HIGHLIGHTS

- UN-LAS Sectoral Meeting in Cairo generated more than 50 recommendations on issues of shared humanitarian concern.
- At least 1 million people need humanitarian assistance in Syria.
- Algeria received 30,000 people fleeing political violence in Mali. Algerian Red Crescent responded with medicines, blankets, food and tents.

FUNDING

- OCHA, the Arab League in Cairo and the State of Qatar presented the $7.8 billion global Humanitarian Appeal 2012 in the MENA region.
- Donors have so far contributed $85 million in response to the crisis in Syria and the refugee response in neighbouring countries.
- Funding coverage for the two consolidated appeals in the MENA region for the first quarter of 2012 is 20 per cent for Yemen and 36 per cent for oPt.

UN and Arab League focus on aid cooperation

The Sectoral Meeting between the League of Arab States (LAS) and the United Nations (UN) was held in Cairo on 22 and 23 February. It focused on the challenges of providing humanitarian assistance in the Arab region.

The meeting attracted more than 100 participants representing the LAS, its specialized organizations, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Assistant Secretary-General for the LAS, Dr. Sima Bahous, co-chaired the meeting with Rashid Khalikov, Director of OCHA in Geneva.

Participants discussed humanitarian issues including the protection of displaced people, partnerships between governments and Arab NGOs, food-and-nutrition security and disaster risk management. To generate dialogue and debate, discussion papers were presented by the LAS, and by UN agencies including the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), OCHA, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the International Organization for Migration.

The UN and the LAS adopted more than 50 recommendations related to five core issues. Some of the key recommendations include:

Coordination

Strengthen coordination between the UN and the LAS to achieve effective emergency response. This includes increasing information sharing, establishing early warning systems, and ensuring that legal frameworks are in place to allow for the rapid deployment of aid workers and the dispatch of relief supplies to countries in crisis.

Protection

Strengthen coordination between the UN and the LAS to protect refugees, displaced people and migrants. This includes improving fundraising mechanisms and strengthening the legal framework for protection.
In Syria, 1 million people require food, medical assistance, household items, psychosocial counseling and educational support.

Syria: 1 million need humanitarian assistance

At least 1 million people need humanitarian assistance in Syria. This was the conclusion of a Government-led assessment mission in March, which comprised staff from the UN and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation. The number refers to people directly affected by violence. This includes those who have been injured or displaced and lost access to essential services, the families who host them and people whose vulnerability has increased over the last year. They require food, medical assistance, household items, psychosocial counseling and educational support.

“Even as the political and military situation evolves, the immediate priority for humanitarian organizations is to obtain unhindered access, especially to people in areas which have seen heavy fighting,” said Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos in a statement issued on 13 April.

As of 25 April, donors have contributed almost US$110 million and pledged $26 million to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, and to the refugee response in neighbouring countries. From the MENA region, Kuwait has contributed $5 million and United Arab Emirates $1.4 million, as recorded in the Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

Algeria: Influx of refugees from northern Mali

An estimated 270,000 people have been displaced by the recent political upheaval in Mali. According to UNHCR, 131,561 refugees have been officially registered in Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger.

More than 30,000 Malian refugees had arrived in Algeria by mid-March, according to the Algerian Minister of Interior and Local Authorities, Daho Ould Kablia. Malian refugees can enter Algeria through border crossings in Bordj Badji Mokhtar, Timiaouine and Tinzaouatine. However, they are only allowed to stay in camps supervised by the Algerian Red Crescent, which are located near these crossings.

Algerian Army personnel have set up tents for the displaced, while the Red Crescent has supplied medicines, blankets, food and tents. Some 70 Red Crescent volunteers have been sent to the area.

Tunisia: Flooding in north-west

In late February 2012, heavy rains combined with melting snow caused the Majerda River to overflow. This resulted in flooding in Tunisia. People living along the river were evacuated to safer locations by the Tunisian Army. They received food and relief supplies from the Army and the Tunisian Red Crescent. Apart from the immediate displacement, Partnership

Improve coordination between the UN, the LAS and NGOs. This includes improving NGOs’ capacity and promoting their participation in the multilateral humanitarian system.

Food and Water

Improve early warning and food security monitoring systems. Funds will be mobilized to implement components of the Arab Strategy for Agricultural Development, which aims to establish sustainable agricultural development and food security in the Arab region.

Disaster Risk Management

The UN and the LAS will strengthen collaboration to implement the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020. The strategy focuses on strong regional information networks and encourages investment in disaster risk reduction programmes.
the floods may have a negative impact on the 2012 grain harvest, according to agricultural experts.

In January, cold weather and heavy snowfall, reportedly the worst in 20 years, isolated villages and cut off roads. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, approximately $140,000 was allocated from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to the Tunisian Red Crescent to assist 5,000 people in rural areas. The Government of Saudi Arabia sent food, blankets, heating equipment and medical supplies.

**Egypt: Foot-and-mouth outbreak threatens livestock and food security**

A new strain of foot-and-mouth disease in Egypt has killed several thousand livestock, put farmers’ livelihoods at risk and could threaten regional food security, experts say.

Urgent action is required to control a major outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease and prevent its spread throughout North Africa and the Middle East, which could have serious implications for food security in the region, FAO warned on 22 March.


**Yemen: Measles epidemic**

A measles epidemic in Yemen has claimed the lives of more than 155 children under age 5 between January 2011 and March 2012, UNICEF reports.

“The outbreak is a direct result of a decrease in routine immunization services during 2011,” said Geert Cappelaere, the UNICEF Representative in Yemen, in an interview with IRIN. “[This decrease] is a direct result of the 2011 conflicts.”

Some 3,800 measles cases were reported between January 2011 and March 2012. If left unchecked, the epidemic could infect a further 30,000 children and kill 5,000 children in a year, WHO has warned.

According to the Ministry of Health in Yemen, 70 per cent of the reported measles cases, and all deaths, were among children under age 5. UNICEF has advised that vaccinating 8 million children in Yemen will cost about $9 million.

A measles-vaccination campaign was conducted on 10 March targeting the worst affected areas. A second campaign in April targeted the rest of the country. According to UNICEF, the vaccination programme had reached 93 per cent of the target population in 15 districts in Sa’ada governorate as of early April. The previous vaccination campaign in the governorate reached 80 per cent of the target. The intervention was funded through a Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocation of almost $5 million, which was granted in March this year.

About 58 per cent of children in Yemen are stunted and chronically malnourished. This is the second highest percentage in the world after Afghanistan, says UNICEF. In some areas, the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children is 30 per cent, which is twice the internationally recognized emergency threshold. Malnourished children have low immunity, which increases the risk of measles infection.

**Internal displacement grows in Yemen**

About 94,500 people (13,500 families) are displaced due to fighting between Government forces and militant groups in the south of Yemen and tribal clashes in the north since mid-

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In Yemen, a measles epidemic threatens some 30,000 children under age 5 and could result in the deaths of 5,000 children.

In Yemen, new clashes in the north and south have led to the displacement of some 94,500 people.
February. This brings the total number of internally displaced people in Yemen to 465,000 as of February 2012, UNHCR reports.

In the Abyan governorate in the south, some 56,000 people (8,000 families) have been displaced by clashes between armed groups and Yemeni military forces. The fighting began in early March 2012.

There are fears that further armed clashes may lead to more spontaneous displacements. Humanitarian actors are negotiating with the Government to keep roads open to allow for the safe passage of people from conflict areas.

In the Hajjah governorate in the north, new displacements of some 38,500 people (5,500 families) have been reported. The displacements are due to tribal fighting between Al Houthis and opposing tribes, which started in mid-January 2012. The new displacements are in addition to the 122,500 people (17,500 families) who have been displaced in the governorate since the beginning of the year.

These new displacements represent a burden on host communities. Humanitarian organizations are positioning relief stocks and rehabilitating vacant buildings to provide temporary shelter. Shelter remains the biggest challenge.

### New Displacements in Yemen since January 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Number of people displaced</th>
<th>Number of families displaced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abyan Governorate (North Yemen)</td>
<td>56,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hajjah Governorate (South Yemen)</td>
<td>38,500</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>94,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNHCR

In 2012, the combined humanitarian appeal to assist 51 million people in 17 countries totals $7.8 billion.

### Appeals and Funding: Cairo and Doha highlight global humanitarian needs

**Cairo**

The UN and the LAS presented the 2012 Humanitarian Appeal on 12 February in Cairo. They urged the international donor community to generously support 466 humanitarian agencies helping 51 million people in need worldwide.

The appeal represents the international humanitarian community’s strategies and requirements to address needs in 17 countries affected by crises and disasters. The total amount requested is $7.8 billion. The appeal is the largest since the creation of the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) in 1991.

The briefing was hosted at the Arab League’s Cairo headquarters. It was co-chaired by Rashid Khalikov, Director OCHA Geneva, and Dr. Sima Bahous, the LAS Assistant Secretary-General for Social Affairs. Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives from Arab and non-Arab countries attended the briefing.

**Doha**

The Humanitarian Appeal was also highlighted on 5 April in Doha, Qatar, at a meeting chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, and Qatar’s Assistant Minister for International Cooperation, Sheikh Ahmed Bin Mohammed Bin Jabr Al Thani.

Ms. Amos drew attention to Sudan and Somalia, which have the two largest appeals this year. "Millions of people are affected by emergencies caused or worsened by the impact of climate change, insecurity over food and water, economic and political crisis, migration..."
and urbanization,” she said. “Our appeals provide a good basis for a coordinated response so that humanitarian needs are met in an effective and timely way.”

Sheikh Ahmed Bin Mohamed Bin Jabr Al Thani said: “This briefing clearly reflects Qatar’s continued interest in mobilizing international efforts to discuss humanitarian challenges, particularly in Somalia and Sudan, and to encourage all countries to fulfil their commitment and coordinate with one another to mitigate the effects of disasters and conflicts.”

**MENA: Consolidated appeals**

There are currently two consolidated appeals in the MENA region: Yemen and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The funding levels at the end of the first quarter 2012 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Per cent covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>447,138,200</td>
<td>90,439,080</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oPt</td>
<td>416,701,603</td>
<td>151,255,954</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: FTS, 13 April 2012*

**MENA: CERF allocations in first quarter 2012**

**Allocation to Syria: Underfunded Emergency Window**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Agency Project</th>
<th>Approved US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Immunization and nutrition interventions for Iraqi children and mothers</td>
<td>886,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>Reproductive health emergency interventions for Iraqi refugees</td>
<td>597,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Emergency medical assistance for Iraqi refugees affected by the civil unrest in Syria, including refugees suffering from chronic illnesses</td>
<td>597,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNRWA</td>
<td>Protection and livelihood support to vulnerable Iraqi Palestinian refugees in Syria</td>
<td>798,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Cash for food for Iraqi refugees</td>
<td>4,103,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,983,629</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: CERF 13 April 2012*

**Allocation to Yemen: Rapid Response Window**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Agency Project</th>
<th>Approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>Child mortality reduction through a national measles/vitamin A and polio campaign</td>
<td>2,564,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child mortality reduction through a national measles/vitamin A and polio campaign</td>
<td>2,420,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,985,101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: CERF 13 April 2012*

**MENA contributions to CERF**

According to CERF statistics, two countries in the MENA region contributed to the fund during the first quarter of 2012. Kuwait had contributed $550,000 and Egypt $15,000.
CERF allocations to the MENACA region in 2011 amounted to $67.7 million (16 per cent of the global envelope of allocations)

Funding in 2011
The five humanitarian appeals in the OCHA Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia (MENACA) region were, on average, 62 per cent funded at the end of 2011. This is in line with the average funding level of 61 per cent of appeals worldwide. The appeals in 2011 covered Afghanistan ($582 million requested, 60 per cent covered), Libya ($336 million, 82 per cent covered), oPt ($537 million, 57 per cent covered), Pakistan ($357 million, 48 per cent covered) and Yemen ($292 million, 66 per cent covered).

CERF allocations to the MENACA region in 2011 amounted to $67.7 million. This was 16 per cent of the global envelope of allocations, which reached $426.1 million in 2011. Countries in the region provided $5 million to the CERF pooled-fund mechanism.

Libya appeal
By the end of 2011, the humanitarian appeal for the crisis in Libya had closed. It facilitated $276 million in funding to humanitarian agencies. Emphasis during the final quarter of 2011, as articulated in the CHAP Residual Humanitarian Needs, was on IDPs’ needs, the protection of civilians, clearing explosive remnants of war, treating war-wounded people and phasing out humanitarian programming.

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