evaluate their health status. Besides mental health services, MSF is increasing its capacity in the area to respond to any further and significant influx of people from Syria by reinforcing epidemiological surveillance, vaccinations, chronic disease management and emergency medical equipment, while assessing further medical needs ([MSF, 7/2/12](#)).

Key priorities

Most affected areas

- Areas impacted by ongoing fighting and displacement, particularly Homs, Hama and Damascus.
- Border areas between Syria and neighboring countries where injured protestors and other Syrians are fleeing for safety.

Most affected groups

- Injured protestors.
- Medical service providers.
- Displaced populations in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey who have fled the crisis in Syria.
- Refugees in Syria who were already vulnerable before the crisis.

Recommendations for intervention

- Impartial and safe access to medical care.
- Ensure provision of medical facilities and supplies in areas affected by fighting.
- Support to agencies and local medical staff who have access within Syria.
- Ensure medical care and provision of medical supplies at the borders of neighboring countries for Syrians fleeing the country.
- Establishment of temporary health care facilities for wounded Syrians who cannot access the hospitals.
- Implementation of psychosocial support programs persons affected by violence, particularly children .

Current Situation

IDPs within Syria

- The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and its Syrian partner, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch And All The East (GOPA), in cooperation with the Syrian Red Crescent, are working to identify the most urgent needs of IDPs including housing assistance, tuition assistance for displaced schoolchildren, non-food items and heating fuel ([ACT Alliance, 10/2/12](#)).

Refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey

Since the beginning of the violence in March 2011, many Syrians have fled the country seeking shelter in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey.

Lebanon

- Of the current registered Syrian refugee population in Lebanon of 6,133, most reside with host families. About 200 people are accommodated in three abandoned schools, Al-Rama, Al-Ibra and Al-Mouanseh schools. The schools, which were initially not well equipped to receive large numbers of people, have now been improved and are regularly monitored. The hall of Khorbet Daoud Mosque has also been rehabilitated to host displaced families should there be a need in the future ([UNHCR, 20/1/12](#)).
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and partners have identified host families in need of improvement ahead of the upcoming winter, and have supplied these families with coupons enabling them to renovate their homes ([UNHCR, 20/1/12](#)).

Jordan

- According to the UAE Red Crescent, the Syrian refugees in Jordan need food and medicines but priority should be given to shelter needs at present due to the current cold weather in the area ([Emirates News Agency, 13/2/12](#)).
- RCA have informed that Jordanian authorities are preparing to build a camp in Mafraq, nine kilometres from the Syrian borders, that can shelter up to 1200 refugees in the first phase ([WAM, 12/2/12](#)).

Turkey

- According to a Government official in Turkey, the country is currently building a new camp that can hold about 10,000 refugees. The camp can be expanded if the influx of Syrian refugees increases ([Gazette, 11/2/12](#)).
- Syrian refugees in Turkey are sheltered in six camps where the Turkish Red Crescent is meeting their basic needs ([TRC 14/11](#)).
- The Turkish Red Crescent reports that the makeshift camps on the Syrian side of the Turkish-Syrian border were emptied and the agency has stopped delivering services to the displaced sheltered there. However, there is no further information on these groups ([TRC 14/11](#)).

Key priorities

Most affected areas:

- Conflict affected areas of Syria.
- Sections of neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees.

Most affected groups:

- Internally displaced Syrians.
- Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan.
- Iraqi and Palestinian refugees in Syria.

Recommendation for intervention:

- Increased information on shelter needs and coping strategies of impacted population.
- Ensure shelter for the people who have been displaced within Syria, particularly due to the cold season.
- Provision of materials to reinforce homes and buildings affected by the violence.

Current Situation

Amnesty International (AI) has concluded that crimes against humanity are taking place in Syria, a finding also made by a UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry in November 2011. AI has called for the situation to be referred to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, as well as for a comprehensive arms embargo to be imposed on Syria and an assets freeze against President Bashar al-Assad and his close associates (AI, 8/2/12).

Women

- Of the 8,301 people that have been killed since the beginning of the uprising until February 14, 6% or 473 of these were women (SRMD, 14/2/12).

Violence/killings

- Human Rights Watch (HRW) has gathered evidence that suggests that Syrian Government forces are using indiscriminate long-range, indirect fire weapons in densely populated areas. Witness accounts were corroborated by international journalists who were present during the attacks (HRW, 9/2/12).

Detention

- According to the British-based rights group Avaaz, security forces had detained at least 69,000 people since the uprising began in March until end 2011, roughly half of whom have since been released (Guardian, 22/12/11).
- According to HRW, Syrian authorities transferred hundreds of detainees to off-limits military sites to hide them from Arab League monitors. A Syrian security officer in Homs told HRW that after the Government signed the Arab League protocol on December 19 he received orders from his prison director to assist with an irregular detainee transfer. He estimated that on December 21 and 22, approximately 400 to 600 detainees were moved out of his detention facility to other places of detention (HRW, 27/12/11).
- The Violations Documentation Center (VDC), a Syrian monitoring group, reported the detention of 490 people between December 26 and January 18 (HRW, 20/1/12).

Violence involving Children

- Syrian activists have reported dozens of cases in which children have been killed by sniper fire or shelling from Government security forces in residential areas (HRW, 3/2/12).
- UNICEF said it does not have access to the affected areas of Homs and cannot confirm the impact of the attacks there, but there are credible reports, including from international media inside the city, that children are caught up in the violence (UN, 7/2/12).
- 543 children in Syria, aged 16 years or younger, have been killed between the

start of the uprising and February 14 2012, of these 80% or 436 were boys and 20% or 107 were girls (SRMD, 14/2/12).

Detention and torture of children

- According to HRW, Syrian security forces have killed, arrested, and tortured children in their homes, their schools, or on the streets. In many cases, security forces have targeted children just as they have targeted adults (HRW, 3/2/12).
- Children as young as 13 have reported experiences of being held in solitary confinement, being severely beaten, electrocuted, burned with cigarettes, and left to dangle from metal handcuffs for hours at a time, centimetres above the floor. All children interviewed said that they received inadequate food and water in detention, and most received no medical treatment for torture-inflicted injuries (HRW, 3/2/12).
- Detention facilities where children reported being tortured include: the military security detention centre in Homs, the military security detention centre in Tartous, the Balooneh detention centre in Homs, the Palestine detention center in Damascus, and the 291 detention centre in Damascus. A number of adult detainees and security force members who have defected and were interviewed by HRW have confirmed the presence and torture of child detainees in facilities across Syria (HRW, 3/2/12).
- Information from Avaaz indicates that at least 617 have been killed while under detention as a result of torture, including 39 children (CRIN, 9/1/12).

Security on the Syria/Lebanon border

- Residents in northern Lebanon report that the heavy presence of the Syrian army in border areas and land mines on the Syrian side prevent people from fleeing into Lebanon. The hall of Khorbet Daoud Mosque has also been rehabilitated to host displaced families should there be a need in the future (UNHCR, 20/1/12).
- Further land mines have been laid on the Syrian side. This together with reported military operations in Syria close to border areas continue to cause unease among the refugees (UNHCR, 10/2/12).

Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan

- The vast majority of Syrians who have arrived in Lebanon the past few weeks have come from Tal Kalakh and Homs. They express fear and anxiety about returning and most do not feel that the situation is safe enough for them to do so yet (UNHCR, 10/2/12).
- According to UNHCR estimates, more than 165 wounded Syrians have been treated in various Lebanese hospitals since the beginning of the influx (UNHCR, 10/2/12).
- In the beginning of February an increased presence of Lebanese security forces in Akroom Mountain and Wadi Khaled areas was reported, allegedly in response to an increase in weapons and armed persons (UNHCR, 10/2/12).

- Outreach activities and home visits reveal that domestic violence against women and children is a concern among the refugees. The Individual Case Management Committee, a group composed of protection partners, assists persons with specific needs and is addressing the problem in a variety of ways, including through counselling and psychosocial support. Persons in immediate risks are offered safe shelters (UNHCR, 10/2/12).
- In Jordan the Red Crescent has reported that the events in Syria have been forcing more influx of Syrians into Jordan, mostly women, children and older persons (WAM, 12/2/12).

Key priorities

On-going violence and unrest is causing increased numbers of displaced and refugees and is characterised by continued human rights violations.

Most affected areas

- Conflict affected areas of Syria, especially urban centres.
- Communities in neighbouring countries hosting displaced Syrians.

Most affected groups

- Detainees and those subject to human rights violations.
- Persons displaced internally by the violence.
- Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers seeking safety across international borders.
- Iraqi and other refugees within Syria dependent on humanitarian assistance.
- Children
- Women
- Older persons, persons with disability and other invisible populations.

Recommendation for intervention:

- Ensure protection at border areas for Syrians fleeing the country.
- Ensure the protection of women and children in IDP and refugee settlements by ensuring the presence of a Gender Based Violence (GBV) coordinator.
- Identify safe spaces for children in violence struck areas and in IDP and refugee settlements.
- Ensure accurate registration of conflict affected, IDPs and refugees, and identify particularly vulnerable households.
- Monitor human rights violations.
- Provide psychosocial support to persons affected by conflict.
- Provide protection to most affected groups through presence.
- Ensure freedom of movement.
- Ensure child protection.

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