

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

26 September - 2 October 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 10 October 2013.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Member States of UNHCR's Executive Committee acknowledged that international aid to Syrian refugee-receiving countries has been vastly insufficient in comparison with the needs and called for massive support to alleviate the burden on host Governments at a high-level meeting in Geneva on the Syria humanitarian crisis that concluded 1 October.
- A Director-level strategic planning meeting for the 2014 Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) was held on 26 September in Amman, Jordan. Twenty-nine organizations were represented, including ten UN agencies, IOM, four national and 14 international NGOs. The aim of the meeting was to bring together the key partners at a senior level to confirm the strategic parameters to guide the preparation of the RRP6.
- UNHCR has been informed that the Government of Turkey will establish additional Coordination Centres to register non-camp Syrian refugees. The centres will utilize registration software that have a module for finger printing and cross-checking within the registered database to avoid multiple registrations of the individuals.

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REGIONAL FIGURES

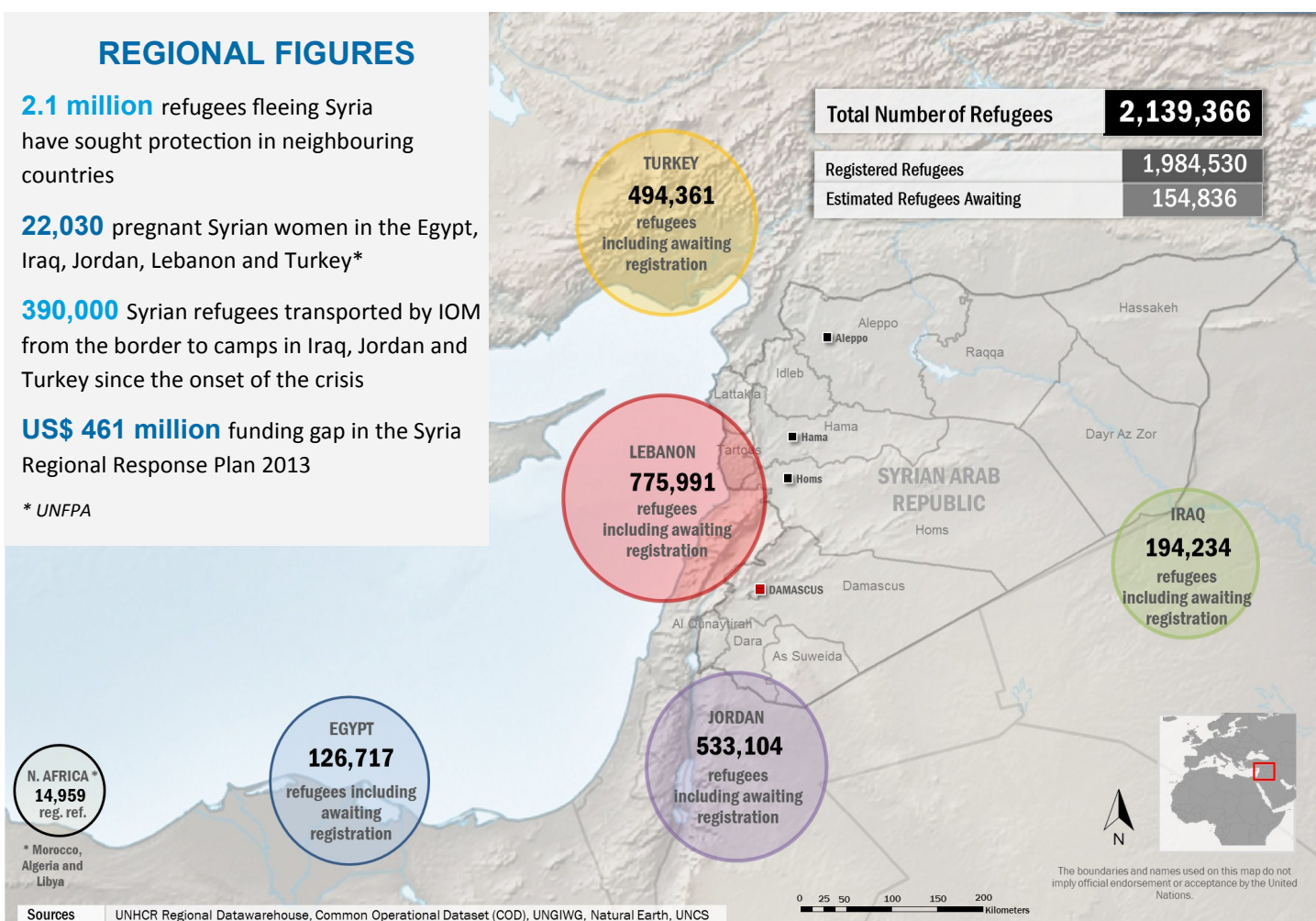
2.1 million refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

22,030 pregnant Syrian women in the Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey*

390,000 Syrian refugees transported by IOM from the border to camps in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey since the onset of the crisis

US\$ 461 million funding gap in the Syria Regional Response Plan 2013

* UNFPA



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

0 25 50 100 150 200 kilometers

Refugee population as of 2 October 2013, based on available data. For updated figures, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

Food insecurity coping mechanisms of Syrian refugees

- In all countries affected by the Syria emergency, Syrian refugees are increasingly turning to negative coping strategies to enable families to survive within the levels of assistance they receive. The most commonly reported behaviours are adults reducing their own food intake to provide more for children (particularly the women), changing to less preferred food varieties, reducing the number of meals eaten daily, and relying on credit - from friends, families and stores - to be able to eat from week to week. Female and child headed households, the elderly and non-autonomous individuals are at most risk of increased



A refugee woman from Deir ez-Zur in eastern Syria, and her granddaughter cook outside in an area of wasteland in Erbil, Iraq. UNHCR | B. Sokol

- use of negative coping strategies and WFP has identified these vulnerable groups for prioritized support.
- Jordan - In Jordan, family coping strategies and behaviours vary between refugees living in camp and non-camp settings. Refugees living in the host community appear to be resorting to more negative coping strategies than camp-based families, most likely because beneficiaries in camps receive all services free of charge, while those living in the communities do not have the same access to support services at no or minimal cost.
The most frequently recurring consumption-based coping strategy is the reliance on less preferred and less expensive food. Adults, particularly women, often restrict their own consumption in order to feed small children. Families commonly sell their food rations in order to purchase infant food or to enable them to access medicine and health care as well as paying rent. To try to obviate the need for this coping strategy WFP will begin by providing age-appropriate food in Za'atri camp in October. The second most common coping strategy in both camp and community settings is reducing the number of meals eaten in a day. It is reported that 58 per cent of beneficiaries in Za'atri camp and 61 per cent of those in communities have resorted to this strategy at some stage. Furthermore, in conjunction with depleting assets, food needs have led over 30 per cent of beneficiaries in the camp and communities to borrow food, buy food on credit or rely heavily on relatives and friends.
- Lebanon - WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF conducted the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in May 2013, concluding that 70 per cent of Syrian refugee households cannot meet their basic food and non-food needs. From October, WFP and UNHCR will prioritize assistance to the most vulnerable Syrian refugees based on the outcomes and conclusions of this assessment.
- Iraq - According to monitoring data in Iraq, most families in Al Qa'im camp are limiting their portion sizes while adults are restricting their food consumption in order for small children to eat. Most families also rely on less preferred and less expensive food. These coping strategies were also cited, although to a smaller extent, in Domiz camp in the north. In both camps, the head of household of the majority of families has sought work outside of the camp in order to provide extra income to assist his/her family.
- Egypt - There are indications that Syrian families are adopting negative coping strategies to sustain household food intake, including borrowing money/food and purchasing cheaper and less preferred foods. Families also report meeting their basic needs by reducing household food intake.

Lebanon: Increase in refugee evictions noted in September

- Humanitarian response partners have noted an increase in the number of Syrian refugees being evicted from their places of residence throughout September. Reasons for eviction include ongoing inability to pay rent on time, or because refugees have settled on private land.
- The total number of evicted people reached over 1,300 in eight different locations in the Bekaa this month. UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council relocated those deemed most vulnerable to alternative shelters, while work is underway amongst agencies to further systematize the referral of vulnerable families for counseling and care.
- Shelter response partners in Lebanon continued to provide a mix of shelter interventions in September. These include the rehabilitation of informal tented settlements, collective shelters, and other shelter structures, in addition to the provision of cash to vulnerable families who are not able to pay for their rent.
- In September alone, over 35,000 people benefited from shelter interventions, bringing the total number of beneficiaries in this sector to 152,000 people.
- Agencies are prioritizing the identification of additional structures that could serve as collective shelters in preparation for winter. Various private unfinished buildings in Kherbet Daoud and Ilat near Halba have been identified so far and approved by the Ministry of Social Affairs. UNHCR and partners will refurbish these into suitable shelters and ready them for hosting refugee families.



A makeshift shelter for Syrian refugees in Tripoli, Lebanon. UNHCR | E. Byun

UNFPA: providing sexual and reproductive health services and awareness

- Jordan - UNFPA built the capacity of more than 400 women on contraception methods, infections, and family planning between 10-20 September. UNFPA in collaboration with the Institute for Family Health (IFH) organized a training session in the second week of September on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for 27 medical and paramedical staff from the Ministry of Health and IFH. During the period of 28 August – 17 September, Aman Association and the Jordan Health Aid Society clinics, with the full support of UNFPA, supported the provision of reproductive health services for 4,768 women, most of which were related to family planning and cures for infections.
- Lebanon - Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) training courses for social workers from the Ministry of Social Affairs: Two reproductive health training courses were conducted on September 11-13 and 18-20, respectively, targeting a total number of 44 social workers from the Social Development Centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Iraq - Reproductive health services: During the reporting period, 887 women received UNFPA-supported reproductive health services at the clinic in Domiz camp. Of these, 368 women received gynecological and obstetrical services, 288 pregnant women received antenatal care services, 58 lactating mothers received postnatal care services, and 173 women/couples visited the clinic for family planning services, including contraceptives.

UNFPA established a reproductive health clinic and a women's safe space in the new Kawergosk camp and delivered a total of four male condom kits, four clinical management of rape kits, 30 kits of oral and injectable contraceptives and 12 IUD insertion kits, four clinical delivery kits A and B, four sexually transmitted diseases kits, four kits for suture of tears and four blood transfusion kits to the Ministry of Health in Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.

Iraq: Assistance for non-camp refugees in the Kurdistan Region

- Around 60 per cent of the 200,000 Syrian refugees estimated to be living in the Kurdistan Region (KR) in northern Iraq are living outside camps amongst host communities. Community-based protection, monitoring and outreach activities have been undertaken in the three Governorates of the Kurdistan Region.
- Shelter - UNHCR and UNICEF undertook a joint mission to inspect five small settlements in Dohuk Governorate where around 490 Syrian refugees are living in empty buildings and empty houses, with the support of the local host community. The mission found that conditions are generally good, although some small repairs are needed along with distribution of hygiene kits and winter needs. As with many refugees living outside the camps, the refugees encountered are looking for job opportunities in which they can use their skills.
- Education - The assessments conducted by UNHCR/UNICEF and UNHCR/UNESCO have found that up to 92 per cent of Syrian refugee students are not attending school, and that the currently available schools could accommodate about a third of the un-enrolled refugee students. UNHCR has developed a mass information campaign involving Syrian refugee and non-Syrian volunteers from the local community to support the 'Back to School' campaign that aims to ensure increased enrolment in school for Syrian refugee children living outside camps. Nonetheless, investments in school infrastructure and facilities will need to be made to enable access to education for all Syrian refugee children.
- Community services and livelihoods - a helpline system will be established in all Protection, Assistance and Reintegration Centre (PARC) offices in the KR to help strengthening the communication between UNHCR, the implementing partners and refugees.

Egypt: Growing number of Syrian refugees illegally departing for Europe

- There has been a sharp increase in the number of Syrian refugees closing their files with UNHCR and leaving Egypt, citing economic concerns, an interest in re-joining family members in other countries, and anxiety over their security in Egypt. Most have indicated they will depart to Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, while some noted they intend to return to Syria. There has also been increasing reports of departures by sea to Europe.
- Since August there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Syrian crossing the Mediterranean from Egypt to Italy. An estimated 6,000 Syrians have arrived along the coast of Italy since the beginning of 2013, of which over 3,000 have arrived since August. Once in Italy, most of the Syrian refugees are continuing on to other countries in Europe.
- Of the Syrians that have attempted the crossing to Italy, UNHCR is aware of 946 arrests; 76 were released, 146 deported (of which at least 46 were children) and 724 remain in detention, including many women and children. UNHCR and its legal partners are experiencing ongoing challenges in gaining access to the detained to provide legal assistance and verify numbers, conditions and needs.

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](#) |

Humanitarian response 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