

# INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

12 - 18 September 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 26 September 2013.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR is seeing a sharp increase in Syrians arriving by boat in southern Italy. Over the past 40 days, 3,300 Syrians - of whom more than 230 were unaccompanied children - have come ashore. The majority have come from Egypt although some started their journeys from Turkey. UNHCR estimates that over 4,600 Syrians have arrived in Italy by sea since the beginning of 2013. A full two-thirds of these arrivals have been in August.
- The Government of Egypt has extended its provision to allow Syrian children to have the same access to public education as Egyptians for the 2013-2014 academic year.
- WFP successfully completed the first voucher distribution in Za'atri camp, Jordan, alongside dry rations on 12 September. The second September cycle of dry ration and voucher distributions will begin 17 September and is planned to reach 122,322 beneficiaries.
- Approximately 61,000 Syrians crossed into Iraq's Kurdistan Region since 15 August, of which 29,000 have been registered and the remaining 32,000 are pending registration.

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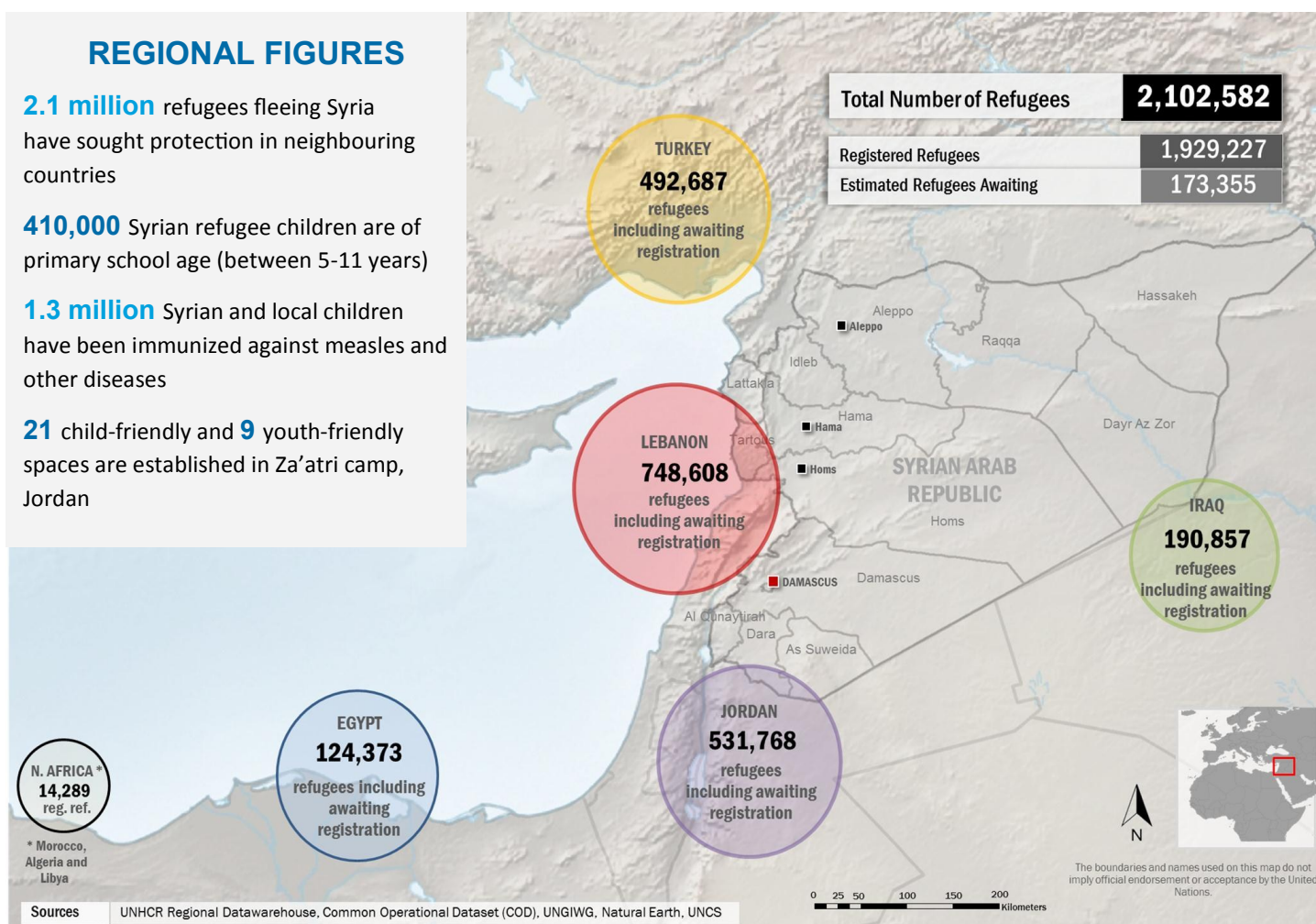
## REGIONAL FIGURES

**2.1 million** refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

**410,000** Syrian refugee children are of primary school age (between 5-11 years)

**1.3 million** Syrian and local children have been immunized against measles and other diseases

**21** child-friendly and **9** youth-friendly spaces are established in Za'atri camp, Jordan



## Education initiatives for refugee children to reach their full potential in new school year

### Egypt: Government announces access to education for Syrian refugees

- The Ministry of Education announced that Syrian children will have the same access to education as Egyptian children for the 2013-14 school year.
- According to government estimates provided in June, some 250,000 to 300,000 Syrians currently reside in Egypt of which over 104,000 are currently registered. Around 30,000 of registered Syrian refugees in Egypt are of school age and half of this population are currently enrolled in school.
- To boost school enrolment, UNHCR provides Syrian refugee children with grants upon enrolment and their regular attendance to help cover school fees, uniforms, books, stationary and transportation.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and UNHCR have been conducting a joint needs assessment of public schools with the highest numbers of Syrian refugees in Cairo, Giza, Qualubia, Damietta and Alexandria. The assessment will help indicate what assistance schools require to enhance their capacity and facilitate easier access to accommodate additional students.
- A number of challenges have already been identified, including insufficient numbers of teachers, desks, blackboards, lab equipment, computers, and classrooms to absorb the added numbers. The assessment also took note of potential space available through rehabilitation and refurbishment.
- The League of Arab States is also assisting efforts to ensure the education of Syrian students in Egypt with the announcement of 1,000 scholarships for registered Syrian refugees. The initiative will allow Syrians lacking financial means to pursue higher education and is funded by the League of Arab States, the Office of the former President of Portugal Mr. Jorge Sampaio, the Council of Europe, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and several European and Arab universities.



*Three Syrian siblings from Damascus registering with UNHCR in Zamalek, Cairo.*  
UNHCR | S. Baldwin

### Schools adopt second shifts to increase absorption capacity

- To provide access to formal education for the increasing number of Syrian students in host communities, two teaching shifts will be implemented in schools to double teaching capacity.
- Jordan - The total number of registered Syrian students in both camps and host communities reached 81,137 children. Forty-seven schools in host communities have been double-shifted, with 16,944 registered students. Over 4,000 schoolbags have been distributed to Za'atri school students in preparation for the new academic year. Some of the double-shifted schools have reached full capacity and are unable to register all students. The Ministry of Education has advised that 1,454 children are currently on the waiting list at 13 double-shifted schools.
- Lebanon - The need to meet the education needs of over 250,000 registered Syrian school-aged children is a pressing one and fraught with challenges given the limited capacity of the public school system and the dispersed nature of the refugee population. To increase capacity, the Ministry of Education and partner agencies are working to introduce afternoon school shifts in some 70 schools where there is a high concentration of Syrian children. On the eve of the new school year, the back-to-school campaign is being reinforced throughout Lebanon to encourage Syrian students to enrol in the public school system. Children enrolling in school will benefit from the coverage of tuition fees, books and stationary.



## Supporting vulnerable host families and communities in Lebanon

- There are close to 750,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon scattered across some 1,400 localities. The majority live in the poorest areas where employment and poverty rates are comparatively high. Job opportunities are limited and the increase in cheap labour has put downward pressure on wages at a time when costs of living are rising. The immense and growing strain on host communities is contributing to rising tensions between host and refugee communities.

### IRD: assisting communities in need

- As part of the solution to mitigate social tension, International Relief and Development (IRD) has prioritized nine Community Support Projects (CSPs) in the Minnieh-Dannieh area in North Lebanon to assist host communities in need.
- IRD works closely with municipal and refugee representatives to assess the current refugee situation in their district and identify the needs of the community as a whole.

- More than 120,000 Lebanese and Syrians will benefit from four already completed CSPs implemented, including:

#### **Preparation of vocational training and education centre:**

IRD rehabilitated a room in the cultural centre in Beddawi for use to conduct vocational training for women and children. Construction is complete and the room has been suitably equipped and furnished. A plan of vocational training for children is currently being drafted.

#### **Provision of second-hand buses to the public school to**

the municipality of Kfar-Habou in Dannieh: the school bus will be used by the public school to transport Syrian and Lebanese students to and from school throughout the academic year.



*The vocational training and education centre in Beddawi, North Lebanon. IRD*

### PCPM: building resilience amongst refugees and host families to mitigate economic pressures

- Lack of affordable shelter is a pressing challenge for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. PCPM - the Polish Center for International Aid - is assisting Syrian families who cannot afford rent as well as Lebanese families who host refugees and are incurring a considerable financial burden themselves as a result.
- The PCPM project in Northern Lebanon has provided continuous rent and host family assistance to 250 Syrian refugee families since mid-2012, with the number of beneficiaries growing to 550-600 in 2013.
- The project aims to give refugees stability and a dignified life by securing them appropriate housing despite having little or no income. Rent and host family payments are provided directly to Lebanese families who rent out apartments or host Syrian refugees. The amount of rent or host family assistance is agreed upon by all three parties concerned (the Lebanese family, Syrian family and PCPM).
- PCPM's project is one of the first and longest-running activities in Lebanon that focus on lifting the burden on Syrian refugee families renting accommodation. Furthermore, the project has an equal impact on the Lebanese host communities that are affected by presence of refugees, a population that is equal to or even surpassing the local population in some locations. Regular rent and host family payments provided by PCPM became a significant part of livelihood in 12 villages covered by the project. Lebanese families gain meaningful income from their real estate assets and strained relations between Lebanese and Syrians are eased in several villages, where debt from outstanding rent debt and purchases in stores was a considerable source of tension.



*A Lebanese family that is hosting an elderly Syrian woman. PCPM*

## Turkey: promoting refugee representation in camps

- Under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the operational leadership of AFAD - the Government's Disaster and Emergency Management Agency, many new Syrian arrivals are settled in camps established by AFAD and the Turkish Red Crescent Society. Some 200,000 refugees are provided with food, shelter, education services, and medical assistance in the camps where they are registered.
- Refugee representation committees in camps facilitate dialogue between camp residents and managers to identify the concerns and needs of refugees. Committees also carry out awareness raising campaigns and other activities targeting specific groups including women and children.
- As an example of good cooperation between the committees and social workers in Osmaniye Camp, the women's committee members together with social workers of the camp will visit all female camp residents to inform them about camp rules, good hygiene practices and the value of enrolling their children in school. Refugees and camp social workers are also working together to establish a youth committee and children's committee to strengthen the dialogue between residents and camp management.
- Altinozu I Tekel Camp, the only camp previously without a body representing refugees, now has seven male resident representatives designated by the community. The main role of the committee is to forward the requests and problems of the community to camp management and assist camp management with the distribution of relief items when needed.
- The Mardin-Midyat camp has established both a women's committee and a youth committee to assist camp management and bridge communications between management and camp residents.



*A Syrian child plays on a swing in a playground area established in Adiyaman refugee camp, Turkey. The services provided at the camp address both the physical and psychosocial needs of the refugees. UNHCR | B. Sokol*

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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