

This weekly report is produced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on its humanitarian response for the crisis in Syria.



Delivery of non-food items, Lebanon. August 2012.

## Highlights

- ➔ Since the beginning of the crisis in **Syria**, IOM has assisted **647** Third Country Nationals (TCNs) to return home from Damascus. Another 466 people will travel soon to the safety of their home countries.
- ➔ In conjunction with UN and NGO partners, IOM is preparing to distribute Non-Food Items among displaced families in the Damascus area, **Syria**.
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- ➔ In **Jordan**, in the last five day, IOM has transported **1,254** Syrian nationals from the border to Za'atri camp.
- ➔ Between 28 June and 7 August, IOM has provided Primary Health assistance and examinations to **5,640** Syrians at King Abdullah Park (KAP), **Jordan**.
- ➔ IOM reached a total number of **30,335** Syrians with Tuberculosis (TB) awareness and screening activities in **Jordan** since March 2012.
- ➔ In **Iraq**, IOM started a comprehensive rapid needs assessment of Syrian refugees, Iraqi returnees and IDPs, and of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) on 7 August.
- ➔ Since April, IOM also provided **810** hygiene kits, **245** house cleaning kits, **1,755** rechargeable lamps and **130** sanitary kits in **Lebanon** and **991** NFI kits in **Iraq**.

## Third Country Nationals

Due to the ongoing civil unrest, several governments continue to evacuate their nationals out of Syria. To date, 25 embassies, including Indonesia, Sudan and Yemen, have requested IOM's assistance to repatriate their nationals safely.

## Situation Overview

**SYRIA** On Friday 3 August, the UN General Assembly held a plenary meeting on 'the prevention of armed conflict', discussing the situation in Syria. Saudi-Arabia as chair of the Arab League proposed [Resolution A/66/L.57](#) demanding the Syrian Administration to cease use of weapons against civilians and to declare a state of ceasefire, and voicing great concern over increasing numbers of IDPs in Syria.

**JORDAN** Local Jordanian authorities estimate that **1,500** Syrian nationals have been crossing into Jordan per day in the past week.<sup>1</sup> Government officials anticipate the arrival of up to one million Syrians. The Za'atri camp is currently hosting circa **3,285** Syrian nationals. Although the camp can be expanded to host additional populations and services are improving daily, living conditions remain very difficult.

The rise in the influx of Syrian refugees crossing into Jordan has stretched the public health infrastructure in terms of human and financial resources, particularly in Ramtha, Mafraq and Irbid. Of specific concern to the Ministry of Health (MoH) is the health security threat and increased risk of the spread of contagious diseases, particularly TB among Syrians as well as Jordanian citizens.

**LEBANON** During the last two days, shells from the Syrian side of the border heavily hit three towns in the north of Lebanon, located about 6 kilometers from the border with Syria. An estimated 600 Palestinian refugee families fled from Syria to Lebanon in the past week, the majority arriving from Yarmouk camp in Damascus.

The General Security Office (GSO) announced on 3 August that in light of the unrest in Syria, Syrian nationals in Lebanon are now able to renew their temporary residency permit at any GSO office in Lebanon. This humanitarian measure will allow Syrians who have been in Lebanon for 12 months to renew their residency permit without having to return to Syria, which up until that date was the usual procedure.

**IRAQ** The United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI) reports that **22,300** Iraqis have returned to Iraq in recent weeks.

The number of Syrians living in Iraq now exceeds **12,600**. Through information from various sources including Iraqi authorities, it is estimated that **9,000** individuals are currently seeking refuge in the Northern Iraqi region of Kurdistan. However, approximately **7,745** are registered with the local Bureau of Displacement and Migration.

IOM reports that the Sunni Endowment in Iraq distributed 100,000 ID (80 USD) of in-cash assistance to each Syrian family crossing at Al Qaim.

**TURKEY** As of 6 August 2012, **46,294** Syrian Citizens are sheltered in 8 camps established by the Prime Ministry's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). There are **10,771** refugees in 5 camps in Hatay, **15,469** in 2 camps in Şanlıurfa, **7,640** in 1 camp in Gaziantep and **12,033** in 1 camp in Kilis.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> According to UNHCR, over 37,448 Syrian nationals have been registered, and an additional 2,283 are pending registration, 75% of arriving Syrians are reported to be women and children.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.afetacil.gov.tr/Ingilizce\\_Site/index.html](http://www.afetacil.gov.tr/Ingilizce_Site/index.html)

A Regional Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the plan to open five additional camps to increase the capacity up to **100,000** persons. Reportedly one of the five additional camps in Akçakale-Şanlıurfa will be opened this week. The second camp in Karkamış/Gaziantep is planned to be ready in 3 weeks.

The Government of Turkey is still in charge of camp management including registration and transportation, and is partnering with agencies to replenish stocks of NFIs and monitor cross-border movements of TCNs.

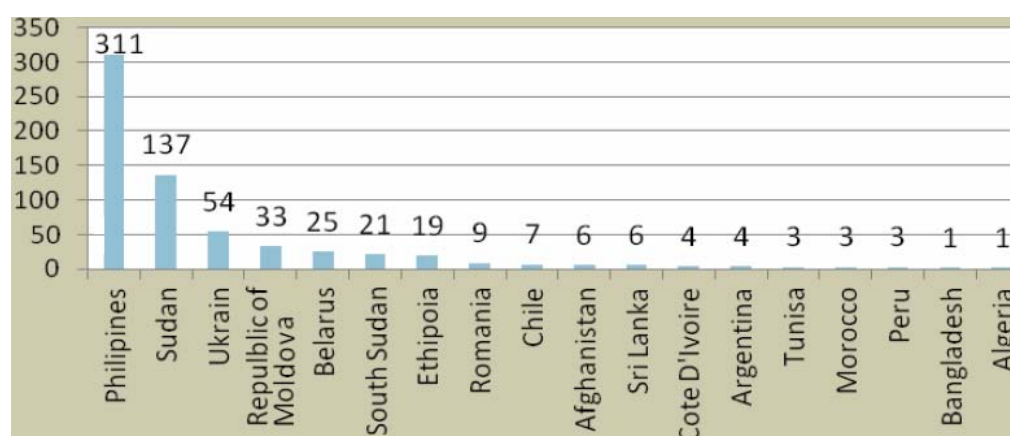
## Country Operations

### 1. Syria Operations

As of 7 August, IOM has provided repatriation assistance to **647** TCNs to return home. **232** are booked, whilst **234** are in the registration process. IOM has received requests from several embassies to assist another **3,011** individuals (See table 1). Furthermore, there is a significant increase in the number of TCNs from Yemen and Sudan requesting assistance. During the period of 5-7 August, the number of Yemeni nationals booked to travel rose from **3 to 47**, while the number of Sudanese nationals booked to travel rose from **15 to 107**. IOM continues to discuss requests for assistance with the embassies of Ukraine, Indonesia and Romania to help repatriate their nationals in need.

IOM continues resettlement assistance for refugees under the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), of which 95% are Iraqis. Since January IOM provided already transport to **2,591** refugees to various countries and **358** are booked for August.

*Table 1. Assisted TCNs per Country of Origin since November 2011*



### 2. Jordan Operations

From 3-7 August, IOM field team has assisted with emergency transportation support to **1,254** Syrian nationals moving from border points to Za'atri camp. Additionally, IOM provided transfer assistance to newcomers inside the camp upon their arrival, as well as for 6 individuals to the hospital for medical assistance and treatment.

In the past week, IOM obtained approval to purchase not only sufficient medical drugs but also electrical service and water tanks for the clinic. IOM continues providing Primary Health Care services for Syrian nationals at King Abdullah Park (KAP) transit center through two medical caravans. Due to the increase in Syrian arrivals, nurses have been remaining at the Primary Health Care Clinic at KAP for 24 hours at a time.

From 28 June – 7 August, through its Primary Health Clinic IOM examined **5,640** individuals, 40% of whom were females and 31% were children under the age of 15. The most common diseases are Upper Respiratory Tract Infection and Gastroenteritis disorder.

From 3-7 August, IOM reached **121** Syrians through awareness-raising activity and screened **972** Syrians for TB. The total number of Syrians reached through TB awareness and screening activity since March 2012 is **30,335** persons, with a low incidence of TB.

### 3. Iraq Operations

IOM is working to locate and identify Iraqi returnees in order to facilitate their registration process with Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD). Once registered, Iraqi families who have returned from Syria after 20 June, are eligible for cash assistance from MoMD.

On 7 August IOM Iraq started a comprehensive rapid countrywide assessment of Syrian refugees, Iraqi returnees, Third Country Nationals, and recent Iraqi IDPs. Field teams are interviewing key counterparts such as border authorities, Camp and Transit Receiving Centers (TRC) managers, MoMD officials, and local councils.

### 4. Lebanon Operations

From 1-7 August, IOM distributed hygiene kits and rechargeable lamps to **285** Syrian refugee and Lebanese Returnee families in Wadi Khaled area, Akkar, North Lebanon. IOM provided additional sanitary assistance to those families with infants (total of **100** families). This week, IOM will continue providing NFIs to Lebanese returnee families along the Northern border based on the assessment carried out last month.

Since April, IOM has provided on-going assistance to Syrian refugees and Lebanese returnees in the North of Lebanon. A total of **810** hygiene kits, **245** house cleaning kits, **1,755** rechargeable lamps and **130** sanitary kits were delivered through a centralized methodology.

IOM started distributing shelter construction support items thanks to the support of CERF. This includes providing assistance to refugees and returnees living in overcrowded and often precarious shelter environments. IOM conducted the needs assessment for shelter construction support for Lebanese returnees and Syrian refugees. A list of 138 Lebanese returnee families were identified living in barracks, moreover, 196 Syrian refugee families were traced and are living in barracks in really precarious conditions.

Additionally, IOM and the UN prepares for the contingency planning with partners and the Government in order to be prepared in the event of a larger influx of Syrian Refugees and Lebanese Returnees in the north of the country.

### 5. Turkey Operations

IOM has been working through the UN regional response plan to assist the Turkish government and partners with NFIs for the increased numbers of persons crossing the border. IOM has also worked closely with Turkish authorities and the Turkish Red Crescent to identify TCNs amongst those crossing the border and needing assistance. IOM has also facilitated the onward return travel of Moldova and Chinese nationals on 2-3 August.