



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

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The number of Syrian individuals registered with UNHCR Jordan since March 1st has continued to steadily increase with 4013 individuals registered with the Agency up to February 14th. The Agency also has over 1,000 Syrian individuals with registration appointments, bringing the figure to above the 5,000.
- While the GOJ camp at Al Mafraq, is in a state of preparedness, it remains unopened.
- UNHCR and UNICEF information leaflet is being distributed to Syrians in an effort to introduce the work of the Agencies and provide Syrians with a clear understanding on how to register, and other information such as school enrollment and access to health care.
- UNICEF field visit results indicate that newly arrived children are in need of psychosocial support as many are showing signs of trauma.

II. Situation Overview

Sarhan, Al Mafraq

During the reporting period, the possible camp location identified by the Government of Jordan remained closed. While in a state of preparedness, the Sarhan site in the Governorate of Mafraq is not yet operational.

The site is being prepared as part of GOJ contingency measures in the event of a larger scale influx of persons of concern whom cannot be absorbed into host communities.

Information Sharing

UNHCR, in coordination with UNICEF, are distributing an information leaflet specifically targeting Syrians. The short leaflet introduces UNHCR and the work it carries out, how and where to register with the Agency, along with vital messages on access to education and health care according to governorate.



Mobile Health Clinic in Ma'an, Jordan.



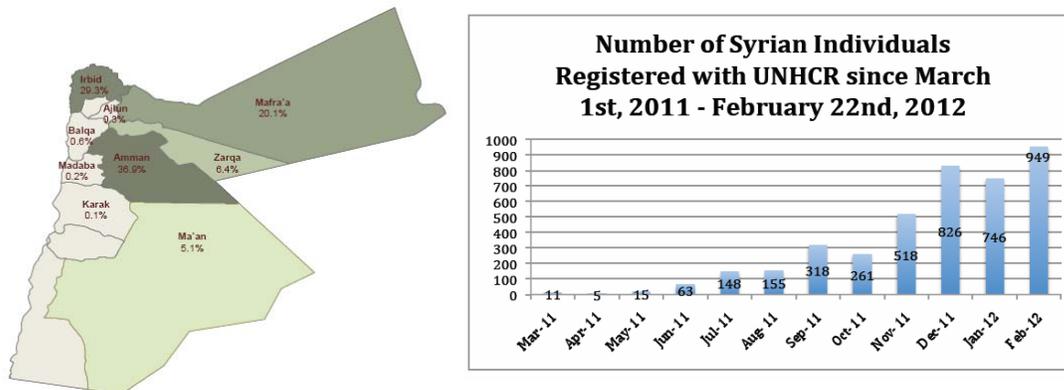
Ramtha Transit Facility.

Registration

As insecurity in Syria prevails, Syrians continue to cross the border both legally and illegally into Jordan. The total number of Syrians registered with UNHCR Jordan since March 2011 is 4,013. In addition, UNHCR has 1,124 Syrians individuals with registration appointments, bringing the total number of persons of concern to the Agency to over 5,000. This figure does not include the Syrians that have been in Jordan prior to this time and registered with UNHCR earlier.

Throughout the country, local NGOs are playing an important role in referring those of concern to UNHCR for registration, in addition to sustained and consistent outreach efforts carried out by UNHCR community services, field, health and protection staff.

Below is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of March 2011 up to 22 February 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching the Agency to register. A snap shot of the distribution of Syrian populations is also shown, according to UNHCR registration data, which reveals that Amman hosts the largest number of registered Syrians (36.9%), followed by Irbid (29%) and Mafraq (20%).



The high number of registrations in February can be attributable to a number of factors, including; UNHCR outreach efforts and active transporting of those who wish to register to Amman; growing confidence in the registration process as NFI and food distributions work to build trust with the vulnerable Syrian community who have been in Jordan for a number of months, and indeed, new arrivals who are aware of the Agency.

In response to the numbers of Syrians concentrated in villages, towns and cities in Jordan, and in an effort to facilitate their registration process in Amman in the face of economic hardship, UNHCR continues to transport those wishing to register via bus. BO Amman has opened its doors on numerous Saturdays to groups from Ma'an, Amman, and Mafraq, with plans to continue to do so in future.

As the barriers to registration continue to fall, more and more Syrian individuals and families have expressed their desire to register with the Agency, and this is reflected in the number waiting for a registration appointment, which currently stands at 1,124 individuals.

Ramtha Facility

Renovation work at the Ramtha transit facility is now completed, with minor work being carried out. The facility, which is a temporary guesthouse for illegal entrants, is currently being equipped to host an increase in arrivals, as the situation in Syria remains unstable. UNHCR is looking at floor plans to maximise capacity for those in need of temporary shelter and protection before being bailed out. UNHCR has delivered and set up bunk beds and is monitoring the situation

closely through its permanent, informal presence at the facility. UNHCR staff are also utilising the opportunity to carry out preliminary interviews of new arrivals and disseminating information on the importance of registration, along with a concerted effort to ascertain any protection challenges they face.

Psychosocial Services and Education

UNICEF continues its monitoring activities to the Ramtha Facility where the agency is providing remedial education and psychosocial services for vulnerable Syrian children in partnership with the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation. The number of children in the Facility reached almost 90 children as of 22 February. Some of the vulnerable Syrian children have started attending nearby public schools while after-school activities are provided in the Facility. UNICEF field visit results indicated that newly arrived children clearly are in need of psychosocial support as many are showing signs of trauma. The visits have also underlined the importance of improving and monitoring free access to basic health services for children and pregnant women including immunization for the infants and toddlers.

In Ma'an, approximately 150 vulnerable Syrian children together with their parents continue to benefit from remedial and psychosocial support by UNICEF through the partnership with JOHUD. UNICEF has also approached other partners to explore possibilities to support psychosocial efforts for children in Irbid, Mafraq and Ramtha as the number of vulnerable Syrians are growing.

Child protection issues of vulnerable Syrian children continue to be a concern for UNICEF such as child labour in particular. Due to high economic vulnerability resulted from displacement, some of these Syrian families are opting for alternative ways to earn living as often the heads of households are absent. Child labour is directly linked to educational opportunities for children, therefore, UNICEF in coordination with UNHCR and other partners are exploring ways to address this issue quickly.

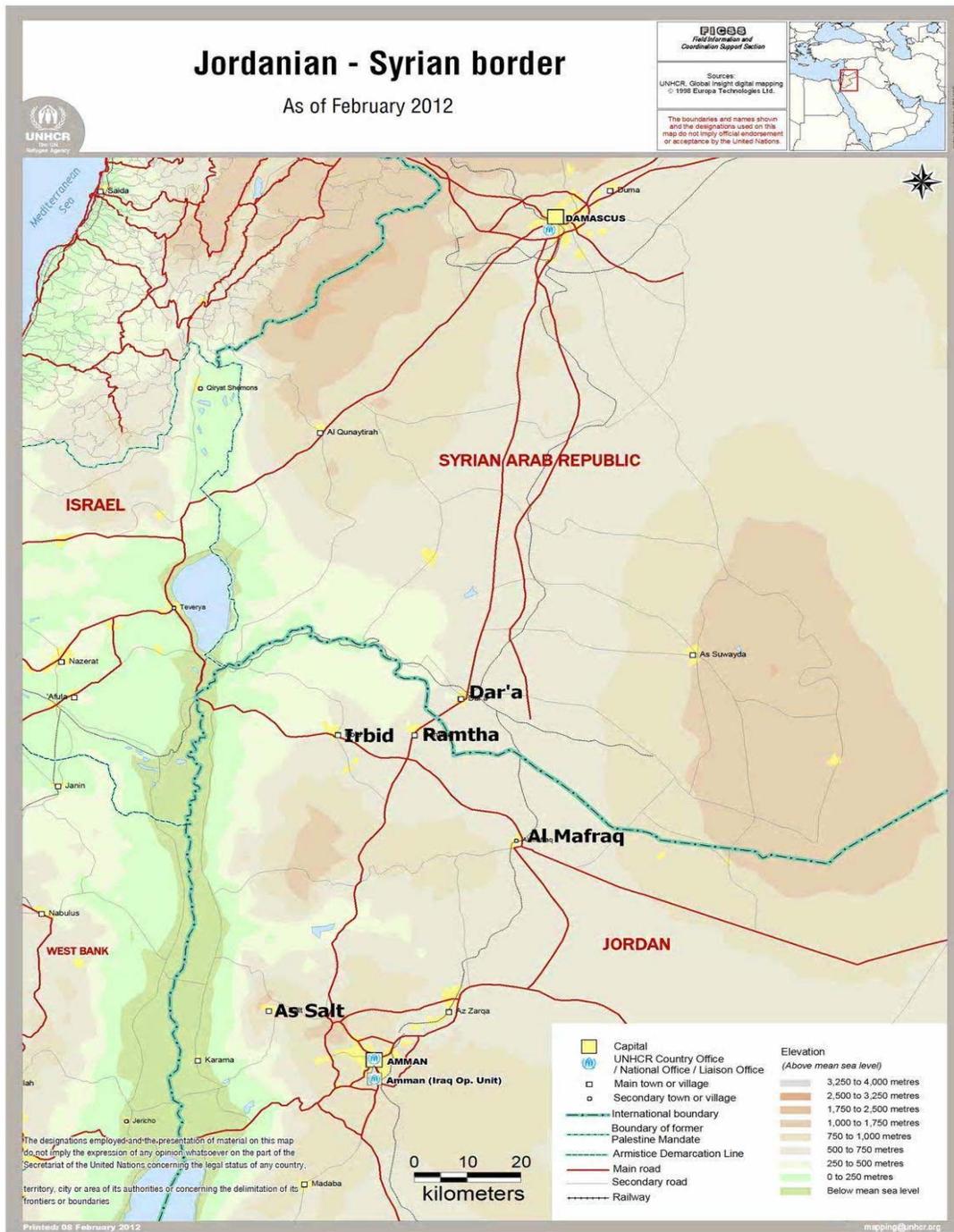
UNICEF is developing better parenting messages for the displaced Syrian families to raise awareness amongst parents on basic health and nutrition care for children and on best practices for social and emotional development of young children. Through empowering parents, these key messages will help address critical issues faced by children due to displacement.

Human interest story by the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation:

<http://www.kinghusseinfoundation.org/index.php?pager=end&type=news&task=view&pageid=102>

UNICEF Appeal

In response to the influx of vulnerable Syrian children and their families, UNICEF appeals for US\$3.5 million to meet the education and child protection needs of these groups in Jordan for a 12 month period. The main geographical target areas include governorates such as Ramtha, Mafraq, Irbid, Ma'an and Amman with the largest concentration of vulnerable Syrians.



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