

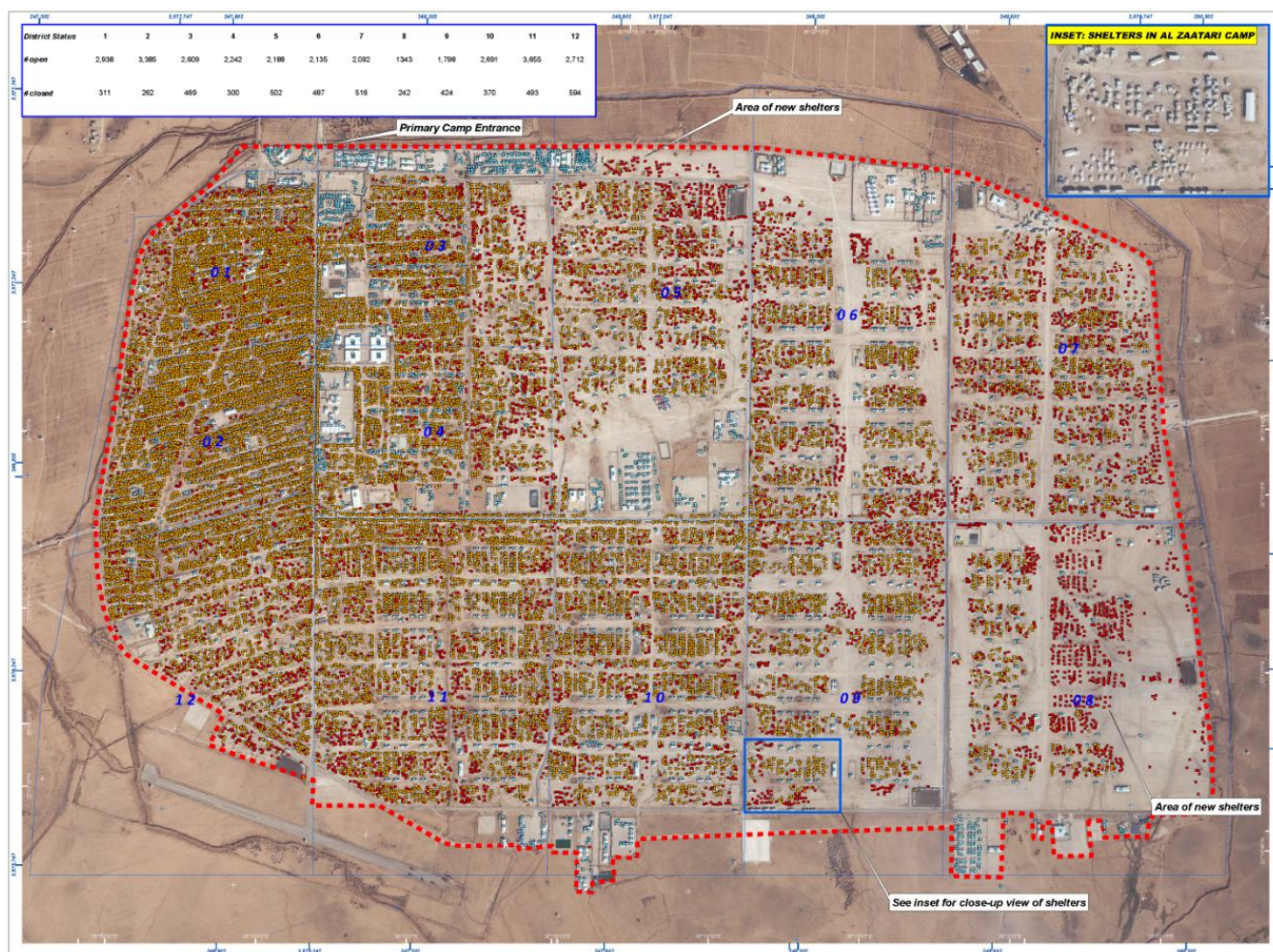


## JORDAN INTERAGENCY WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

### SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE

10-24 February 2014

This weekly update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency response to the influx of Syrians into Jordan. The response is led by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and undertaken in full coordination with the Government of Jordan and humanitarian partners.



UNITAR/UNOSAT.

### Highlights and General Developments

**Available shelter space in Zaatari is shrinking:** With new arrivals setting up their tents on land not intended to be used as shelter space, camp management is facing service-related challenges as well as public space constraints. The minimum space per person is 3.5 m<sup>2</sup> but over the past months longer term residents in Zaatari have occupied up to 10-15 m<sup>2</sup> per person, infringing on available space for newly arriving refugees. Based on recent distribution figures the Zaatari population stands at approximately 93,000 refugees.

**Preparations for Azraq camp opening:** With the higher refugee arrival numbers and pressure on Zaatari, UNHCR has asked agencies and partners to prepare to open Azraq by the end of March. A date for the first transfer of refugees to the site will be set in consultation with national authorities. As of 22 February, 1,089 family transitional shelters were completed and 964 were under construction. Facilities for the police and SRCD are expected to be completed by early March.



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**2.5 million Syrian refugees are now registered in the Middle East region:** some 930,000 refugees in Lebanon, 613,000 in Turkey, 223,000, in Iraq, 134,000 in Egypt and 577,232 in Jordan. After the High Level Segment on Solidarity and Burden-sharing with Countries Hosting Syrian Refugees in October 2013, UNHCR has renewed its appeal to States to provide solutions for up to 30,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees through resettlement or other forms of admission by the end of 2014. To date, more than 20 countries have offered 18,800 places through a combination of humanitarian admission, individual sponsorship, medical evacuation or reunification with relatives, the majority in European States. A generous offer by the United States of America at the regional level is considering a significant number of admissions. Further information is available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a16b1676.html>.

### NEW ARRIVALS AND REGISTRATION

**Verification in Zaatari:** A total of 6,998 individuals were processed during the reporting period, resulting in 6,228 active individuals and 696 inactivations for various reasons (mainly spontaneous departures from the camp, no-show for verification and inactivation of multiple registration records). By 20 February, 10,382 individuals had been processed since the start of the verification on 27 January, resulting in 9,059 individual active files. The SRCD compound for iris capture and service card issuance was extended to enhance the processing capacity of the authorities.

**Spontaneous returns<sup>1</sup>:** 209 individuals returned to Syria spontaneously during the reporting period.

### PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Child Protection:** In early February Save the Children International (SCI) introduced themes of environmental protection to their UNICEF-supported Child-Friendly Spaces in camps. SCI & Mercy Corps launched a joint working group for efficient response to child protection (child labour) in districts 1, 2 & 5. Mercy Corps has also conducted training for the volunteer and field teams of Dreamlands and Shabab Littagheer on recording data for child profiling purposes, a mechanism to monitor and track the quality of psychosocial interventions.

In EJC, UNICEF partner Terre des Hommes (TdH) has organized activities for children under five along with their mothers, with 65 children and 45 mothers participating in early February. A psychologist conducted a support group for 31 women in EJC and held individual support sessions. Upon the request of parents, a Child-Friendly Space was opened up to fathers for use as a recreational centre during off-hours. This will be piloted for two weeks; if the expanded use of the centre works smoothly, a schedule will be put in place to give mothers an opportunity to use the centre as well.

**Participatory assessment:** Participatory assessment commenced in Irbid on 16 February in order to obtain a thorough understanding of the urban refugee situation and adequately respond to refugee needs and protection concerns. The participatory assessment in Irbid is undertaken by UNHCR and WFP.

**Cash assistance for Syrian refugees:** The number of Syrian refugees who benefitted from UNHCR monthly cash assistance as of 22 February amounted to 69,124 individuals, or 17,919 families. A winterization cash supplement was added to all 17,919 refugee families. The total amount distributed for winterization supplements for February reached 1,341,790 JD.

### SHELTER

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<sup>1</sup> The spontaneous return process is organized by the authorities. UNHCR is neither promoting nor facilitating the return process but is present at the spontaneous return site for monitoring and counseling purposes. Counseling on return is also made during daily protection monitoring in the camp districts. The stated motivations for return are i) reuniting with family members in Syria; ii) difficult living conditions especially in winter; iii) high living expenses in Jordan and insufficient financial aid for those who are living in urban areas; iv) and lack of job opportunities.



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### SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE

**Caravan distributions in Zaatari:** The distribution of prefabricated caravans is ongoing in Zaatari in cooperation with IRD and the police. Up to 100 caravans are currently allocated every day. UNHCR prepares the list of beneficiaries while cross-referencing in its database that individuals have not already received a caravan. NRC collects the tents that families return when receiving their caravan and the police ensures that each beneficiary family signs a right-of-use form stating that they will not sell the caravan. 20,420 caravans have been distributed to date in the camp; 1,063 tents remain in place, all of which are occupied by newly arrived families.

**Electricity clean-up in Zaatari:** The clean-up of electrical wiring in the camp is now half complete. Electricity meters are now functioning, with seven shops sharing a single meter.

**Site Planning and Infrastructure in Zaatari:** The Land and Survey Department in Mafrq confirmed the precise boundaries for Zaatari camp. A plot northeast of the camp was allocated to the Gendarmerie to establish a new sub-station. Negotiations with leaders in Districts 1 and 2 led to the quick removal of obstacles in side streets to allow for phase one of the World Vision International road rehabilitation programme. A page on Zaatari can be found on the Jordan portal, where partners can upload reports:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/settlement.php?id=176&country=107&region=77> . The link for needs assessments: [http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working\\_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=60](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=60) and the link to Activity Info: <https://www.activityinfo.org> .

### EDUCATION

**Education for children in informal tented settlements:** During the first week of February, UNICEF/Save the Children Jordan set up two tents in informal tented settlements in the Jordan Valley to provide protective and learning spaces for vulnerable children. SCJ distributed activity books (Arabic & math) for approximately 200 students along with five "School in a Box" kits comprising stationary and school supplies. Help desks in host communities continue to gather data and refer cases to the Ministry of Education to support student enrolment in formal education.

**Support to school attendance:** In order to encourage children's continued attendance in schools, UNICEF and SCJ kicked off a "Back to School/Stay in School" campaign on 26 January, promoting messages that also focus on child protection, child labour and early marriage. So far, the campaign has reached some 40,000 refugees in Zaatari as well as 3,500 in EJC.

**Teachers' training:** UNICEF/CADER conducted a four-day pedagogy training (the first half of a two-part training series) for 194 teachers in double-shifted host community schools. The training seeks to enhance teachers' classroom management abilities, introduce learner-centered approaches and assessment techniques, and support quality of education, particularly in the context of schools operating at maximum capacity. Training of these 194 teachers ultimately benefits some 3,500 students.

### WASH

**No pollution of the Zaatari aquifer:** The Ministry of Water has confirmed that there is no pollution of the Zaatari aquifer from the facilities in the camp. Two portable wastewater treatment plants will be operational at Zaatari camp before summer starts. The mobile units will be installed by June to process 3,500 cubic metres of wastewater per day, which is the current amount of sewage generated daily at the camp. These units are important to prevent the contamination of the Zaatari aquifer, located beneath the camp 90km northeast of Amman. Both units will be built to serve 55,000 people each, at a cost of \$6 million, funded by UNICEF. Installing the two portable wastewater treatment units has three goals: to treat generated wastewater at the site to prevent the aquifer's pollution and improve sanitation conditions at the camp; reduce the number of wastewater tankers travelling between the camp and Akeider Landfill, where the wastewater is dumped, ending noise pollution caused by the tankers for area





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residents and reducing pressure on the landfill; and utilise the treated wastewater for the irrigation of fodder. Two similar units will be installed at the refugee camp in Azraq once funding for the units is secured.

UNICEF has extended contracts through June with three Jordanian companies working in Zaatari for the following activities: desludging of wastewater, repair and maintenance of boreholes, WASH blocks and WASH facilities in camp schools, and third-party monitoring of desludging and sanitation services.

**WASH preparation for Azraq:** UNICEF is currently discussing contingency WASH planning for Azraq camp with Relief International and World Vision, in order to prepare for the activation of essential WASH services in the camp as needed.

### HEALTH

**Preparation for the upcoming polio vaccine campaign:** Detailed planning of the up-coming oral polio vaccine campaign has taken place between the Ministry of Health, UNHCR, UNICEF, IRD and IOM. The campaign is scheduled for 2 to 6 March. Parents are encouraged to take their children to the closest public health centre for polio vaccination. JHAS, MSF France, JWU, HJI, Jordan Relief Commission for Syrians, AL Takaful, MSF Holland, IRC, IMC, JRS, Medair, Save the Children, ACTED, Oxfam and others are contributing to the mobilization effort.

**Routine vaccination:** Routine immunisation of children under five years, tetanus toxoid vaccine for all women aged 15-49 years and nutritional screening in under-fives is on-going as part of the verification registration process.

**Construction of a new clinic:** The development of a new clinic in Zaatari's District 8 continues, with the opening expected to take place in March. The project is fully funded by Qatar, including infrastructure, equipment and staffing.

**Regional coordination:** A three-day regional public health strategy meeting was held in Amman, following up on RRP6 health response planning and activities implementation

**Targeted assistance for newborn babies:** UNICEF has received 2,000 newborn and mother kits composed of 18 items (baby coat, pajamas, newborn bodysuits/onesies, baby soap, shampoo, diapers). They will be distributed through the delivery facilities in Zaatari camp to all new mothers during the upcoming year.

### FOOD

**Distribution of E-vouchers in urban areas:** WFP and UNHCR agreed to start the second tranche of the e-voucher roll-out on 23 February in three governorates of Jordan: Ramtha district in Irbid governorate, Karak and Tafilah.

**Nutrition:** WFP cooperating partner Medair has distributed SuperCereal Plus to 65 beneficiaries (children under five and pregnant and nursing mothers) with moderate acute malnutrition since the launch of the programme on 26 January. Screenings and distributions continue in the governorates of Mafraq, Irbid, Jerash, Amman and Zarqa.

**Food distribution in Zaatari camp:** WFP began the first February cycle of voucher and in-kind food assistance on 1 February, finishing on 10 February having reached 92,767 beneficiaries of the 132,859 individuals on the UNHCR planned manifest. The second cycle of voucher and in-kind food distributions began on 16 February with plans to reach 133,839 individuals on the UNHCR manifest by 26 February. Distributions for this cycle were delayed because of internet connectivity issues and a strike by the Syrian labourers due to the decrease in working hours to allow for two rotations and thus more job opportunities for those living in the camp.

**Saudi Dates:** Thanks to a generous Saudi donation of dates, WFP will distribute 2kg date packages to every family in Zaatari camp starting with the first March cycle.



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#### CO-ORDINATION

Activity Info has been rolled out as the main reporting tool for RRP6 achievements. Over the eight sectors, 34 organizations have made 1,900 entries against pre-defined indicators, disaggregated by age and gender – the achievements for January. The Inter-Agency Coordination team and sector chairs are currently generating dashboards by sector, 3W maps and other coordination products for January, which will be available on the portal.

The Irbid coordination meeting took place on 11 February. The main issues discussed included the referrals database, being set up to structure information on available services and activities. The meeting then continued into a case worker's discussion on the problems and challenges of referrals in Irbid, with the aim to improve efficiency and responses on cases referred between organizations. A further case workers/managers referral meeting took place on 20 February in Irbid.

#### EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

**Visit of the new UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Zaatari camp:** The newly appointed UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan, Mr. Edward Kallon, visited Zaatari refugee camp on 12 February accompanied by Mr. Andrew Harper, former ad interim Humanitarian Coordinator and Representative of UNHCR.

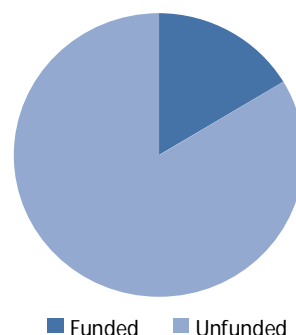
**High level delegation from Germany:** The German Minister for International Cooperation, Dr. Gerd Müller, the German Ambassador Mr. Ralph Tarraf and the Head of the Economic Development Cooperation, Ms. Irene Fellman, German Embassy in Amman visited Zaatari with a delegation from GIZ and German print media.

**Visit by the Malala Fund:** Malala Yousafzai, the teenage education activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, visited Jordan with the Malala Fund and entourage to raise awareness about the importance of education among the refugee population. She visited Zaatari camp and went to the eastern border with Syria to witness the arrival of refugees.

**Meeting of the RRP6 Jordan Communication and Advocacy Group:** UNHCR revived the Communications and advocacy group which gathers partner agencies directly involved in the Refugee Response Plan. The objective of the Group is to share practical best practices, address issues of common concern and develop joint communication initiatives.

#### FUNDING

Jordan RRP6 funding level: Out of the USD 1.2 billion requirements, 196 million USD million have been received (16.3%).





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#### APPEALING AGENCIES TO RRP 6 AND PARTNERS IN JORDAN



UNHCR is compiling information from partners working on the Syrian crisis in Jordan. For more information, please contact Frauke Riller, External Relations Officer, at UNHCR Jordan: [riller@unhcr.org](mailto:riller@unhcr.org).