



Syrian refugees in northern Jordan (March 2012)

## Displaced Syrian Children in Jordan

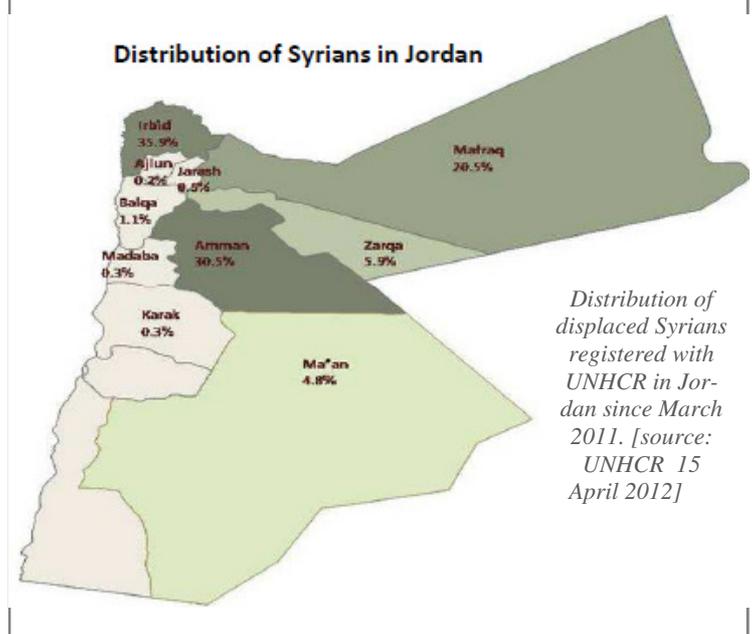
UNICEF requires US\$ 4.1 million to address the needs of some 20,000 vulnerable children and their families who are seeking refuge in Jordan after fleeing unrest in Syria. The funds will cover programme needs for six months.

19 April 2012

### Highlights

- Some **10,000 displaced Syrians** have registered with UNHCR in Jordan since March 2011, and another 4,500 individuals hold registration appointments.
- In Ramtha Facility, UNICEF partner ACTED has begun work to rehabilitate sanitation facilities, provide maintenance and cleaning, and deliver hygiene promotion activities.
- To date UNICEF has supported more than **1,500 vulnerable Syrian children and family members** with remedial education and psychosocial support. In addition, UNICEF partner Save the Children Jordan has reached out to nearly **4,000 children and family members** with information about school enrolment and necessary follow up.

### Syria and the Sub-Region Situation Map



## SITUATION OVERVIEW



Syrian refugees Ahmad and his sister Yasmin, study together at home. They both attend remedial classes run by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) with the support of UNICEF. (Names changed)

### Situation of Children and Women in Syria

For the past year, Syria has witnessed unprecedented levels of civil unrest, large scale public demonstrations and increasingly widespread use of violence. The result has been the **deaths of more than 9,000 Syrians, including more than 500 children**, with many more wounded (International Independent Commission of Inquiry's second report).

By March 2012, the violence had spread across at least half of Syria's 14 governorates, particularly affecting the south, centre and north-western parts of the country. Taking into account the geographic scope and population of affected governorates, and pending further results from the on-going joint assessment led by the Syrian Government, the Syria UN Country Team estimates that some **1.7 million people** have been affected by the on-going violence. Of this number, **around 800,000 are children and adolescents** (46% of the Syrian population are under 18 - UNICEF SOWC 2011) and some **150,000 to 200,000 people have become internally displaced** (ECB and ACAPS, February 2012).

While UNICEF does not have verifiable data on the specific impact of the unrest on schools and education in the affected areas, there is strong evidence that the academic year has been seriously disrupted in many parts of the country. President Assad himself has spoken of a **50% drop in enrolment**, while claiming that 1,000 of the country's 22,000 schools have been damaged in the unrest. School buildings have also reportedly been used as military bases.

As the situation unravels, there is little doubt that the violence will have a long-lasting impact - whether physical or psychological - on the vast majority of Syrian children.

### Situation in Jordan

The combination of escalating levels of violence, disruption of services and livelihoods threatens to put more children's lives at risk. To date, some 10,000 Syrians have registered with UNHCR in Jordan and over 4,500 more hold registration appointments, while many others are believed to be in the country.

According to national organisations such as the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (the official arm of the Government to coordinate relief efforts for vulnerable Syrians) there are at present some 20,000 vulnerable Syrians in Jordan and this number is expected to rise. **It is estimated that around half of all displaced Syrians are children and adolescents.**

Syrian children and adolescents in Jordan continue to be at risk of interrupted schooling; limited access to basic services; and psychosocial distress caused by witnessing violence and being displaced.

#### Aya's story

*"There were dead people on the streets. There was shooting. Homes were destroyed, buildings collapsed. The injured were lying on the floor..."*

*Young Aya's last memories of her home town of Homs are as vivid as those of the perilous journey she and her family made across the Jordanian border.*

*"We left Homs under fire and shelling. At first, we travelled by car and were shot at. A bullet went in between the wheels. Then we took a bus which came under fire as well. It was a very tough journey."*

*One month on, Aya is adjusting to life in the southern Jordanian town of Ma'an, where she is attending the local school. Each Saturday, she goes to a UNICEF-supported centre where she learns new skills like painting, cooking, craft and sewing – her favourite activity.*

**UNICEF MENARO, March 2012**

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN JORDAN

### UNICEF Response in Jordan

**Coordination:** UNICEF is the lead agency for both the Education and Children and Women's Protection sectors.

**Education:** UNICEF has successfully advocated with the Jordanian Ministry of Education (MoE) for Syrian children's free access to the public education system. UNICEF has agreed to assist the MoE with the cost of tuition, textbooks, teacher salaries, and rental of school facilities in targeted areas, together with remedial education. UNICEF's assistance will ensure that vulnerable Syrian children at primary and secondary level benefit from uninterrupted education in Jordanian public schools.

The MoE has informed UNICEF that over 5,500 Syrian children are currently enrolled in public schools in Jordan. If the current trend in cross-border movements continues, it is expected that the number of Syrian students will increase. UNICEF seeks to secure the necessary resources to support the education and psychosocial assistance required for vulnerable Syrian students.

**Child Protection:** UNICEF continues to assist displaced Syrian children and their families with child protection services and psychosocial activities in targeted areas. To date, UNICEF has supported 1,500 Syrian children and family members in the Ramtha Transit Facility and in Ma'an. An additional 4,000 children and family members have been provided with information about school enrolment and necessary follow up.

**WASH and Health:** UNICEF has taken up the responsibility to meet the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs in the Ramtha Facility that now hosts approximately 1,800 Syrians. UNICEF partner ACTED has begun work to rehabilitate sanitation facilities, provide maintenance and cleaning, and deliver hygiene promotion activities, with rehabilitation of sanitation and hygiene facilities now complete in all five buildings of the facility.

UNICEF will take the lead in emergency WASH interventions in all camp-like settings in coordination with Jordanian Government and UNHCR.

Information sessions promoting better parenting practices have also been launched by UNICEF and partner organisations in Ma'an and Ramtha. These sessions empower Syrian parents with necessary skills in providing improved health care, nutrition and education to their children.

**Assessment:** UNICEF Jordan has participated in a joint rapid needs assessment in support of the Government of Jordan. UNICEF has finished compiling data following the field work and is leading sector analysis for the Child Protection and Education components. The consolidated report is due for release early May 2012.



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Syrian children in northern Jordan participate in remedial classes offered by UNICEF in collaboration with Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

## PLANNED RESPONSE AND FUNDING NEEDS

### Regional Response Plan

On 23 March 2012, The UN and its humanitarian partners issued an appeal for US\$84 million to help Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq.

In Jordan, the funding requirements across UN agencies and international and national NGOs is nearly US\$40 million, with **UNICEF appealing for US\$4.1 million** to vulnerable displaced Syrians and host communities

As in all humanitarian situations, UNICEF's response to the crisis in Syria is underpinned by the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) in Humanitarian Action. The CCCs are driven by the need to fulfil the rights of children affected by humanitarian crisis, and aim to promote predictable, effective and timely collective humanitarian action through a partnership between governments, humanitarian organizations, and others.

### Education

**Estimated caseload: 7,000 children**

UNICEF's response in education will focus first and foremost on advocacy and support for sustained access for all Syrian children to public school institutions. This will be complemented by outreach activities for displaced Syrian children and adolescents who will benefit from educational, recreational, cultural and psychosocial interventions within school settings. Remedial education centres will be established at public schools to provide catch-up classes and psychosocial activities by school counsellors.

Syrian children in targeted areas will benefit from community-based informal, remedial, and non-formal education services in protective learning environments. Vulnerable Syrian children and other children in host communities will also be provided with school supplies.

### Child Protection

**Estimated caseload: 10,000 children**

UNICEF will continue to provide vulnerable Syrian children with child protection services, along with psychosocial support, including identification of required specialized support and referral options. Issues that have been identified include child labour, early marriage, and exposure to gender-based violence and other forms of violence.

Awareness raising activities will also take place at the community level around prevention and response to violence, and psychosocial issues, and key local partners will receive training around psychosocial support and child protection.

### WASH and Health

**Estimated caseload: 3,000 people (WASH)**

**Estimated caseload: 6,000 caregivers and children under two (Health and Nutrition)**

UNICEF is taking the lead in emergency WASH interventions in camp-like settings in coordination with relevant actors including the Jordanian Government and UNHCR. UNICEF will provide water, latrines, and shower facilities as well as maintaining water and sanitation systems and cleaning of site/buildings combined with hygiene promotion activities in transit sites.

UNICEF is particularly concerned about the wellbeing of younger children (0-2 years) and will procure neonatal hygiene kits for children under two years.

In addition, UNICEF provides behaviour change communication interventions to improve health care and feeding practices through "better parenting" programmes conducted by local networks of partners.

The table below details the UNICEF component for Jordan of the UNHCR-led inter-agency Regional Response Plan

#### Funding requirements in US\$

Updated 2 April 2012	Total (regional)	Jordan	Received	% funded	Gap
<b>Child Protection</b>	2,350,000	<b>800,000</b>	245,124	31%	554,876
<b>Education</b>	3,710,000	<b>2,785,000</b>	521,962	19%	2,263,038
<b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>	606,000	<b>531,000</b>	215,730	41%	315,270
<b>Water, Hygiene &amp; Sanitation</b>	650,000	<b>0</b>	0		0
<b>Non Food Items</b>	100,000	<b>0</b>	0		0
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>7,416,000</b>	<b>4,116,000</b>	<b>982,816</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>3,133,184</b>

Requirements include UNICEF's 7% indirect programme support costs

Financial requirements of UNICEF Jordan's WASH component are incorporated within the budget for health