



This 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

- A record was set in April with the highest monthly number registered in the history of UNHCR's operations in Jordan. A total of 7,362 Syrian refugees were registered in April bringing the total number of Syrians registered to some 14,000 since the beginning of the unrest in March 2011. Another 2,600 Syrians have appointments.
- The number of Syrian children attending public schools in Jordan has reached 5,500. These children are supported by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education.
- UNICEF partner ACTED has purchased new water tanks for Cyber City site, and begun plumbing works to connect them to the building to provide drinking water. The cleaning of the septic tanks and desludging was completed by UNHCR partner JHAS.
- Second geographic coordination meeting took place at Ramtha during reporting period, attended by UN partners, local government officials and local NGO's. Coordination meetings were also rolled out to Ma'raq, Ma'an and Karak.
- UN agencies are preparing a CERF submission due to continued inflow of Syrians.
- Political change in Jordan during reporting period with the Prime Minister Awn Khasawneh submitting his resignation, and King Abdullah II tasking Dr. Fayez Tarawneh to form a new government.

II. Situation Overview

Registration and Numbers

While the number of Syrians approaching the Office for registration has steadily increased since the start of the unrest, April has been witness to a surge in registrations, with more registrations taking place during this month than all previous months combined. During the month of April, UNHCR Jordan registered a record number of individuals, with 7,362 Syrian persons of concern presenting themselves at the Amman office since April 1st of this year. This brings the total number registered to over 13,933 since the beginning of the unrest in Syria in March 2011, as the Agency continues in its efforts to assist the Government of Jordan in responding to the humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees. The number of those with appointments awaiting registration has also been reduced to 2,600.

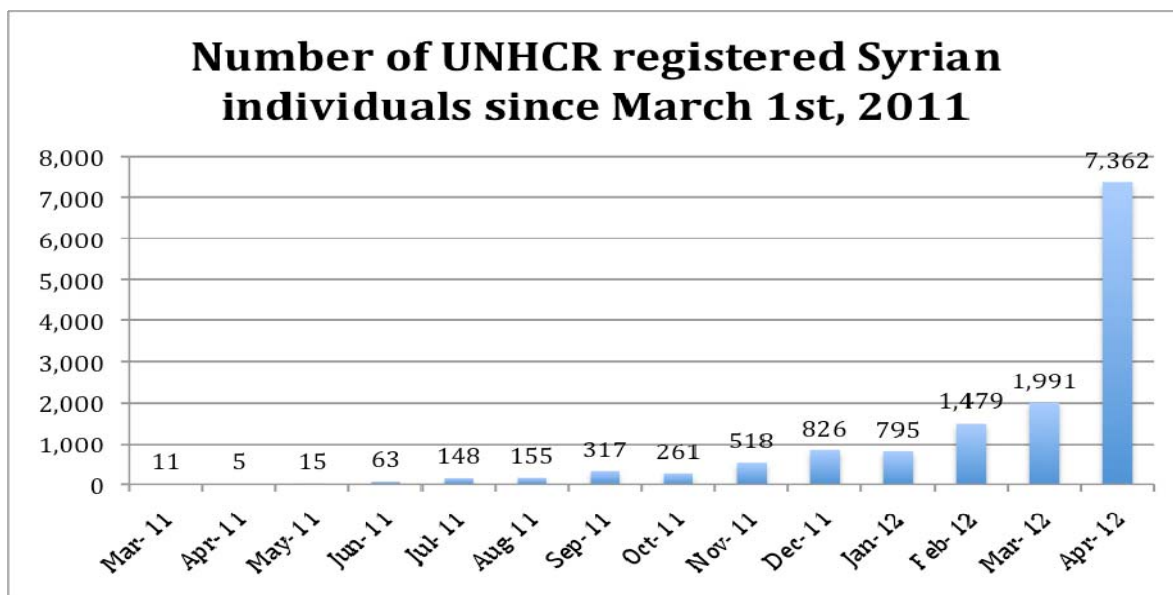
The rise in registration figures can be explained by the tireless efforts of the registration team, the accelerated registration process, and the dedicated field teams who traveled through the Kingdom to prepare Syrian persons of concern for registration at Amman.



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UNHCR acknowledges that this figure does not accurately reflect the number of vulnerable Syrians in Jordan since March 1st, since many are reluctant to register due to security fears and/or geographic distance from Amman. Estimates from the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) are closer to 30,000 vulnerable Syrians in need of assistance.

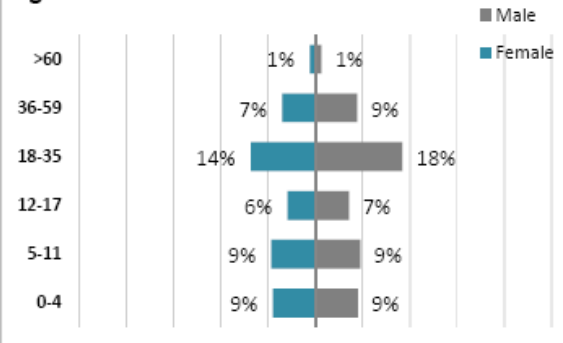
Below is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of March 2011 up to April 30th 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching the Agency to register, with a significant rise in registration numbers for April of this year.



Registration Highlights

- ❖ 90% of those registered come from the cities of Homs, Dara, Damascus and Hama.
- ❖ 43% of the registered caseload have arrived in Jordan from Homs.
- ❖ 30% arrived from Dara'a, and 8.5% respectively from Damascus and Hama.
- ❖ 89% of registered Syrians are located in Amman, Irbid and Mafraq;
- ❖ 50% of overall caseload is under the age of 18.

Age and Gender Breakdown



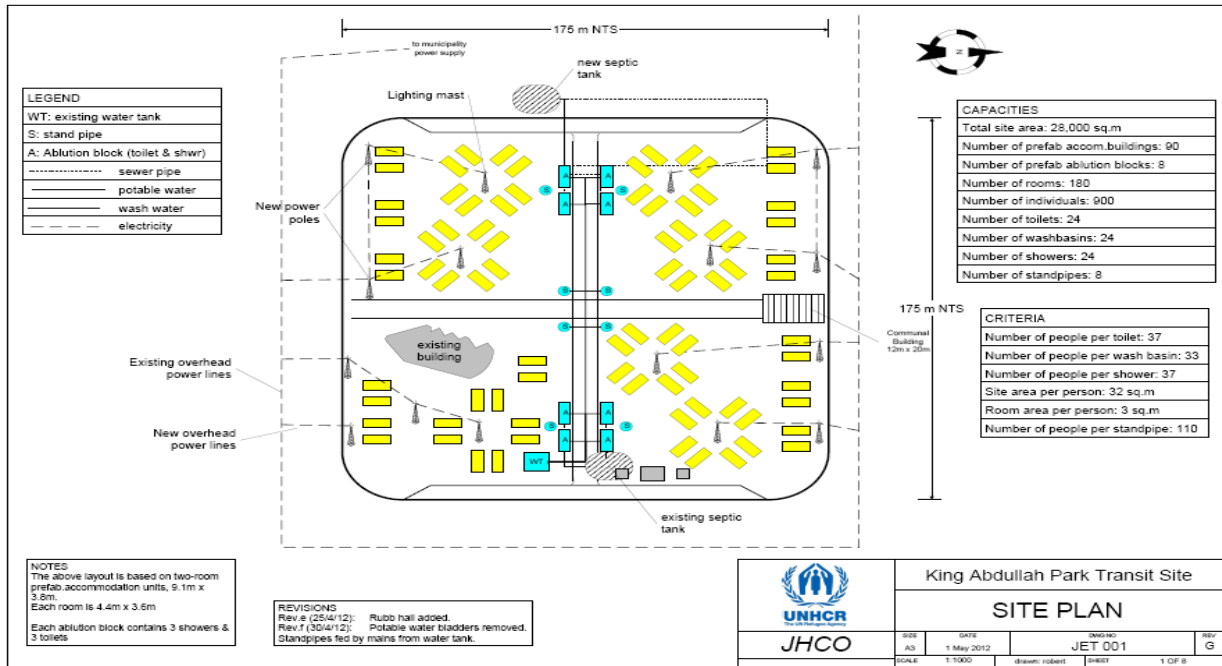
Transit Facilities/Sites in Al-Ramtha

Numbers of those entering Jordan illegally and accommodated at the Ramtha transit facility – Bashabshe - have remained lower than witnessed in previous weeks. This is believed to have occurred due to security incidents at the border, and limitations for those attempting to cross. During the reporting period, 344 children and 139 parents were supported with psychosocial activities and remedial education by UNICEF partner Noor al-Hussein Foundation. UNHCR Community Services are carrying out interviews with heads of households at Bashabshe to assist with relocation plans of families to Cyber City. Furthermore, the informal permanent presence at Beshabshe has allowed UNHCR protection staff to carry out assessments on those accommodated at the facility, in particular unaccompanied minors.

Work has continued on the contingency measures at Ramtha, including Cyber City and King Abdullah Park. Refurbishment of the Cyber City site is proceeding well, with families from Bashabshe expected to move into the six story building by Monday, 7th of May. Renovation work has been initiated by a local CBO, Kitab al-Sunna. The Cyber City building can accommodate up to 600 persons. UNICEF has begun work with partners on rehabilitating the water and sanitation component at Cyber City. UNICEF partner ACTED has purchased new water tanks, and begun plumbing works to connect them to the building, to provide drinking water. UNHCR partner JHAS has also carried out desludging and cleaning of septic tanks.

Construction of the second site, the King Abdullah Park site is in the implementation phase, with the Government of Jordan, JHCO and UNHCR coordinating closely on its creation, with support from partners (including UNICEF and implementing partner ACTED on WASH, Kitab al Sunna on construction, and WFP for food). This site will accommodate 800 individuals in pre-fabricated housing for an initial period of six months.

A UNHCR site planner from the recently arrived emergency deployment team has drawn the site plans for King Abdullah Park based on international best practices (illustrated below). The number of containers for the site will number 80, most of which will have two rooms, with a capacity of 10 persons per unit. Further to the containers, this site will also include 8 pre-fabricated ablution blocks, with capacity for 24 toilets and showers, 8 water taps and one rub-hall as communal area.



WASH

UNICEF, as lead agency in emergency WASH, has begun work with partners on rehabilitating the Cyber City building in Ramtha that will shortly house Syrian families. UNICEF partner ACTED has purchased new water tanks, and plumbing works to connect them to the building, to provide drinking water. ACTED is also ready to deploy water trucks once people start moving in. Similar work at King Abdullah Park will soon follow. UNHCR partner JHAS carried out a cleaning of the septic tanks and the desludging at the facility in anticipation of the arrival of the first families.

UNICEF, through ACTED, is maintaining and cleaning sanitation and hygiene facilities in all five buildings of the Bashabshe facility. Hygiene promotion activities have begun, reaching some 120 women through focus groups to date. Planned focus groups will continue with men. UNICEF and UNHCR have both strengthened staff capacity in the WASH sector with the arrival of specialist staff.

Health

While UNHCR registered Syrians have access to health care from the Government of Jordan, on-site care is also in place at the Beshabshe facility. Operating hours are Saturday through Thursday, from 8 am to 4pm, with one doctor, midwife, nurse and pharmacist on site. This number includes a female doctor at times, and 4 nurses working on rotating shifts ensuring that the centre can remain operational at all times, including during the night. IOM will also be providing additional female medical staff to address the needs of Syrian displaced in Ramtha.

In addition, UNHCR's partner JHAS is supporting two static operational clinics in Mafraq and Ramtha in providing primary and secondary health care to Syrians. Furthermore, where there is a large Syrian presence, two mobile medical units are providing primary healthcare in north, centre and south of Jordan (Irbid, Zarqa, Mafraq and Ramtha peripheries and Ma'an.)

Food

WFP has started providing hot meals to the inhabitants of Bashabshe and the inhabitants of the Sports Stadium. This supplements UNHCR's on-going provision of food parcels which will be incrementally phased out as WFP moves forward.

Children and GBV in Emergency

UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and ILO are working closely with other partners to monitor the situation of vulnerable Syrian children in Jordan, and referring child protection cases to UNHCR. UNICEF continues to refer urgent child protection cases identified through field visits, with particular attention to the Ramtha facility. During the reporting period field visits have taken place to Ramtha and Mafraq, and a Protection Officer began work with UNICEF as part of the emergency response.



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Displaced Syrian children in Ramtha are supported with psycho-social activities by UNICEF partner Noor al-Hussein Foundation.

As lead agency for the Child Protection and Gender Based Violence sector, UNICEF chaired the Working Group meeting on 26 April. In light of growing concern regarding GBV violence against men, the group has been expanded, and new partners continue to join.

UNICEF has prepared a draft of key messaging around protection issues to raise awareness at the community level. The draft will be finalised with the Working Group in coming days.

Education and Psychosocial Support

The number of Syrian children attending public schools in Jordan has reached 5,500. These children are supported by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education.

UNICEF and partner organisations continue to support displaced Syrian children and family members with psychosocial support and remedial education. Since December 2011, UNICEF has assisted a total of more than 1,600 vulnerable Syrian children and family members with psychosocial support and remedial education in Jordan.



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To date, UNICEF has also supported some 4,000 Syrian children in Jordan with information about school enrolment and necessary follow-up.

As lead agency for the Education Sector, on 30 April, UNICEF hosted a coordination meeting for Working Group members on informal and non-formal community-based education services. The Education Working Group has agreed to refer child labour cases to Save the Children Jordan, who will link with Questscope and other actors to provide necessary follow up services. The Education

Working Group is in the process of mapping education interventions by geographical location to assist in coordination of activities.

UNICEF is signing an agreement with Questscope to provide informal education activities for displaced Syrian children in key locations in Jordan. Agreements with Zenid and Jordan Red Crescent are anticipated to be signed in the coming weeks.

Coordination

Coordination at the Governorate level is on-going with meetings recently being held in Ramtha, Mafraq, Ma'an and Karak. The second geographical coordination meeting took place this week at Ramtha, with the Regional Refugee Coordinator, Panos Mourtiz in attendance. The meeting was attended by government officials, representatives from the local governorate, community based organisations, along with UN partners and national/international NGOs operating in the area. The meeting was predominantly technical in focus, with a discussion taking place on the challenges faced by the community in Ramtha. Reiterating the words of UNHCR Representative, Andrew Harper, it is critical that host communities receive support from donors, as they bear the weight of the arrival of the Syrian refugees, on healthcare systems, schools, and local infrastructure such as water and electricity.

This is in addition to on-going coordination meetings at the Amman level. Coordination meetings will continue in other governorates including Irbid in coming weeks.

UN partners in Jordan are preparing a proposal for the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). CERF is a humanitarian fund established by the United Nations to enable more timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts.

The CERF proposal is intended to complement the Regional Response Plan for Syria situation, as the situation in recent weeks has deteriorated and the number of vulnerable Syrians in need of assistance has grown. The funding will be used to jump-start critical operations and fund life-saving programmes not yet covered by other donors.



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Political Update

King Abdullah II on Thursday delegated Dr. Fayez Tarawneh to form a new government, shortly after former Prime Minister Awn Khasawneh submitted his resignation. Prime Minister Tarawneh had previously headed the government from 1998 to 1999 under the reign of the late King Hussein. King Abdullah II ascended the throne on February 7, 1999 during Tarawneh's term following the death of King Hussein. Born in 1949, Tarawneh received his Ph.D. degree in Economics from the University of Southern California and has previously served as Jordan's Ambassador to Washington, previous Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was the Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.



Contact

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