

## Briefing

# Humanitarian financing to the Syria crisis in 2013

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Global Humanitarian Assistance

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On 30 January, the UN held an international humanitarian pledging conference for Syria, hosted by the State of Kuwait. The conference elicited US\$1.5 billion in pledges of financial support, equalling the total financing requested in the [Syria Humanitarian Response Plan \(SHARP\)](#) and the [Syria Regional Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) funding appeals.

Key points include:

- Pledges have yet to translate into cash contributions, with the RRP just 10% funded and the SHARP 11% funded (at 6 February 2013)
- Donors within the region look set to become among the leading donors to the crisis response.

*This briefing collates and summarises the latest available information on financial investments in humanitarian assistance via international actors to the Syria crisis and will be updated periodically to monitor the financing response to the crisis.*

**Concerned international donors pledged US\$1.5 billion in humanitarian aid financing to meet the needs of affected populations in Syria and the region** at the international pledging conference on 30 January 2013. But pledges made at such conferences are not always straightforward to interpret. These pledges may, for example, include new pledges alongside existing contributions. And of the US\$1.5 billion pledged at the conference, so far a more modest US\$971 million has been verified and captured as new pledges – distinct from existing commitments – by the UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

Moreover, pledges are not binding commitments and do not always translate into actual funds. Despite the large volumes of funds pledged at the conference, relatively little has so far translated into firm commitments and contributions and the SHARP and RRP funding appeals remain respectively, just 10% and 11% funded against requirements.

These pledges will need to be closely monitored to ensure that the support expressed at the pledging conference is converted into real cash that will enable the rapid scale-up of humanitarian programmes in Syria and in the region.

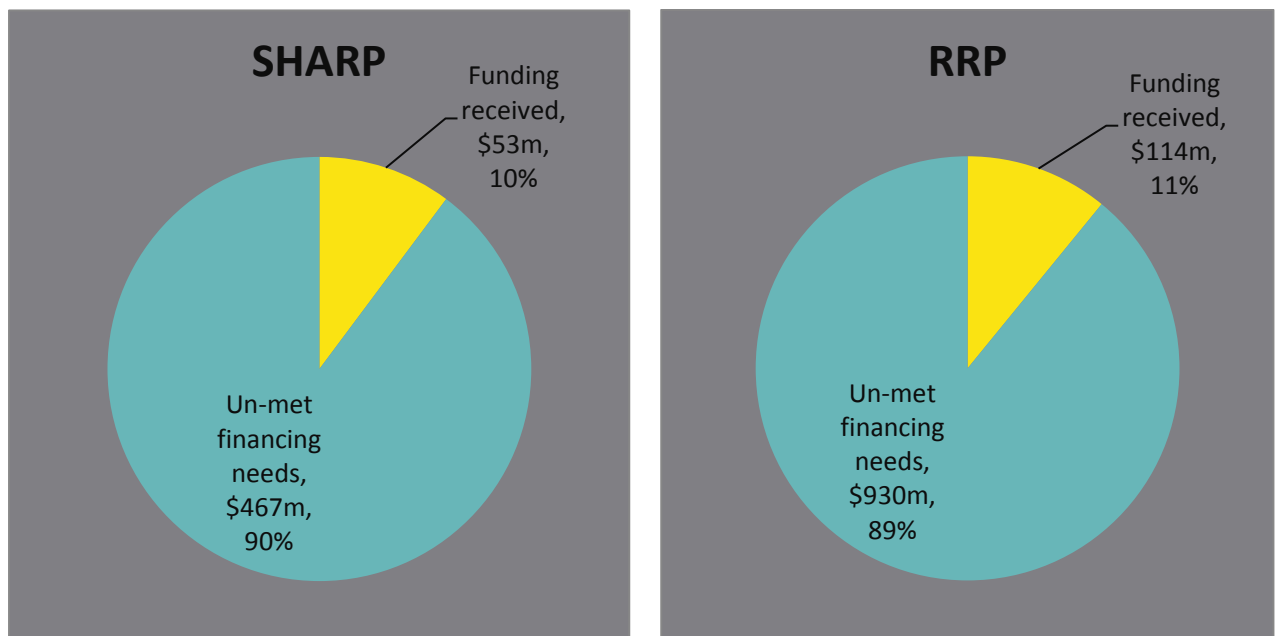
**Contribution:** the actual payment of funds or transfer of in-kind goods from the donor to the recipient entity.

**Commitment:** creation of a legal, contractual obligation between the donor and recipient entity, specifying the amount to be contributed.

**Pledge:** a non-binding announcement of an intended contribution or allocation by the donor.

Source: UN OCHA FTS

**Figure 1: Financing received and unmet financing needs in the SHARP and RRP, January – June 2013 (as at 6 February 2013)**

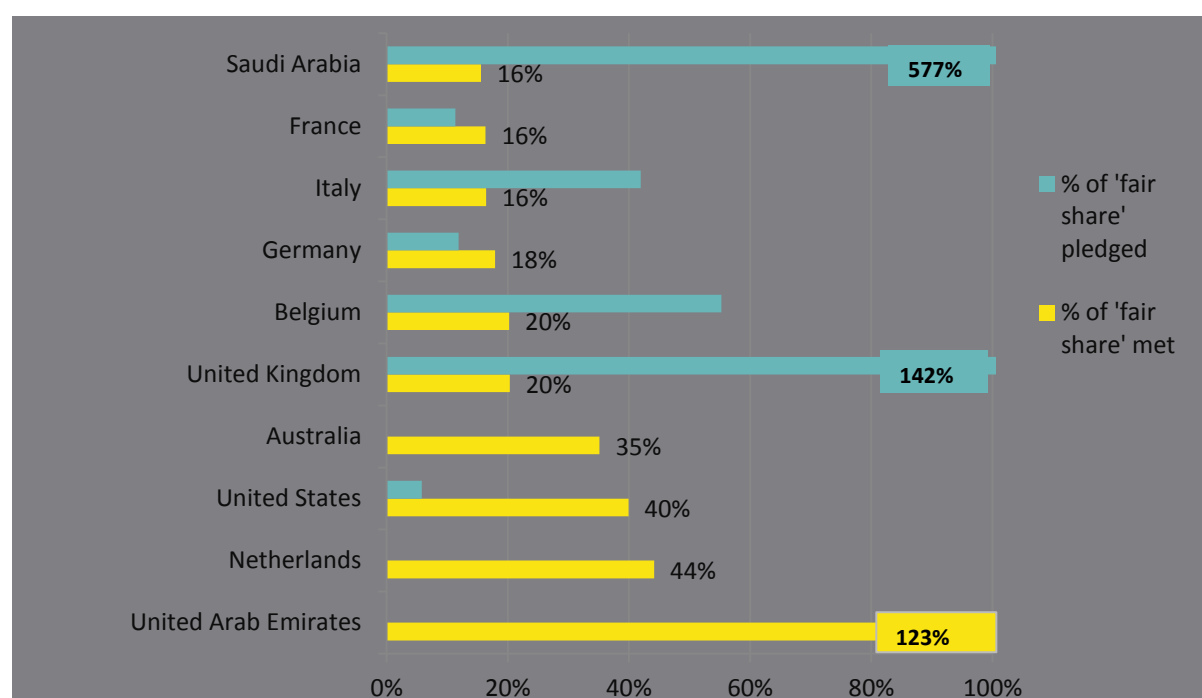


Source: UN OCHA FTS

**Donors within the Middle East region are showing strong support to the humanitarian financing response in 2013.** If international donor governments were to provide support to meet humanitarian needs on the basis of their ability to pay (based on the UN's scale of assessment for contributions to the UN Working Capital Fund and Regular Budget), the United States, Japan, Germany, the UK and France should be expected to collectively contribute 55% or US\$864 million of the financing needs stated in the SHARP and RRP.

But based on actual commitments and contributions to date, donors within the region are set to outperform these five leading global economies by a wide margin. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has provided more than its 'fair share' of funding to the crisis (123%). If pledges from Saudi Arabia are delivered, it will have contributed nearly six times their fair share. Kuwait, whose fair share of funding to the crisis would have been US\$4.3 million, has provided US\$20 million and pledged a further US\$280 million. Combined, this represents delivery of 70 times their 'fair share'. It is worth noting however, that not all of the funds from these donors are expected to flow within the UN funding appeals.

**Figure 2: Proportion of government's 'fair share' of financing contributions to the crisis which had been committed at 6 February 2013 (fair share = 100%)**



**Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS and [UN Assessment of Member States'](#) advances to the Working Capital Fund and contributions to the United Nations regular budget for 2012.** Note: 'Fair shares' are calculated based on UN assessed contribution shares and total funding requirements for the crisis across the SHARP and RRP appeals. Values for funding to the crisis are based on total funding both inside and outside of the funding appeals and is the sum of bilateral funding and an imputed share of funding contributions via the UN CERF and an imputed share of multilateral ODA contributions channelled via the EU institutions, based on government shares of multilateral ODA to the EU institutions in 2011.

Taking into account both bilateral contributions and un-earmarked funds channelled via the UN CERF and EU institutions, the United States, Japan, Germany, the UK and France, while still major donors to the crisis in absolute volume terms, have contributed considerably less than their 'fair share' of the total funding required.

**Figure 3: 'Fair shares' of funding to meet the financing needs stated in the SHARP and RRP appeals for Syria in 2013 and actual funding (\*at 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013)**

	UN scale of assessments	'Fair share' of SHARP and RRP funding requirements (US\$m)	Total funding to the crisis (US\$m)*	Total pledged to the crisis (US\$m)*
<b>United States</b>	22.0%	344.0	137.3	20.0
<b>Japan</b>	10.8%	169.4	0.1	65.0
<b>Germany</b>	7.1%	111.7	20.0	13.3
<b>France</b>	5.6%	87.5	14.3	9.9
<b>United Kingdom</b>	5.2%	81.0	16.5	114.7
<b>China</b>	5.1%	80.5	-	1.2
<b>Italy</b>	4.4%	69.6	11.4	29.2
<b>Canada</b>	3.0%	46.7	-	25.2
<b>Spain</b>	3.0%	46.5	6.9	4.0
<b>Brazil</b>	2.9%	45.9	-	0.3
<b>Russian Federation</b>	2.4%	38.1	3.0	-
<b>Australia</b>	2.1%	32.4	11.4	-
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	2.0%	31.2	0.1	3.0
<b>Mexico</b>	1.8%	28.8	-	-
<b>Netherlands</b>	1.7%	25.9	11.4	-
<b>Turkey</b>	1.3%	20.8	0.0	-
<b>Switzerland</b>	1.0%	16.4	-	11.0
<b>Belgium</b>	1.0%	15.6	3.2	8.6
<b>Sweden</b>	1.0%	15.0	2.2	23.0
<b>Poland</b>	0.9%	14.4	1.8	0.5
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	0.9%	13.5	2.1	78.0
<b>Norway</b>	0.9%	13.3	-	37.8
<b>Austria</b>	0.8%	12.5	1.9	-
<b>Denmark</b>	0.7%	10.6	1.6	10.0
<b>India</b>	0.7%	10.4	-	2.5
<b>Greece</b>	0.6%	10.0	1.5	0.1
<b>Venezuela</b>	0.6%	9.8	-	-
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	0.6%	9.3	11.5	-
<b>Finland</b>	0.5%	8.1	1.3	4.6
<b>Portugal</b>	0.5%	7.4	1.1	-

**Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS and [UN Assessment of Member States'](#) advances to the Working Capital Fund and contributions to the UN regular budget for 2012.** Note: 'Fair shares' are calculated based on UN assessed contribution shares and total funding requirements for the crisis across the SHARP and RRP appeals. Values for funding to the crisis are based on total funding both inside and outside of the funding appeals and is the sum of bilateral funding and an imputed share of funding contributions via the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and an imputed share of multilateral ODA contributions channelled via the EU institutions, based on government shares of multilateral ODA to the EU institutions in 2011.

**Further information:**

[UN OCHA FTS tracking page](#) | [UN OCHA pledging conference page](#) | [UN OCHA Syria page](#) | [UNHCR Syria Regional Refugee Response information portal](#) | [Syria Needs Analysis Project \(SNAP\)](#)