

IOM Regional Response to the Syria Crisis

20 December 2012

This report is produced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on its humanitarian response for the crisis in Syria. The summary covers events and activities until 20 December. For activities implemented in Syria, please consult the full situation report.



Distribution of winter kits in Domiz camp, Dohuk, Iraq © IOM 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Jordan:** In the past week, IOM facilitated the transport of **5,126** Syrian nationals from border areas to Za'atri camp.
- **Lebanon:** IOM distributed **1,500** blankets benefiting **200** Lebanese returnee families and **165** Syrian refugee families in Central and West Bekaa.
- **Iraq:** In the past week, the IOM team in Dohuk has successfully distributed **1,600** NFI kits to Syrian refugees in Domiz camp, bringing the total NFI kits distributed since 1 November to **2,748** out of the target total of **3000** NFI kits.

SITUATION OVERVIEW**JORDAN**

There are currently **106,724** registered Syrian refugees in Jordan.¹ The Jordanian government estimates that over **200,000** Syrians have entered the country since March 2011.

The movement of Syrian refugees crossing the border into Jordan increased considerably in the last week. This is reflected by the fact that **5,126** Syrian refugees arrived in the past seven days compared to the **2,369** that arrived during the previous reporting period. It is anticipated that the numbers will continue to increase as the security in Syria further deteriorates and the cold winter is pushing more IDPs in Syria to seek shelter and assistance in neighboring.

The opening of a new camp in the Zarqa area to accommodate Syrian refugees is expected around mid-January 2013. In coordination with partner agencies and other stakeholders, IOM is currently in the process of assessing the expansion of its activities into this new refugee camp.

LEBANON

The number of UNHCR-registered Syrians has reached **119,596** persons.² UNHCR registered over **6,000** people this week.

IRAQ

There are currently **66,048** registered Syrian refugees in Iraq.³ This figure includes **53,875** Syrian refugees residing in the Kurdistan Region (KRG), over 75% of whom are in Dohuk. Those refugees in the KRG not residing in Domiz camp are primarily living in rented houses or staying in government buildings. Some individuals have access to daily wage work. UNHCR estimates that a total of approximately **26,000** individuals are currently living in Domiz camp in the Dohuk governorate.

Returns back to Syria are increasing as many Syrian families decide to return back to Syria from Al Qaim camp due to the hard conditions such as poor health services, recurring electricity cuts, and food shortages. This is reflected by the **264** families who returned back to Syria last week in addition to the return of **47** families to Syria during this week. According to the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), **8,926** Syrians currently reside in two camps in the Anbar governorate.

IOM staff in Anbar report that Syrian families are able to live outside of the camp if they have an Iraqi citizen to vouch for them. It is estimated that there are currently over **1,800** individuals living in host communities (with relatives or host families) in Anbar.

On 21 October, authorities closed the Al Qaim border to Syrians due to overcrowding in the area's two camps. The authorities intend to reopen the border once UNHCR completes work on a third

¹ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

camp. Although the Al Qaim crossing remains closed to Syrian refugees (except for emergency cases), Iraqi returnees are still permitted to use it.

Rabia'a crossing in Ninewa is open to returnees and third country nationals. Work on Alkasek camp in Ninewa is ongoing but slow. Rabia'a crossing in Ninewa is currently open to returnees and third country

nationals. Work on Alkasek camp in Ninewa is ongoing but slow. Local authorities in Ninewa report that the camp will not be ready before the end of this year. As local authorities are concerned about the potential large influx of Syrians to Ninewa, they will open the border to Syrian refugees once Alkasek camp is complete.

Iraqi returnees continue to arrive, mainly through Al Waleed and Rabia'a border points. A small number of returnees cross at Al Qaim due to the deteriorating security situation on the Syrian side of the border. Since July 2012, it is estimated that the total number of Iraqi returnees stands at **58,213**. Most of the Iraqi returnees currently residing in the KRG are not originally from KR governorates but, due to unstable security situations were unable to return to their homes.

TURKEY

The number of Syrians registered and accommodated in **14** camps in seven provinces increased to **141,240**⁴ persons, including those undertaking medical treatment in hospitals and their companions.

During the reporting period, Turkish authorities reported that **4,945** Syrians were admitted from the border and **1,397** Syrians have voluntarily returned to Syria.

It is estimated that the total number of Syrians registered in 14 camps is 12% more than the camps' collective capacities. According to figures of Ceylanpinar and Akcakale camp authorities, more than **15,000** people who were registered in these two camps are staying with their relatives in nearby villages with permission from camp officials. It was also reported by other camps that they have to accommodate some thousands of people in the communal tents due to shortage of space. There are more than **2,500** Syrians accommodated in communal tents in Kahramanmaraş.

Local authorities also reported that there are 6 additional camps currently under construction out of which five are container sites and one is a tent camp. Two of the container sites, Nizip 2 (as there is already one camp in Nizip) in Gaziantep province with a hosting capacity of **5,000** individuals and Haran kokenli in Sanilurfa province with a hosting capacity of **10,000**, are expected to be completed by the end of December 2012 or early January 2013.

⁴ http://www.afetacil.gov.tr/Ingilizce_Site/index.html

IOM COUNTRY OPERATIONS

1. Jordan Operations

Emergency Transportation of Refugees

In the past week, IOM facilitated the transport of **5,126** Syrian nationals from border areas to Za'atri camp. Since 29 July, IOM facilitated the transport of **68,377** Syrians from border areas to Za'atri Camp.

As part of the transportation services, the IOM operations team provides pre-registration and reception services to newly arriving refugees and the IOM medical team conducts initial health screenings, including referrals to health care providers at the camp as needed.

Health Services

Since 29 July, IOM assisted **802** individuals with medical conditions requiring immediate referral or treatment at the camp's health clinics as part of the transportation assistance services.

Since March 2012, IOM screened **50,737** Syrians for tuberculosis (TB) and provided **40,954** Syrians with TB awareness-raising activities in the camp, transit centres, and host communities in Jordan. IOM's medical team confirmed **17** TB cases and is providing follow-up treatment for **15** cases. In addition, IOM is currently investigating suspected TB cases and screening people who were in contact with the confirmed cases.⁶

Refugees provided with transport assistance in the past week (12-20 December)

| Date ⁵ | # People |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 13 th Dec | 509 |
| 14 th Dec | 779 |
| 15 th Dec | 367 |
| 16 nd Dec | 1357 |
| 17 rd Dec | 737 |
| 18 th Dec | 640 |
| 19 th Dec | 737 |
| 7-day Total | 5,126 |

2. Lebanon Operations

Provision of Emergency Non-Food Items (NFI)

IOM distributed **1,500** blankets (one blanket per family member) benefiting **200** Lebanese returnee families and **165** Syrian refugee families in Baalbeck, Chaat, Taalbaya, Khyara, Marej and Manara in Central and West Bekaa, during reporting period.



Distribution of blankets to Lebanese returnee families in Baalbeck, © IOM 2012

⁵ Dates reflect evacuation statistics collected the day of and night before the date stated.

⁶ 15 cases and their contacts are followed by IOM medical team under the leadership of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Health (MOH) through the national TB program (NTP) procedures, guidance, rules and regulations and in coordination with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). Dr. Khaled Abu Rumman (NTP Manager and Director of Chest Diseases Directorate) leads the national program in coordination with the TB directorates in Irbid and Mafraq and the Anoor Sanatorium.

Mapping and Profiling of Lebanese Returnees

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 26 November between the Higher Relief Commission (HRC), on behalf of the Government of Lebanon (GoL), IOM and the World Food Programme, IOM shared the proposed registration system with the GoL. The registration exercise is expected to be launched in early 2013.

3. Iraq Operations

Provision of Emergency Non-Food Items (NFIs)

During the reporting period, the IOM team in Dohuk successfully distributed **1,600** NFI kits to Syrian refugees in Domiz camp, bringing the total NFI kits⁷ distributed since 1 November to **2,748** out of a planned total of **3,000** NFI kits.



4. Turkey Operations

Emergency Repatriation of Stranded Migrants

IOM has received a request from Kyrgyz embassy to assist three persons who fled Syria and wanted to be repatriated to Kyrgyzstan. The family is composed of a Kyrgyz mother, a Syrian father and their 4 year-old child. With IOM assistance, the family has departed Turkey for Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Provision of Emergency Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Additional mattresses and pillows will be provided to Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) in the coming weeks for further distribution.

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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⁷ NFI kits include supplementary winterization items (one carpet, kerosene heater, plastic cabinet and rechargeable light)