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Arab Council urges support for Red Cross Syria Crisis Appeal

Nine million people, nearly half the country's population, are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance due to the conflict in Syria. Arab Council Australia urges everyone to do what they can to support the Red Cross Syria Crisis Appeal.

Ms Randa Kattan, Chief Executive Officer of Arab Council Australia, said it was shocking that more than four million Syrians are desperately in need of food and risk dangerous shortages in the weeks ahead as the conflict continues in Syria.

"Every day, thousands of Syrians continue to cross into the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq to escape the escalating violence," said Ms Kattan.

"The hardships faced by the people of Syria are enormous. At least three quarters of the people forced to flee due to the violence are woman and children."

"We urge all Australians, from Arab and other communities, now more than ever to support the people of Syria by giving generously and making a donation to the Australian Red Cross Syria Crisis Appeal."

"Close to two million people in Syria are receiving aid every month from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, with support from local non-government organisations and supported by the international Red Cross Red Crescent Movement." Ms Kattan said.

More than 6.25 million Syrians have been forced from their homes according to Red Cross, since the conflict began in March 2011.

More than two million refugees have fled into neighbouring countries. The UN has estimated that there could be 3 million refugees in surrounding countries by the end of 2013.

The funds collected as part of the Australian Red Cross Syria Crisis Appeal is providing emergency health care, shelter, food and water to people inside Syria. The Appeal is also assisting refugees in Lebanon and Jordan.

"All Australians can make a difference by supporting the people of Syria in the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today," she said.

To make a donation to the Australian Red Cross' Syria Crisis Appeal, visit www.redcross.org.au or call 1800 811 700.

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media release

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