

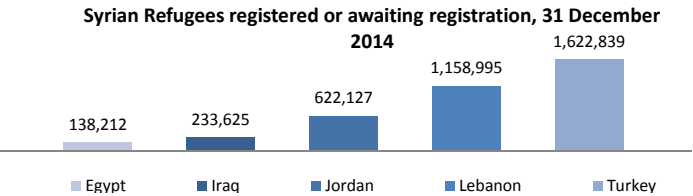
More than 3.77 million Syrian refugees were registered and provided with protection by the end of 2014

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

By the end of 2014, there were 3,775,798 syrian refugees registered in the five main host countries in the region - around 5 per cent more than the 3,590,000 planned under the RRP6. In Turkey, the total registered population increased by more than 2.5 times since the beginning of 2014. In Lebanon, some 13,400 Syrian refugees were registered in December - a number which is 70 per cent lower than the average over the first six months of the year. In Iraq, the registration excercise has concluded, and all 233,625 Syrian refugees are registered on an individual basis. Some 72,500 of these are registered with iris scans. In Egypt, the verification exercise continues, with 57,514 individuals verified by the end of the year (71 per cent of the Syrian refugee population). In Jordan, there were 622,865 registered Syrian refugees by the end of 2014.

Within the framework of the 16 Days of Activism Against SGBV, over 250 activities were conducted in Jordan, including seminars, workshops, dissemination of medical/legal information, focus group discussions and awareness raising through art and theatre. In Lebanon an information campaign on the “Law to Protect Women and Other Family Members from Family Violence” started, including a user-friendly webpage and FAQ and a one-day workshop on the implications of the law. In Iraq, the SGBV Working Group is developing a Peer to Peer Quality Assurance Tool, which is expected to be finalized in January. The Protection Sector in Egypt initiated discussions with HarassMap, an Egyptian NGO addressing harassment through innovative approaches, including by engaging men and boys.

In Jordan, the CP/SGBV SOPs and referral pathways were revised and endorsed by the Family Protection Department as well as the Ministries of Education and Health. In Iraq, almost 4,000 children received psychosocial services in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniya governorates in Iraq in December. Child protection and education actors in Lebanon carried out an operational review. In Egypt, 25 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were conducted for unaccompanied minors, separated children and child spouses registered with UNHCR. A total of 423 BIAs were carried out in Egypt in 2014. In Turkey, Child Friendly Spaces had been established in 21 camps by the end of 2014, and 63,019 children were participating in activities.



Iraq, KRI - R. Rasheed / UNHCR

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Syrian refugees continue to seek safety and protection in large numbers in host countries in the region. On average more than 100,000 newly arriving refugees have been registered every month since the beginning of 2014. Maintaining access to safety for those fleeing conflict and continued protection from refolement are the fundamental tenets of protection, and key elements of the protection response are registration, including through verification and renewal of documentation, the multi-sectoral prevention and safe response services to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection systems as well as community participation and empowerment. The focus on communities hosting refugees also remains a key element of the regional protection strategy.

Increased mainstreaming of protection in all humanitarian actions and sectors is required to prevent, identify, and address potential rights violations - particularly for women, children, and others with specific needs. In this respect, an important priority is to reach out to new partners, including community-based and faith-based organizations, to more effectively coordinate interventions and to ensure that services are delivered in a non-discriminatory manner in accordance with protection and humanitarian principles.

As the refugee crisis shows no sign of ending, with limited prospects for voluntary return in safety, strengthening the resilience of refugees becomes essential. At the same time, increased resettlement, humanitarian and other forms of admission of refugees to host countries outside the region form part of the protection strategy, offering protection and a durable solution for some of the most vulnerable refugees.

