

Highlights:

- IOM remains operational inside Syria and has provided the repatriation assistance to 631 migrants from Syria so far. National and international staff are all accounted for in Damas and regional offices.
- In Jordan, IOM has obtained two caravans that will serve as mobile medical facilities.
- In Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey, IOM continues to provide assistance to displaced Syrians through the procurement and distribution of essential NFIs.

Situation by country

Syria

Overview

As fierce fighting continues for the third day in Damascus, the prolonged armed conflict in Syria is having devastating physical and psychological effects on hundreds of thousands of people. On July 18, the death of three government officials was confirmed. The United Nations Security Council voted on a new Syria resolution on July 19.

IOM Response

The volume of requests for repatriation assistance from embassies and individual migrants is expected to increase significantly with the security situation in Syria rapidly deteriorating. To date IOM received requests from 14 embassies to provide repatriation assistance to their nationals. IOM has provided repatriation assistance including pre-departure fitness-to-travel checks to 631 migrants thanks to CERF funding. There are 2,428 migrants in the pipeline awaiting assistance. IOM is concerned by potential risks run by vulnerable migrants who could fall into trafficking networks. 242 stranded migrants are reported as having difficulty accessing food.

Jordan

Overview

The total number of Syrians crossing into Jordan over the past two weeks has ranged from 200 to 300 people per day. Government sources indicate that Jordan has received over 140,000 Syrians since March 2011. According to UNHCR, over 32,800 individuals have been registered and an additional 2,644 are awaiting registration.



IOM staff monitoring the packing of 5000 pillows and 5000 to be delivered to Kizilay. © IOM Turkey

Two weeks ago, 382 single Syrian men residing at the new King Abdullah Park (KAP) were transferred to the Sports Stadium site, while 600 Syrian families were transferred from the Stadium to KAP. Although KAP has the capacity to hold 800 Syrians, it is currently hosting 980 individuals.

On July 9, the Cabinet of the Jordanian Government agreed to establish more long-term emergency camps for Syrians residing in Jordan. As such, a site near the border city of Mafraq is now recognised as Jordan's first refugee camp and is expected to be open for the initial reception of up to 25,000 Syrians. The camp will have an overall capacity to accommodate 130,000 people.

Additionally, the government has permitted IOM to establish camps specifically for TCNs, although no TCNs have been reported entering Jordan from Syria yet.

IOM Response

Since 27 June, IOM's medical team has been providing primary health care services through fixed and mobile clinics for Syrian nationals. The clinic at King Abdullah Park is open 16-18 hours per day, though in the past week, IOM staff kept the clinic operating for 24 hours over 4 days.

On July 17, IOM procured two caravans, to serve as mobile medical facilities, that are expected to be fully operational by next week. IOM deploys medical staff to KAP daily and has also prepared a roster of medical staff with an additional 5 doctors and 3 nurses who will provide services between 8am and 11pm.

This past week, IOM's medical team has screened 592 Syrians and has conducted individual and group awareness-raising sessions for 2,268 Syrians. To date, the number of suspected TB cases has reached 46 individuals. IOM staff have been using a portable x-ray device that allows for more accurate diagnosis, rather than sending individuals to government hospitals.

Iraq

Overview

Over 8,000 Syrian refugees have crossed into Northern Iraq since the beginning of the crisis. As of July 11, UNHCR reports show that 6,547 Syrian refugees have been registered and 1,453 are awaiting registration. Statistics show that 5,269 individuals are currently residing in Duhok, 380 in Suleimaniyah, and 898 in Erbil. According to UNHCR, more than 40 families and approximately 200 individuals have entered the Kurdistan Region over the last week.

IOM Response

On July 12, IOM conducted its 10th distribution of NFI kits to 184 individuals. To date, IOM has distributed NFI items to a total of 2,372 Syrian refugees.

Lebanon

Overview

Over 30,000 displaced Syrians are currently receiving assistance and support in Lebanon, 28,477 of whom have been registered. Instability along the Lebanese-Syrian border intensified this week as clashes within Syria extended into various Lebanese towns. The security situation prevented staff from commuting to the field on numerous occasions, resulting in a delay of NFI distributions. Essential health care has also been interrupted due to a lack of funding, which was announced by the Higher Relief Commission on 10 July.

IOM Response

Last week, IOM received detailed information from local communities on the identification of 168 Syrian families who arrived in Lebanon over the past week. Through the existing referral mechanism, it has been agreed that UNHCR will conduct the registration and IOM will ensure the distribution of hygiene and household kits to the new arrivals. The next round of NFI distributions, to be held in Bekaa and North Lebanon, is scheduled to take place this week. If security allows, a field visit is intended to conduct needs assessments for household shelter support items to be provided to families in these regions.

Turkey

Overview

Currently 42,682 Syrians have fled the violence and are being sheltered in 10 camps along the 911km Turkey-Syria border. The Turkish Prime Ministry is set to build a new refugee camp with a capacity of up to 10,000 refugees, as hundreds more continue to arrive in Turkey, fleeing the violence on-going in Syria.

As of July 13, the total camp population has reached 38,914 persons, an increase of 5,835 in the past two weeks. This past week saw the arrival of 1,289 Syrians and the return of 260 Syrians between July 12-13. Between May 24 and July 13, there has been an increase of 60% in the total number of Syrians who are currently being provided with temporary protection by the Turkish Government.