

# INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

15 - 21 August 2013



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 126 partners across the region. Published weekly on Thursday, the next update will be available on 29 August 2013.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Iraq** - An estimated 40,000 Syrians have streamed into the Kurdistan Region in northern Iraq since last Thursday. Based on preliminary information, the new arrivals are from communities in northern Syria including Efrin, Aleppo, Hassake and Qamishly. The influx began when Kurdistan Regional Government authorities suddenly opened access to the temporary Peshkhabour pontoon bridge north of Sahela, allowing several hundred people camped in the area since earlier last week to enter Iraq.

- **Egypt** - The current protection environment remains unstable and significant numbers of Syrian refugees have expressed concern for their wellbeing, depleting food rations and savings to support their families, and an inability to work and generate income in the current environment.

Community leaders and partners have collaborated reports that many Syrians are expressing a wish to go back to Syria or another country. Destinations reportedly include Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Algeria, Malaysia and Syria.

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## REGIONAL FIGURES

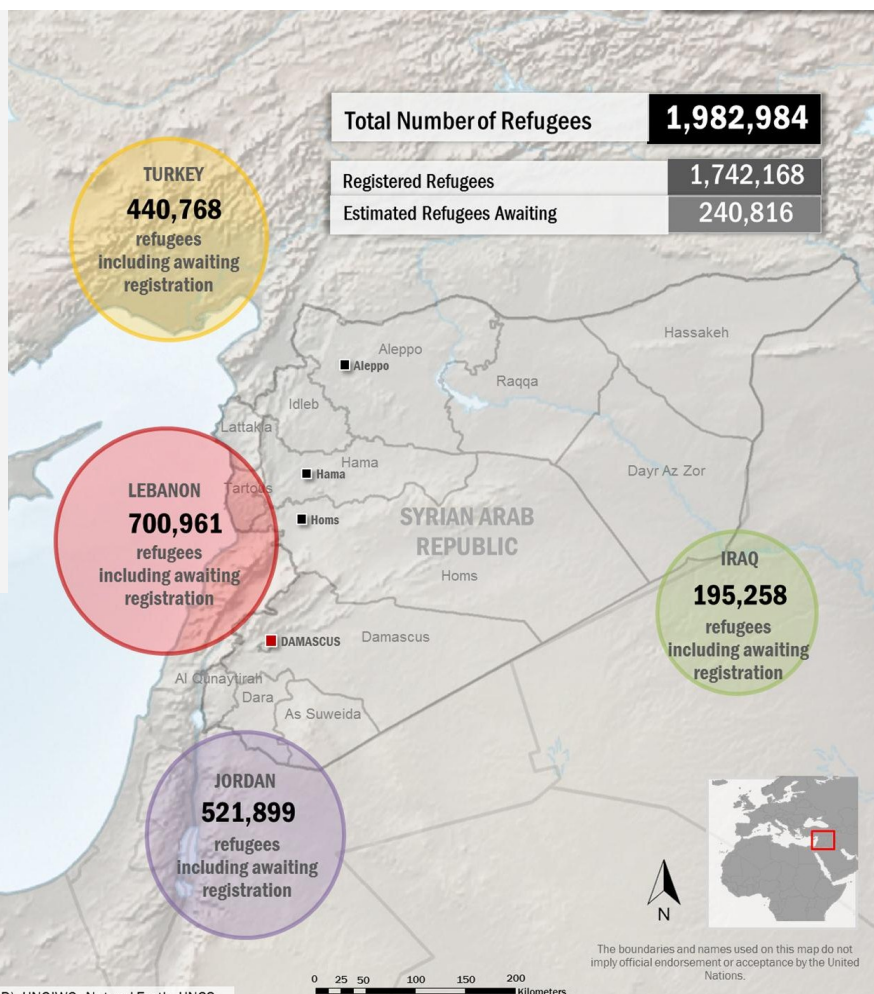
**1.98 million** refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighboring countries

**1.1 million** beneficiaries reached by WFP's food assistance in July

**25,500** medical operations performed and

**5,369** births recorded in Turkish hospitals for Syrian refugees since the beginning of the crisis

**17,500** pregnant women estimated amongst Syrian refugees in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey



Sources UNHCR Regional Datawarehouse, Common Operational Dataset (COD), UNGIWG, Natural Earth, UNCS

Refugee population as of 21 August 2013, based on available data. For updated figures, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

## Iraq: 40,000 Syrian refugees flee into Kurdistan Region over past five days

- Since last Thursday, 15 August, an estimated 40,000 Syrian refugees have streamed into Iraq's Kurdistan Region after fleeing communities across northern Syria.
- The influx began last Thursday when the Kurdistan Regional Government authorities suddenly opened access to the temporary Peshkhabour pontoon bridge north of Sahela, allowing several hundred people camped in the area since earlier last week to enter Iraq. By the end of that day and into the following morning, thousands of people had swarmed across the bridge over the Tigris River.
- The on-going exodus adds sharply to the number of Syrians in Iraq. Prior to Thursday some 154,000 Syrians had registered as refugees in Iraq, including some 95 per cent in the Kurdistan Region.
- Preliminary assessments indicate that the majority of new arrivals are families with children and elderly family members.
- Conditions in northern Iraq are hot and dry, with temperatures hovering around 40°C. Water, sanitation facilities, shaded areas and health services are urgent needs while refugees wait for transportation to transit sites.
- In response, Government authorities, UN agencies and humanitarian partners are distributing water and food, and providing emergency health services at the border. Shelters have been erected to provide shade. The Kurdistan Regional Government and IOM have provided buses and trucks to move the thousands of people onwards from the border zone deeper into Iraq.
- Identification at the border of those with special needs, including pregnant women, people with disability or chronic disease, unaccompanied minors, the elderly and female-headed households, is prioritized to avoid further vulnerability.
- UNHCR continues to coordinate overall emergency response operations to protect and assist Syrian refugees in Iraq and will continue to maintain a presence at the border.

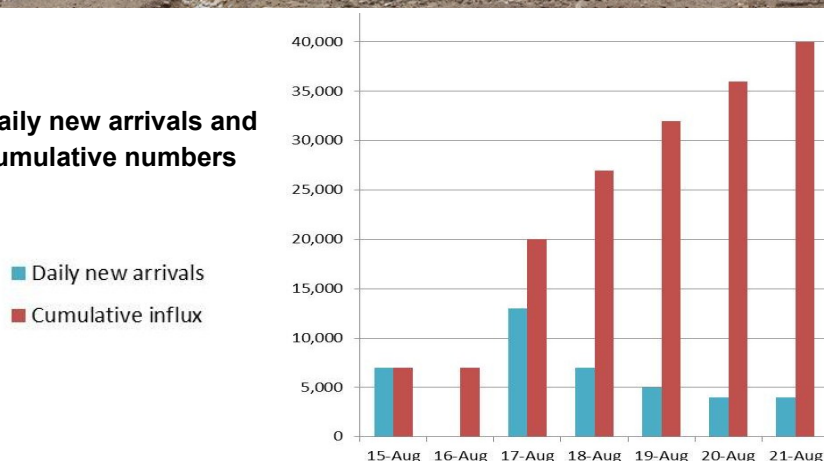


Above: Thousands of Syrians streamed across a bridge over the Tigris River last Thursday into Iraq's Kurdistan Region. UNHCR | G. Gubaeva

Below: A transit site has been established at Kawergosk, Erbil Governorate. UNHCR



### Daily new arrivals and cumulative numbers





## Mass influx into northern Iraq: the response

• **Shelter** - In Erbil Governorate, east of the border crossing point, a transit site has been established at Kawergosk in Khabat District. Kawergosk is currently sheltering some 15,000 new Syrian arrivals.

Authorities also provided access to a warehouse in Bahrak and an estimated 3,000 Syrians are housed at this facility. In addition, land has been identified in Erbil's Qusthtapa district where another transit site will be established.

As well as those in tented accommodation, some 14,000 people are living with host families or are encamped at mosques in the Erbil region.

Further to the southeast at Sulaimaniyah, 4,000 people are currently accommodated temporarily in schools whilst a transit site is being established at Arbat.

More than 1,100 tents have been erected, along with 200 tents assembled by the International Rescue Committee (IRC). In addition, UNHCR has dispatched another 2,500 tents from Erbil for distribution at the different sites to meet immediate needs. To boost stockpiles of rapidly depleting aid supplies within Iraq, UNHCR has sent 15 tractor trailer trucks from its main regional stockpile in Amman, Jordan. That shipment, expected to arrive before the end of the week, includes more than 3,100 tents, two pre-fabricated warehouses and jerry cans. Additional supplies are currently being organized.

Longer term, in cooperation with the Kurdish Regional Government, UNHCR and humanitarian response partners are building the Darashakran camp, which is expected to be ready to accommodate refugees in two weeks.

• **Protection** - UNHCR has begun registering refugees in both Erbil and Sulaimaniyah. UNICEF, the local Department of Social Affairs and ACTED are supporting UNHCR and IRC at the crossing point to ensure unaccompanied and separated children are identified, registered and provided with all necessary support.

• **Food** - Government authorities continue to carry out food distribution. WFP is in the process of scaling up food stocks to respond to the new arrivals. UNICEF has procured 60,000 litres of bottled water and 20,000 biscuits for under-5 children to be distributed to refugees sheltered at the Kawergosk transit site.

• **Water and sanitation** - Up to 100 water mobile latrines have been set up at Kawergosk, along with six 800-litre water tanks. In addition, in the Arbat transit site, 15 trench latrines and another eight deep single latrines have been completed.

• **Core relief items (CRIs)** - Over the past days UNHCR has dispatched more than 90 trucks carrying aid from Erbil. Relief items have also been distributed, including tents, plastic tarpaulins, sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen sets, hygienic supplies, water tanks, portable latrines, portable showers and electric fans. ACTED is carrying out emergency CRI distributions, providing 1,050 essential household kits to families in three days. A local NGO, the Barzani Charity Foundation, has committed to providing basic household items, water and sanitation support and medical assistance.

• **Mass information** - UNHCR has launched a mass information campaign to inform Syrian refugees regarding registration procedures. A mobile team of 52 Syrian refugee volunteers have begun conducting tent visits in Kawergosk to provide initial information on registration procedures and gather information from refugees on any issues they are facing for follow-up.



*Food distributions at the Kawergosk temporary site in Erbil Governorate, Kurdistan Region in northern Iraq. Approximately 15,000 Syrian refugees are accommodated at the site. UNHCR*

## Egypt: WFP increasing coverage and expresses food security concerns amidst instability

- WFP is concerned about the rise of poverty and food insecurity among the most vulnerable communities in Egypt, amidst continued political uncertainties and a worsening economic situation that the country had been facing over the past few months.
- Distribution of food vouchers for Syrian refugees went ahead in July and is planned for August. Altogether, WFP reached 95 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries in July, assisting 35,000 Syrian refugees with food vouchers in greater Cairo, Damietta and Alexandria despite on-going political instability and demonstrations across the country.
- WFP plans to reach 50,000 Syrian refugees in August, including in some additional and poorer neighbourhoods. WFP staff have resumed normal operations after work from home modality was used for few days when road closures were experienced in Cairo.
- Following a request from the Government of Egypt, WFP has established a country-level letter of understanding with UNRWA to provide food assistance to 6,000 Palestinian refugees previously residing in Syria who have sought refuge in Egypt.

**WFP Food Assistance Beneficiaries - December 2012 - July 2013**



As of 14 August 2013 \*reconciliation of figures ongoing.

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 126 participating organizations, including 84 appealing:

ActionAid | [Action Contre la Faim](#) | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | [Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development](#) | The Lebanese Association for Development | [Lebanese Association for Human Promotion & Literacy](#) | Amel Association | [ARRD – Legal Aid](#) | Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale | [CARE International](#) | Caritas | [Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre](#) | Catholic Relief Services | [Centre for Victims of Torture](#) | Cooperative Housing Foundation International | [Children without Borders](#) | Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | Finn Church Aid/Act Alliance | [FAO](#) | Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura | [GVC/Muslim Aid](#) | Handicap International | [Heartland Alliance International](#) | Institute for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation | [International Catholic Migration Commission](#) | International Medical Corps | [IOM](#) | International Orthodox Christian Charities | [International Relief and Development](#) | International Rescue Committee | [INTERSOS](#) | Islamic Relief Worldwide | [JEN](#) | Jesuit Refugee Service | [Jordan Health Aid Society](#) | LDS Charities | [Lebanese Red Cross](#) | Lutheran World Federation | [Madrasati Initiative](#) | Medair | [Médecins du Monde](#) | Mercy Corps | [Movement for Peace](#) | Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | Operation Mercy | [Oxfam GB](#) | Première Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale | [Qatar Red Crescent](#) | Questscope | [Refugee Education Trust](#) | Relief International | [Restart](#) | Rene Mouawad Foundation | [Royal Health Awareness Society](#) | Safadi Foundation | [Save the Children International](#) | Save the Children Jordan | [Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development](#) | Solidarités International | [Terre des Hommes](#) | Terre des Hommes Italia | [Terre des Hommes Lausanne](#) | German Federal Agency for Technical Relief | [Un ponte per](#) | UNDP | [UNESCO](#) | UNFPA | [UN-Habitat](#) | UNHCR | [UNICEF](#) | UNODC | [UNOPS](#) | UNRWA | [UN Women](#) | War Child Holland | [WFP](#) | WHO | [World Rehabilitation Fund](#) | World Vision | [YMCA](#) |

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