

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

19 - 25 February 2013



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional response in full coordination with host Governments and 55 partners across the region. This is the first update for 2013 and will be produced on a weekly basis.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The massive influx of refugees into neighbouring countries totals **940,131** - including over **330,000** since the beginning of the year, further stretching the humanitarian community's capacity to provide assistance.
- Funding of the Regional Response Plan for Syria stands at **19 per cent**, while the refugee population is approaching **90 per cent** of the June 2013 planning figure. **Underfunding** has become a major operational challenge.
- **Sexual and gender-based violence and child protection** remain key protection priorities. The inter-agency response focuses on scaling up availability and accessibility of services for vulnerable women and children, who make up an estimated **66 per cent** of the regional Syrian refugee population*.
- The Al-Qa'im border closure in **Iraq** remains of serious concern although exceptions are being made for medical emergencies and family reunification.
- Syrian refugees living in urban and non-camp settings, estimated to be more than **60 per cent** of the total refugee population, is placing significant strain on local communities and government services in host countries.

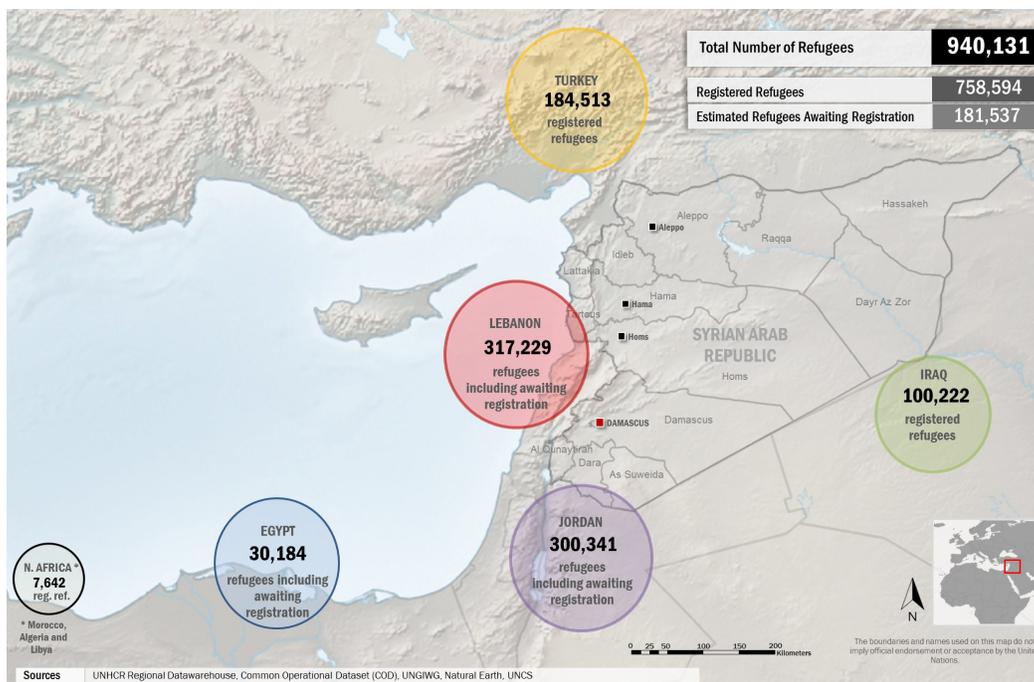
REGIONAL FIGURES

- 7,000** refugees arrive on average each day
- 1.1 million** refugees expected by March
- 81%** funding gap in the 2013 regional appeal
- 61%** of refugees live in urban settings
- 193,000** children vaccinated against measles
- 51%** of Syrian refugees are under 18 years of age*

*Gender and age disaggregated data is not currently available for Egypt

REGISTRATION CAPACITY INCREASED TO RESPOND TO ONGOING INFLUX OF NEW ARRIVALS

- Registration has become a top priority. Exceptional measures are being taken to boost capacity and reduce the waiting period to under 28 days by the end of March in Lebanon and Jordan, where around 115,000 and 55,000 refugees respectively await registration.
- **Lebanon** - two new registration centers opened in February, bringing the total number of centers to four. The registration pace is improving steadily but waiting periods average over two months. Strategies to further reduce delays include opening two more registration centres, establishing weekend shifts and implementing a parallel mobile registration effort.
- **Jordan** - waiting times have been reduced to two and a half months. A new registration centre in Irbid opened in February and is registering some 700 refugees a day, in addition to the daily rate of around 1,000 individuals processed in Amman.



Total number includes Refugee population data as of 27 February 2013 based on available data. For updated figures, visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

PROTECTION MONITORING IS INCREASING ACROSS THE REGION IN RESPONSE TO SGBV NEEDS

- Registration and community outreach is critical for identifying protection needs and refer refugees to the appropriate services. Protection monitoring activities continue to be scaled up across the region.
- Jordan – identification and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) incidents continue to take place through field visits, hotline/infoline, help desks and counseling takes place on a daily basis by partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), UNICEF, UNFPA and the Family Protection Department of the Ministry of Interior. Medical, psycho-social and legal support is provided in Za'atri and North, Central and South Jordan. Physical security is ensured through relocation and/or placement in a government shelter in Amman.
- Lebanon - the recently established SGBV Task Force will roll out the pilot GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) for operations in Northern Lebanon. The GBVIMS enables effective and safe collection, storage and analysis of data reported by survivors. It is expected to inform programmatic decision-making, improve data-sharing and collaboration, bolster advocacy efforts and improve donor reporting. The [GBVIMS](#) is a global inter-agency initiative led by the IRC, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF.

CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS SCALED UP TO RESPOND TO LARGE

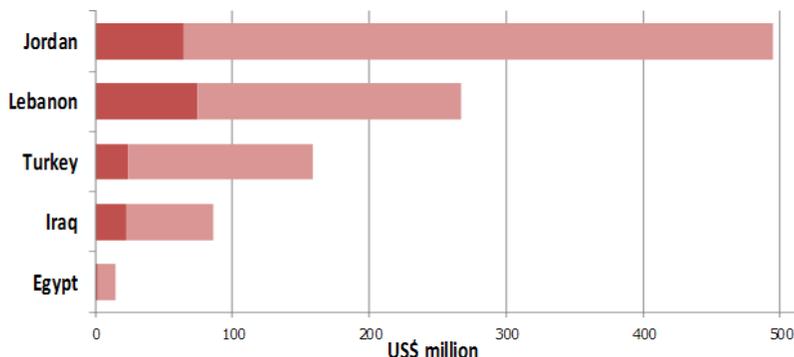
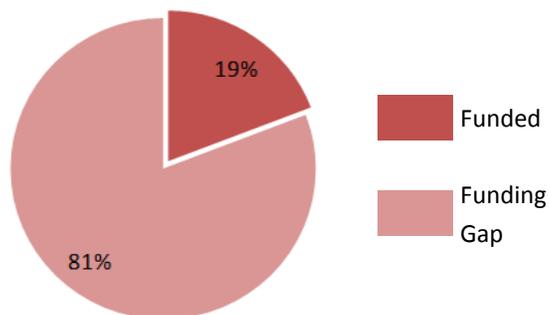
UNDER-18 POPULATION

- Child protection vulnerabilities include violence, abuse and neglect, unaccompanied minors, child labour, child-headed households and early marriage.
- UNICEF is scaling up outreach initiatives to enrol Syrian children in school. However, public schools are nearing saturation point and other options must now be considered, including additional double-shifted schools.
- Turkey – At current funding levels, UNICEF is unable to cover all school-aged children residing in existing camps, or expand services to new arrivals and host communities.
- Lebanon – Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre have enrolled close to 16,000 Syrian students in public schools.
- Jordan – UNICEF and Save the Children International continue to provide psychosocial support services for an estimated 1,200 children per day in Za'atri camp. Case management services for urban refugees have reached 277 vulnerable families through IMC.
- Iraq – In Domiz camp, over 500 children are visiting child-friendly spaces and partners are looking to expand child protection interventions.



A young Syrian girl sits with her mother, who is learning sewing skills through a vocational training programme at Adiyaman refugee camp, Turkey. Credit: B.Sokol ©UNHCR

2013 RRP Funding received as of 15 February: US\$ 200,322,837*



*Total includes US\$ 12 million regionally earmarked funding. This does not include unconfirmed contributions. We are grateful to all the donors who pledged at the Kuwait Conference on 30 January, 2013. Follow-up is underway to turn these pledges into commitments so that growing needs can continue to be met.

MID-YEAR REFUGEE PLANNING FIGURES TO BE SURPASSED IN MARCH

- Current trends indicate that planning figures in the Syria Regional Response Plan to June 2013 (RRP4) will be surpassed in March.
- Needs assessments and inter-agency planning for RRP5 (January - December 2013) will take place in March-April, including the revision of regional and country-specific contingency plans.
- UNHCR has established a regional support team based in Amman, Jordan to ensure regional cohesion, support and coordination in the inter-agency response to refugee operations and protection.

| Country | Refugees registered and/or assisted | Estimated refugee population by June 2013 |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Egypt | 30,184 | 30,000 |
| Iraq | 100,222 | 90,000 |
| Turkey | 184,513* | 380,000 |
| Lebanon | 317,229 | 300,000 |
| Jordan | 300,341 | 300,000 |
| North Africa | 7,642 | -- |
| Total | 940,131 (85%) | 1,100,000 |

Refugee population data as of 27 February 2013 based on available data. For updated figures, visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

* Figure provided by the Government of Turkey. This figure is expected to increase with the inclusion of urban refugee figures in the coming days.

RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS CHALLENGING CAPACITY TO ADDRESS FOOD AND HEALTH NEEDS

- Food security remains a major concern across the region. WFP is scaling up operations to respond to needs of dramatically increasing refugee populations for the coming months and beyond.
- UNICEF continues to support routine immunization against measles and polio.
- Increasing numbers of refugees arriving with complex medical problems is straining the capacity of partners to provide adequate healthcare services.
- Jordan – health services are overstretched inside and outside Za’atri camp. There have been over 93,000 consultations at the Moroccan hospital in Za’atri camp since July 2012.
- Lebanon – there is a severe shortage of essential medications. Partner-supported urban primary healthcare clinics respond to some 3,650 refugee patients in one week.
- Iraq – 1,120 Syrian refugees receive health services in Domiz and Al Qa’im camps every day.
- Egypt - a high prevalence of chronic illnesses, rehabilitative and mental healthcare needs have been identified.

HIGH COST OF LIVING EXERTING ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON REFUGEES IN URBAN SETTINGS

- High costs of living, lack of job opportunities and rapidly dwindling resources are making life increasingly difficult for Syrian refugees. Cash assistance programs are in place to support vulnerable families.
- Over 60 per cent of refugees across the region are in urban settings. Housing is emerging as a critical and costly need. Many refugees are sharing accommodation and borrowing funds to meet rent payments.
- Lebanon – 64 per cent of refugees are renting accommodation and a further 24 per cent are hosted in urban communities. Partners are identifying and equipping collective shelters to meet basic needs.



Makeshift shelter for Syrian refugees in Tripoli, Lebanon. Credit: E. Byun ©UNHCR

Mass information campaign to increase awareness of available services

- Improved communications on existing and planned camp facilities are needed to better inform refugees of available services. Visual plans and mass information systems will help people find their way around growing camp settlements.
- Iraq - A mass information system will be established in the settlements in the Kurdistan region. A specific concern has been raised with regard to children getting lost as there is currently no referral mechanism or system to report missing children.
- Jordan - an awareness campaign will be implemented in Za'atri camp to improve communications on existing and planned camp developments. Visual plans marking the location of facilities in new parts of the camp (including new distribution sites, market places, school, clinics and child-friendly spaces) will be shared with new arrivals and the existing population.
- Lebanon - Partners are working to further develop its "refugee focal point" projects in Lebanon, whereby refugees volunteers are recruited to assist in outreach visits. UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Community Services and Protection teams conducted a one-day training with 18 refugee community focal points residing in Akkar. The trained focal points will strengthen the link between refugee communities and UNHCR, and deepen the agency's understanding of changing needs to improve its response.



Winterization assistance distribution to vulnerable Syrian refugee families residing in urban communities in Erbil, Iraq. ©UNHCR

The regional response for Syrian refugees is the coordinated effort of 55 participating agencies:

ACF | ACTED | AMEL | ACFST | ARRD-Legal Aid | Association of Volunteers International | CARE International | CARITAS | CLMC | CVT | CHF International | CISP/RI | CEOSS | DRC | FCA ACT Alliance | GVC/Muslin Aid | HAI | HI | ICMC | IMC | IOM | IOCC | IRD | IRC | Internews | Intersos | JEN | JHCO | JHAS | JRF | Madrasati Initiative | Medair | MC | MPDL | NRC | Oxfam GB | PIN | PU-AMI | PSTIC | Questscope | RI | Restart | Save the Children Jordan | SCI | ShelterBox | Terres des Hommes | THW | UPP | UNDP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHABITAT | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNOPS | UNRWA | UNWOMEN | War Child Holland | WFP | WHO | World Vision Lebanon

Partners are invited to contribute to this report. For more information or to be added to the distribution list, please contact Anna King, UNHCR Regional Reporting Officer | kinga@unhcr.org