

SYRIA REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey



14 September 2012

This weekly update provides a snapshot of the United Nations and partners' response to the influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. The response is led by the UN Refugee Agency and is undertaken in full coordination with host Governments, UN agencies, and NGO partners. This report covers the period from 08 to 14 September 2012. The next update will be issued on 21 September 2012.



The High Commissioner, Mr. Antonio Guterres, meets with Syrian refugees during his visit to one of the refugee camps in Turkey ©UNHCR/2012

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The overall registered Syrian refugee population in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey has now exceeded quarter a million.
- Jordan continues to host the largest Syrian refugee population for the second week with about 87,000 registered Syrians in the country.
- The High Commissioner (HC), Mr. Antonio Guterres, accompanied by UNHCR special envoy (SE), Ms. Angelina Jolie, and respective UNHCR Regional Directors visited Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey to express solidarity with Syrian refugees, and to show support for the countries hosting those refugees.

REFUGEE NUMBERS

Number of Syrian Refugees	JORDAN**	LEBANON	IRAQ	TURKEY	TOTAL
Registered	49,236	49,653	14,563	80,104	193,556
Awaiting registration*	37,704	18,307	10,945	-	66,956
TOTAL	86,940	67,960	25,508	80,104	260,512

**Figures are based on estimates and thus may vary.*

*** According to the Government of Jordan, there are more than 200,000 Syrians in Jordan.*

JORDAN

HIGHLIGHTS

- For the second week, Jordan has recorded the largest Syrian refugee population hosted in the neighboring countries with a total of **86,940** refugees (registered or pending registration).

HC Visit

- HC Visit: On September 11 the HC and SE visited Za'atri camp where they met with Syrian refugees. During their visit, the HC and SE also met His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein, Prime Minister Mr. Fayez Tarawneh, and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Nasser Judeh. The delegation showed great solidarity with Syrian refugees, and recognized the commitment of the Jordanian people and government to refugee protection.

Protection / Numbers

- New Arrivals:
 - A number of 3,845 Syrian refugees have crossed into Jordan during the reporting period, compared to 11,000 new arrivals during the previous week.
 - More than 83% of the new arrivals come from Dara'a province, 9% from Damascus (mainly from the Al-Midan area), and 7% from Homs (mainly Al-Khaldiya and Dir Balbah areas).
- Registration:
 - A total of 49,236 Syrian refugees are now registered with UNHCR, while another 37,704 are awaiting registration (10,535 are already with registration appointments, while the other 27,169 are pending registration at the Za'atri camp).
 - UNHCR off-site registration plans are progressing following an approval from the Government of Jordan. New field offices will be operational in Amman, Irbid and Mafraq by the beginning of October in view of responding to the growing needs of the refugees.
- Camp Population: Za'atri camp has so far received 27,169 Syrian refugees, while more persons continue to arrive on daily basis. A number of Syrians who had previously left the camp have returned back due to the high expenses and difficulties encountered in urban areas.
- Education: UNICEF and Save the Children continue facilitating the registration of Syrian refugee children who are willing to attend Jordanian schools for the new academic year.



Syrian refugee children at the Za'atri camp ©UNHCR/2012

Assistance / Outreach

- Food: WFP assessed health conditions related to food and water consumption in Za'atri camp.
- Health: Health needs in the camp are covered by the primary health clinic run by UNHCR's partner JHAS, in partnership with UNFPA and IMC. Further smaller clinics and military field hospitals are expected to be merged into one hospital center. Handicap International will start providing physiotherapy as well as mobility devices on September 16. Meanwhile, assessment of the capacity of health services in the northern cities of Jordan is ongoing.

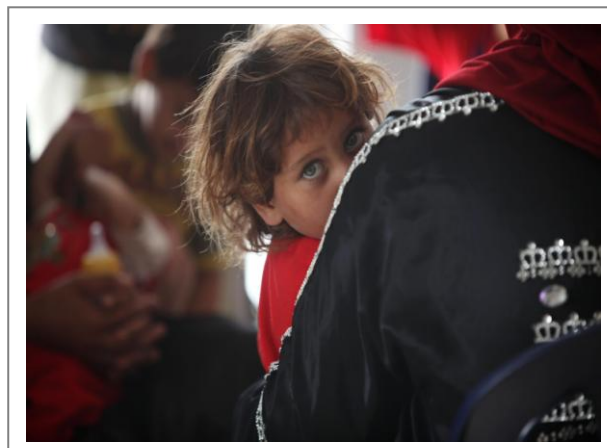
LEBANON

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of registered Syrian refugees has so far reached **67,960** across the country since the onset of the crisis.

HC Visit

- The HC and SE met with Syrian refugees in the Bekaa, and visited Al-Masna'a border crossing through which many Syrians flee into Lebanon. The delegation also met with President Michel Sleiman, Prime Minister Najib Mikati, Minister of Social Affairs Wael Abou Faour and other Syrian Government officials. In his meetings, the HC thanked the Lebanese Government and host communities for their hospitality and raised, among others, UNHCR concern about the urgent shelter needs.



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Protection / Numbers

- Registration: A total of 49,653 Syrian refugees have so far been registered with UNHCR across Lebanon, while another 18,307 are yet to be registered.
- Education: As the new school year starts on September 24, school enrolment for Syrian refugee children is underway.

Assistance / Outreach

- Shelter: Tangible progress has been achieved in the process of relocating Syrian refugee families from operational schools to alternative shelter options in the Bekaa. Some families moved to other non-operational schools, some found shelter with Lebanese host families, while others preferred to choose the “cash for rent” option. UNHCR is still working on finding alternative shelter options for the remaining 30 families who still live in operational schools.
- Health: Discussions are underway between UNHCR and partners to help improve the health care situation in the north of the country and the Bekaa.
- Distribution:
 - The preparations for a WFP voucher system in Tripoli are finalized and the distribution of vouchers is expected to start on September 26.
 - DRC has started providing assistance to newly arrived unregistered families in Akkar and Wadi Khaled areas, in an effort to bridge the assistance gap between the arrival and registration of refugees in Lebanon.

IRAQ

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration has now reached **25,508**, with the arrival of over 3,500 refugees during the reporting period.

Protection / Numbers

- New Arrivals: The number of asylum seekers in the Kurdistan Regional Governorate (KRG) continues to increase on a daily basis. Some 3,514 Syrian refugees have arrived during the past week only. The majority of those arriving at the KRG are coming from Reef-Damascus, Aleppo, Hassake and Qameshli. No Syrian refugee entry was reported at any other border crossing, while Al-Qaim border point remains closed. UNHCR is advocating with the relevant authorities for it to be re-opened.
- Registration: A total of 14,563 are now registered with UNHCR across the country, while another 19,945 are awaiting registration. To accelerate the registration process, UNHCR is in the process of setting up a registration point in Al-Qa'im camp.
- Education: UNICEF is planning to have five more prefabricated classrooms in Al-Qaim, in addition to the already established five, to increase school capacity in the camp.
- Iraqis returning from Syria: The total number of Iraqis who have returned from Syria since the onset of the crisis has so far reached 35,267, including 5,997 who have returned to Iraq by air. The majority of those returning from Syria identified Baghdad, Diyala, and Anbar as their final destinations.

Assistance / Outreach

- Health:
 - In Al-Qaim, UNICEF has started a vaccination for children under five.
 - In Domiz camp, UNHCR organized a meeting with the Directorate of Health to request health screening of new arrivals, as it was observed that many of them suffer from various health problems.
- Food: WFP started distributing food in Domiz camp on daily basis.



One side of Al-Qaim refugee camp ©UNHCR/2012

TURKEY

HIGHLIGHTS

- According to Government officials, the total number of registered Syrian refugees has so far reached **80,104**. Meanwhile, thousands of Syrians are at the borders, waiting to be admitted.
- All Syrians who have been temporarily accommodated in schools have been transferred to the camps.

HC Visit

On 13 and 14 September the HC and SE arrived at Turkey, where they visited the Syrian refugee camps of Oncupinar and Islahiye. In Ankara, they met with the President, H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gul, and the Minister for Interior, Mr. Idris Naim Sahin.

Protection / Numbers

- Registration: According to the Turkish authorities, as of September 10, a total of 80,104 Syrian refugees are registered and assisted in Turkey.
- New Arrivals: The Turkish authorities reported that no restrictions are being imposed on the admission of those seeking protection, but rather people are being admitted in smaller groups due to security and capacity reasons.

Assistance / Outreach

- Shelter:
 - The Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) at the Prime Ministry's Office announced that all Syrians who have been temporarily accommodated in schools have been transferred to the camps as of September, 10. The total number of those who were accommodated in schools approximates 27,000.
 - According to local authorities, the camps in Kahramanmaras and Osmaniye are now operational, which brings the total number of camps to 12, including the container site in Kilis.

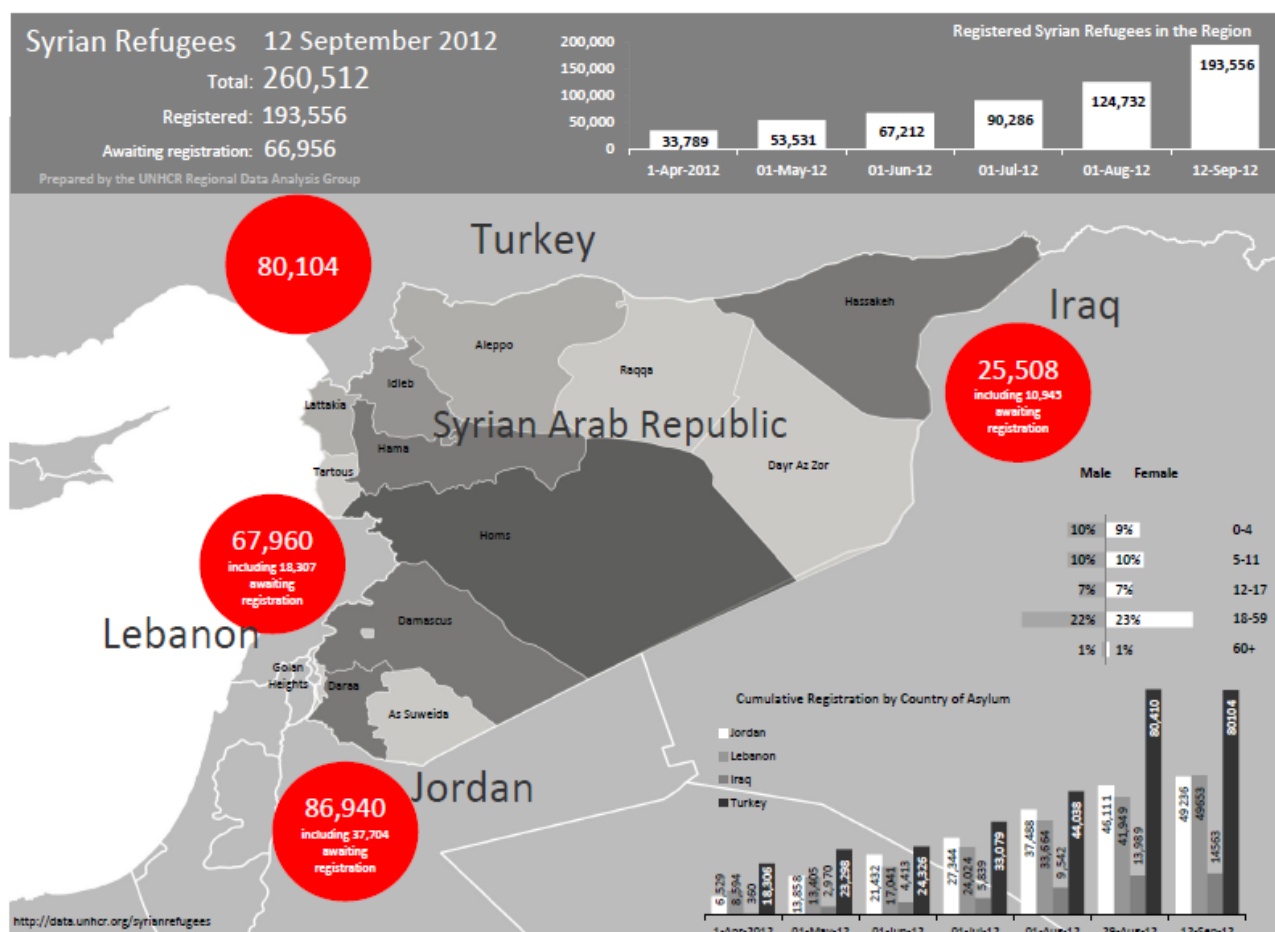


UNHUC SE, Ms. Angelina Jolie, during her visit with the HC to one of the refugee camps in Turkey ©UNHCR/2012

FUNDING UPDATE

The Regional Refugee Plan, which was revised and presented in June 2012 planning for 185,000 Syrian refugees till the end of the year, has been outdated due to the significant increase of newly arrived refugees. The regional refugee plan is currently being revised in close coordination with UN agencies and NGO partners with the view of presenting the revised plan in Geneva on 27 September 2012.

OVERVIEW MAP



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