

REGIONAL RESPONSE

Top left - Young refugee boys from Syria in Za’atri camp. IOM has assisted 184,558 Syrians to reach the camp since July 2012. Photo supplied by IOM Jordan. **Bottom left** - IOM staff talk with returnee and refugee families in Najaf (Najaf Governorate) to determine their priority needs. Photo supplied by IOM Iraq. **Right** - IOM and partners assess the needs of Syrian refugees settled in urban areas outside of the refugee camps in Iraq. Photo supplied by IOM Iraq. © IOM 2013

IOM’s Regional Response is focused on the following activities:

For activities implemented in Syria, please consult the full situation report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ **Jordan:** In the past week, IOM facilitated transportation of **20,838** Syrian refugees from border areas to Za’atri camp.
- ⇒ **Lebanon:** IOM provided transit assistance to **34** refugees from Syria who had been approved for resettlement to the United States.
- ⇒ **Iraq:** IOM conducted a rapid needs assessment of **28** families recently arrived to Najaf (Najaf Governorate)



Provision of Emergency Shelter Materials



Distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs)



Needs Assessments/ Needs Analysis



Emergency Healthcare and Referrals



Transportation: Transport assistance for refugees; Resettlement assistance for refugees; Repatriation of stranded and vulnerable migrants

IOM COUNTRY OPERATIONS

Iraq Operations

 **IOM monitors vulnerable Syrian refugee and Iraqi returnee families:** During the reporting period **515** families and **1,117** individuals were registered at Domiz camp (estimated population of **30,000** Syrian refugees). The increase in arrivals is explained by the deterioration in the security situation in Syria and the improvement of weather conditions which facilitates travel across the border into Iraq. IOM continues to work with partners at Domiz camp, to monitor and provide referrals for extremely vulnerable households in need of assistance.

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Rapid needs assessment of 28 families recently arrived to Najaf: IOM completed an assessment of Syrian refugee and Iraqi returnee families who arrived in Najaf (Najaf Governorate) in September 2012. Many of the refugee families entered Iraq with short-term entry visas but decided it was unsafe to return to Syria and remained within Najaf and their visas are now expired. Some of the refugee families complained that because they no longer hold valid travel documents, there are restrictions and constraints placed on their movement out of the governorate. **27** families (including both Syrian refugees and Iraqi returnees) are living in rented accommodation while one family is living in a Mosque. Some of the respondents report they are unemployed while others have found work in daily-wage employment in construction, restaurants or factories.

Key findings include:

- Families indicate that they left Syria as they felt that they were in danger or in some cases because the head of the household died or disappeared;
- Most female heads of households report that they are without work and rely on their husband's family or extended family networks for support;
- Most households worry that they will not be able to continue to afford to pay rent; regular hikes in rent were reported;
- Households generally report they lack basic household items as they left in a hurry and carried little luggage.

IOM teams concluded that all households were in need of NFIs, livelihood support, and for returnees specific support was required to ensure access to the grant provided by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) to returning Iraqi families (4 million Iraqi Dinar).

Turkey Operations

 **Government Engagement:** IOM and all members of the UN Country Team (UNCT) met with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss on-going and planned operations. The meeting was the first of its kind since the beginning of the crisis. During the meeting both AFAD and UNCT raised the need to address the needs of out-of-camp populations.

Repatriation Assistance for Stranded Migrants: During the reporting period IOM was requested to provide assistance to a vulnerable family from Syria who arrived to Turkey and wished to travel to Uzbekistan.

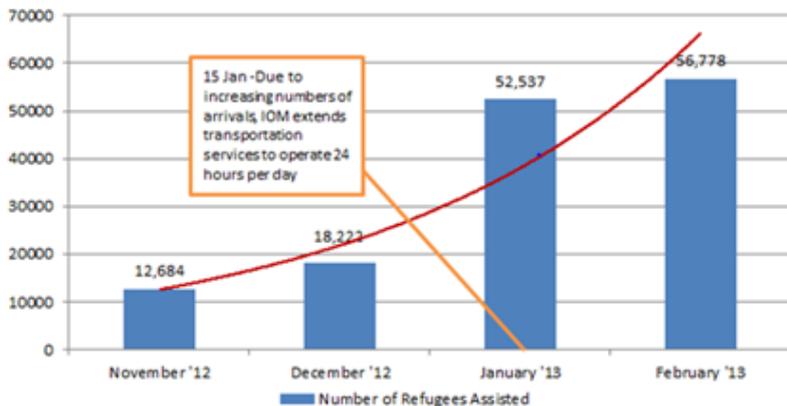
Lebanon Operations

 **Transit Assistance for Iraqi Refugees:** In January 2013, the General Security agreed that refugees residing in Syria and accepted for resettlement to a third country can transit in Lebanon and travel through Rafic Hariri Int'l Airport, pending *ad hoc* approval to be granted based on an official request submitted by IOM and UNHCR. On 27 February, IOM escorted **34** Iraqi refugees (20 male, 14 female), accepted for resettlement to the United States, from the Lebanese-Syrian border until their departure to the United States through Rafic Hariri Airport in Beirut.



Emergency Transportation of Refugees: In the past week there has been a significant increase in the number of Syrian refugees crossing into Jordan. IOM provides refugees with transportation from collection points in border areas to Za'atri camp. **20,838** Syrian refugees were assisted by IOM to reach the camp in comparison to **16,921** in the previous reporting week. This brings the total number of refugees assisted to **184,558** since July 2012. In the past week, IOM teams have transported an average of **2,900** Syrian refugees per day whereas in November 2012, IOM was assisting an average of **423** Syrian refugees per day.

Transport Assistance of Syrian Refugees to Za'atri Camp



Timeline of Events

2013	February	26 Feb - 134, 119 Syrian refugees registered at Za'atri Camp; IOM provides transport assistance to 184,558 Syrian refugees; average of 2,184 assisted each day.
	January	Government plans to scale down the size of Za'atri camp after weeks of demonstrations. IOM and partners discuss roles and responsibilities at the new camps (one outside Mafraq with a planned capacity of 5,000; another near Zarqa with a planned capacity of 5,000 with possibilities of extension to 30,000). 15 Jan - IOM begins to run night and day shifts to meet the needs of refugees crossing the border into Jordan.
2012	December	30 Dec - IOM provides transport assistance to a total of 76,386 Syrian refugees; average of 588 refugees assisted each day.
	November	29 Nov - IOM provided transportation assistance to total of 59,042 Syrian refugees; 39,164 refugees were screened by health teams for TB and 743 cases were referred for treatment on arrival at the Camp; 35,877 Syrians reached through TB awareness-raising activities.
	October	30 Oct - IOM provides transport assistance to 46,827 Syrian refugees; average of 342 assisted each day.
	September	20 Sept - IOM has provided transportation assistance for a total of 32,538 Syrian refugees.
	August	31 Aug - IOM provides assistance to total of 22,733 Syrian refugees to reach Za'atri camp since 29 July.
2011	July	28 Jul - Za'atri Camp is established (planned capacity - 80,000); IOM begins operations to provide transportation assistance to Syrian refugees from border areas to Za'atri camp.
	March	15 Mar - Nationwide protests mark the start of the Syrian Uprising

Emergency Health Assistance upon arrival in Jordan: IOM conducts pre-departure medical screening of all refugees requiring assistance to reach Za'atri camp. During the reporting period, IOM identified **178** cases for immediate referral or treatment upon arrival at Za'atri Camp. During the fitness-to-travel assessment, IOM staff identifies refugees who show symptoms of communicable diseases and other illnesses which will require monitoring during transport. IOM works with the National Health Authorities to transfer critical/high risk cases directly to the closest hospital from the collection points. The majority of medical conditions identified include: upper respiratory infections, skin diseases, gastrointestinal conditions and chronic non-communicable diseases (i.e. hypertension and diabetes). Since July 2012, IOM has referred **1,509** individuals with medical conditions for further treatment upon arrival at the camp.

TB Diagnosis and Prevention Activities: Since March 2012, IOM has screened **157,467** Syrians for tuberculosis (TB) and provided **59,403** Syrians with TB awareness-raising activities in Za'atri camp, transit centres, and host communities in Jordan. IOM has confirmed **46** cases (2 in the past week) and is providing follow-up treatment for **43** cases. Follow-up treatment involves four to six courses of medication over a two-year period for multi-drug resistant patients. An IOM team works daily within the camp to investigate suspected TB cases and to provide follow-up and direct observation of treatment. Targeted awareness-raising sessions are conducted from mobile and fixed clinics within Za'atri camp as well as for those refugees and host communities within King Abdullah Park, Irbid, Ramtha and Mafraq.

Jordan Operations (cont.)

Extending Services to New Camps: The UAE funded camp, located in Zarqa, will be opened in the next two weeks. IOM will provide technical support to Camp Management. The camp, with a planned capacity to host **5,000** Syrian refugees in the first phase, will be extended in five phases and it is anticipated that the camp will reach a capacity of **25,000** persons by the end of May 2013. IOM continues to negotiate with the Government and partners on the roles and responsibilities for the newest camp site, near Azrak, which will have an initial planned capacity of **12,000** persons with possibilities to extend facilities to accommodate **42,000** refugees.

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