

JORDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

April 2015

KEY FIGURES

680,654

Persons of concern (all nationalities) registered by UNHCR

627,287

Syrians registered by UNHCR

52,319

Iraqis, Somalis, Sudanese and Yemenis registered by UNHCR

82,841

Syrians in Zaatari Camp

17,967

Syrians in Azraq Camp

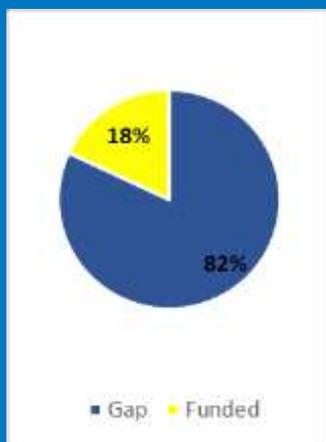
5,779

Syrians in Emirati-Jordanian Camp

FUNDING

USD 289 million

Requested for UNHCR Jordan's refugee response to the Syria crisis



AZRAQ CAMP: FIRST ANNIVERSARY



Syrian refugee children flying kites above Azraq camp, May 2015. ©UNHCR/Mohammed Hawari

The 30 April anniversary marks one year since the opening of Azraq refugee camp where today some 18,000 Syrian refugees seek protection from the ongoing violence in Syria.

The occasion was remembered by UNHCR, the Government of Jordan, and partner organizations with the inauguration of a multi-purpose sports field, and a temporary bazaar offering refugees the opportunity to sell their home-made products and handicrafts.

UNHCR's Deputy Representative, Paul Stromberg, emphasized that if needed Azraq camp was ready to receive more new arrivals from Syria, and that the work at the site would not have been possible without the help and commitment of the Government of Jordan.

"Living conditions may be difficult, but the most important thing is that people here are safe and their needs are met. Today we are also able to give them some joy and hope" he said. "Currently Azraq camp has the capacity to shelter 40,000 people, so we are ready to host more people fleeing the violence in Syria."

IRAQI REFUGEES IN JORDAN: 1% OF NEEDS FUNDED

In April meetings with Iraqi refugees through Community Support Committees (CSCs) in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa, UNHCR heard the rising humanitarian concerns of this vulnerable population. Established in 2013 by UNHCR in partnership with the International Relief and Development (IRD), CSCs are important community-based outreach initiatives that help meet the needs and aspirations of refugees in Jordan.

Today the number of Iraqis registered with UNHCR stands at almost 48,000 with the vast majority living in the Amman Governorate. The funding needs for Iraqi refugees in 2015, as identified by UNHCR, stands at USD 40.8 million but by the end of April, one third of the way through the year, only 1% of these funds have so far been received.

The outcome of the CSC meetings illustrates the increasing hardships faced by Iraqi communities including basic needs such as:

- The prohibitive cost of school fees and schoolbooks that rise as children move on to secondary education. This is of particular concern given that 34% of the registered Iraqi population is of school age;
- The difficulty in affording access to health services;
- The overwhelming importance of UNHCR cash assistance to the most vulnerable who represent some 19% of the registered Iraqi population. This assistance is only possible through the generosity of UNHCR donors.

JORDAN'S WATER SCARCITY: UNHCR AND U.S. RESPOND

On 9 April His Excellency the Minister of Water and Irrigation, the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, and representatives of UNHCR and Mercy Corps inaugurated the new Al-Mahasi water pumping station in Ramtha, Irbid Governorate.

Al-Mahasi is part of a major water rehabilitation project to improve the efficiency and infrastructure of five water stations in northern Jordan supplying water to 200,000 residents in Irbid and Mafraq. The USD 2.3 million UNHCR project is funded by the U.S. and implemented by Mercy Corps in coordination with the Yarmouk Water Company.

Speaking at the ceremony, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Alice G. Wells said it was important to improve the water infrastructure to assist the Jordanian host communities that have welcomed thousands of refugees.

UNHCR noted that “This does not only benefit the refugees in the area, but also Jordanian citizens who have shown great generosity by sharing their limited resources with their Syrian guests.”

Water resources in Jordan are some of the scarcest in the world and with the influx of Syrian refugees in recent years these resources are under considerable strain, particularly in Jordan's north where over half of the urban refugee population is located.



His Excellency the Minister of Water and Irrigation, UNHCR Deputy Representative and the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan at the inauguration of Al-Mahasi. ©UNHCR/Katherine Dunn

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT: SRSG VISITS JORDAN

The United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Zainab Bangura conducted her first visit to Jordan and other countries in the Middle East with a view to gaining a better understanding of the needs of refugee populations from Syria who are affected by sexual violence. This insight will be used to mobilise the support of other UN actors towards survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The visit also focused on the issue of sexual violence perpetrated against minority communities in Iraq.

UNHCR, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organizations provided briefings to the SRSG and her delegation on refugee protection and SGBV concerns, and organized discussions with the National Council for Family Affairs, Family Protection Department, Ministry of Social Development, SGBV Sub-Working Group and the Gender-based Violence Information Management System Task Force and Syrian refugees in Zaatari Camp.



UNHCR staff accompany the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura, on her visit to Zaatari camp, April 2015.
©UNHCR/Naserddine Touaibia

UNHCR and other agencies shared recommendations to enhance the protection of survivors of sexual violence in Jordan, including increased capacity-building for national actors (Government and Non-Government), safe and confidential collection of SGBV data, and consideration of the best interests of the survivor at all times.

URBAN VERIFICATION: ROLL-OUT COMPLETE

The eight week roll-out of the Minister of the Interior (MOI) exercise to re-register the majority of Syrian nationals, including all refugees registered by UNHCR outside of camps, was completed on 6 April in the southern city of Aqaba. 101 police stations are now functional and open for registration nationwide.

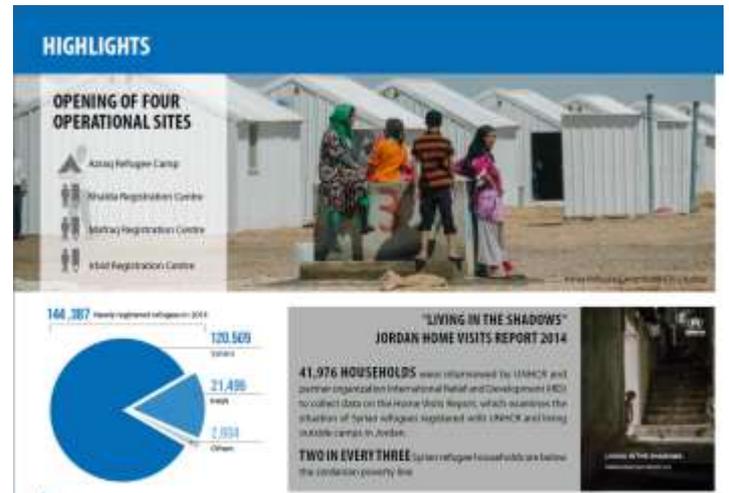
The pace of registration increased significantly in April with more than 8,000 Syrians registering each week. By 27 April some 54,794 MOI cards had been issued, an increase of almost 150% on March. The rise in numbers was expected as awareness of the exercise increased.

UNHCR now assists at police stations across the Kingdom offering technical assistance to registration officials and to registering Syrians. UNHCR seeks to raise awareness of the exercise through the distribution of posters at police stations detailing the registration process, support through the UNHCR Helplines and Help Desk, and through mobile missions to remote areas and at registration centres, and through other mass communication channels.

The exercise aims to issue Syrians residing outside of camps with new identity documents to improve their legal entitlement to services such as education. By the end of April 2015 the number of registered Syrians residing outside of camps stood at 520,700, or 83% of the total registered Syrian population.

UNHCR IN JORDAN: YEAR IN REVIEW 2014

The report highlighting the work of UNHCR in Jordan in 2014 is now available [here](#).



OUTREACH

Polio Campaign: UNHCR Helps Mobilize Refugee Community

In late April UNHCR sent 500,000 SMS text messages to refugees across Jordan as part of an awareness-raising campaign to encourage the vaccination of children against polio at health centres nationwide. The sub-national polio vaccination campaign aims to target 200,000 under-five year olds in 210 high-risk areas and refugee camps between 26 April and 7 May.

Jordan and six other regional countries have engaged in polio vaccination drives since the identification of cases in Iraq and Syria since 2013. The lead agency partners involved in this initiative are the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization, UNICEF, International Organization of Migration and UNHCR.

High risk areas include those communities where routine immunization coverage is less than 90%; communities in border areas; refugees living in informal tented settlements out of camps; Bedouin and other mobile populations; and hard to reach areas in the Jordan Valley.

تقوم وزارة الصحة بحملة تلقيح
مجانياً ضد شلل الأطفال لجميع
الأطفال من كافة الجنسيات تحت
عمر خمس سنوات خلال فترة
29/4-26 تتصح المفوضية
بمراجعة أقرب مركز صحي
حكومي حتى لو أخذوا جرعات
سابقة

"The Ministry of Health is implementing a free vaccination campaign for children of all nationalities under five years of age between 24 and 29 April. UNHCR advises all refugees to visit their nearest public clinic, even if a previous dose has been received." SMS text message sent by UNHCR to refugees in high-risk areas and camps as part of the polio campaign. ©UNHCR

In 2014 UNHCR assisted in three national campaigns and two sub-national campaigns targeting high risk areas with 589,352 polio doses to Syrian children under the age of 5, and 105,605 vaccinations at the Raba'a al-Sarhan registration facility for newly arrived Syrian refugees under the age of 15.

PROTECTION

Child Protection & Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

Case Management

UNHCR provided direct child protection and SGBV case management to 189 women, girls, boys and men in April. UNHCR also conducted training for thirty individuals from Jordan River Foundation and for new staff at Noor Al Hussein Foundation in Amman, King Abdullah Park and Cyber City and staff at their centres in the South. The training covered Best Interest Assessment (BIA) and Best Interest Determination (BID) and are part of ongoing efforts to improve the quality of case management services in Jordan.

Improving Women and Girls' Access to Legal Services

As part of UNHCR's ongoing efforts to prevent and respond to SGBV and to ensure that survivors and individuals at risk of SGBV have access to the full range of multi-sectoral services, UNHCR and ARDD-Legal Aid provided legal assistance to 72 individuals in two women and girls safe spaces in Zaatari Camp. Information, counselling and legal advice focused on issues related to registration of marriages, custody and child visitation rights, kinship and birth registration.

UNHCR Training Programme on Refugee Law

UNHCR conducted nine training sessions during April for 297 individuals (109 women and 188 men) including Government officials (Public Security Directorate, Sharia Court judges, Civil Court judges, and the Ministry of Labour), UNHCR staff and NGOs throughout the country.

The training programme is part of UNHCR's outreach and awareness-raising on international refugee law (including the principle of non-refoulement), and covers topics such as UNHCR's mandate, challenges refugees face in Jordan, the UNHCR Code of Conduct and anti-fraud measures.

A particular focus of the sessions with Government officials was documentation, and how UNHCR Asylum-Seeker Certificates not only are indicative of the fact that an individual is a person of concern to UNHCR and should not be deported, but that they can be used as an alternative form of proving identity (in the absence of official documentation). A concern among NGO staff was the differential level of assistance provided to Syrian and other refugee communities due to inequities in funding.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Syria response:

UNHCR Jordan's funding needs: **USD 289 million**

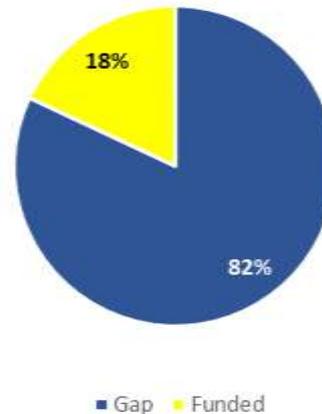
Total recorded contributions: **USD 54 million**

Iraq situation:

UNHCR Jordan's funding needs: **USD 41 million**

Total recorded contributions: **USD 390 thousand**

UNHCR Jordan Total Funding Needs



UNHCR PARTNERS

Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD-Legal Aid), Care International (CARE), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), International Relief and Development (IRD), Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS), The Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), Jordan River Foundation (JRF), Ministry of Interior (MOI), Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) including the Civil Status Department, Family Protection Department & Ministry of Social Development, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate (SRAD).

DONORS

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have provided funds to UNHCR programmes worldwide and to the following donors for their support to UNHCR refugee response in Jordan in 2014 and 2015: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union including ECHO, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE, UK, USA and private donors.

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