

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: RRP5 Update - November 2013

PROTECTION



TARGETS



Up to **3.5 million**
Syrians may seek safety
outside their country of origin



100%
refugees registered with
competent authorities



Up to **100,000**
Syrians provided with legal
counseling and information



100%
of unaccompanied minors
identified and assisted through
Best Interest Determination
processes



100%
of SGBV survivors and those at
risk of SGBV identified and
assisted



Training provided to officials
and other stakeholders on
protection principles



338.8 million
USD required

NEEDS

Ensuring access to asylum and to UNHCR or Government registration remains a key challenge which involves actively advocating for the implementation of protection-sensitive national entry policies and appropriate screening of incomers by Governments as necessary. Given the high volume and rate of arrivals in countries in the immediate region and the significant demands upon registration resources, achieving an appropriate balance between the need to accelerate registration processing and the need to gather and record information with a focus on vulnerabilities that will be required to support other protection activities and objectives, including resettlement, remains crucial.

More than half the refugees fleeing Syria are children. Child protection actors throughout the region paint a picture of children traumatized by the conflict in Syria. Identifying high risk children in need of urgent protection interventions is prioritized by country operations. Some of the the most urgent concerns for the protection of refugee children are child labour and exploitation, child marriage and recruitment.

A range of factors including separated families, poverty and shelter needs contribute to an increased risk of SGBV for refugees. The Regional Response Plan lays out SGBV prevention and response programmes through a multi-sectoral approach that builds on community outreach, particularly targeting women and children as they are disproportionately affected by SGBV. The specific areas of concern addressed under SGBV programming include trafficking, forced/early marriage, domestic violence, and sexual harassment.

KEY NOVEMBER DEVELOPMENTS

In **Lebanon**, partners responded to an influx of 3,400 refugee families to Aarsal in mid-November, providing urgent assistance to people with specific needs including separated children (for whom reunions were effected) and victims of trauma. Observation and presence was continued at land borders, to ensure that those with protection and assistance needs have access to Lebanese territory. The trend in arresting and detaining Syrians, including minors for irregular entry and/or stay, continues. With the Information Sharing Protocol being endorsed, eight organizations shared data at the interagency level on types of SGBV and profiles of survivors.

The Government of **Turkey** (GoT) is the provider of first response and manages the registration, identification and response mechanisms for the protection of Syrian refugees. In November, seven mobile registration centres (of a total of 34 planned) were delivered to the GoT to support registration activities. A football tournament between teams from four camps was held in Gaziantep. 263 participants from AFAD attended the second part of the Training on International Protection and International Standards in Emergencies. UNHCR staff observed the voluntary return interviews of 921 people during the month.

In **Iraq**, the main border crossing into the Kurdistan Region (KR) remains closed, with only exceptional cases such as family reunion and urgent medical needs being allowed to cross. Border monitoring of spontaneous returns continues. Level two registration at the permanent camps began during November, and unconditional cash assistance programmes began in Dohuk and Suleimaniyah Governorates. Quick Impact Projects (for example upgrades to schools and medical centres) began to be implemented in communities across the KR. Advocacy continues on the issue of residency permits, with no new permits provided to recent arrivals or renewed except for residents of Domiz camp and Dohuk town.

In **Egypt**, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Syrians to renew their residence permits, especially if they are not registered with UNHCR. The average number of arrivals from Syria decreased significantly to only 25-30 people per week, most of whom are students or businesspeople with valid residence in Egypt. As part of the emergency strategy to deal with the detention of Syrian refugees attempting irregular departure, UNHCR deployed a protection officer to Alexandria (the most common location for attempts at irregular departure) and will establish a permanent presence there in the future.

In **Jordan**, 176 staff from government, UN and NGOs were trained on the Inter-Agency Emergency SOPs on Child Protection and SGBV. In close coordination with the rollout of these SOPs, consultations are currently being held in Irbid to review, streamline and systematize Irbid-based referral pathways and develop practical tools. Activities were held in camp and non-camp settings as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, including the launch of an animated cartoon on early marriage that was developed by adolescent girls in Zaatar.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE



2.21 million Syrians registered
(133,000 in November)



339,000 children reached through
psychosocial support



5,300 cases of identified UAM and
CR assisted



2,700 responses and actions
related to SGBV cases



36,900 individuals with special
needs or persons at risk supported



130 safe space environments
provided to refugee communities



10,700 persons benefited from
training sessions delivered to
counterpart & partner agencies



162,000 persons reached through
legal counseling, awareness raising
activities and information sharing with
communities



10,200 persons reached through
community based mine awareness
raising

Refugees in the region,
registered and awaiting registration

