

## SITUATION REPORT

18 April 2013



**Left column** - IOM teams conducting vulnerability assessments of Syrian refugees and Iraqi returnees in Karbala, Najaf and Baghdad. ©IOM 2013 (Photo: IOM Iraq).

**Middle column** - IOM staff monitoring the packing of **1,050** mattresses, **6,500** pillows, **3,500** blankets and **1,556** bed sheets to be distributed to camps in south-east Turkey. ©IOM 2013 (Photo: IOM Turkey).

**Right column Top**- IOM provides assistance to Syrian refugees from border areas to Za'atri camp and Emirate Jordanian Camp ©IOM 2013 (Photo: IOM Jordan). **Bottom**—Caravans in Emirate Jordanian Camp. The camp is currently hosting **699** Syrian refugees. ©IOM 2013 (Photo: Valeria Stera)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ **Jordan:** Over the past week, **12,267** Syrian refugees were provided with transport assistance from border areas to Za'atri camp and newly opened Emirate Jordanian camp.
- ⇒ **Iraq:** The Rapid Assessment and Rapid response Team (RART) in Al Qaim interviewed Syrian families in Al Qaim camp to find out why many Syrian families were returning back to Syria.
- ⇒ **Turkey:** IOM finalised distribution plans to assist around **12,606** Syrian refugees with NFIs including mattresses, pillows, blankets and bed sheets.

### REGIONAL RESPONSE

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



Provision of Emergency Shelter Materials



Distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs)



Needs Assessments/ Needs Analysis



Emergency Healthcare and Referrals



Livelihood support



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

## IOM COUNTRY OPERATIONS

### Jordan Operations



**General situation of Emirate Jordanian Camp:** On 15 April, IOM briefed a high-level delegation of around **40** people (representatives from UN Agencies as well as diplomatic staff ) on the reception process of refugees and their accommodation in the Emirate Jordanian Camp (EJC) as well as the current structure of the camp.

On 10 April, EJC was officially opened, 20 km east of the city of Zarqa. IOM began transporting refugees to the new camp hours after the camp was opened. Currently the camp is hosting **699** Syrian refugees who were transported by IOM from borders areas through Mafraq transit centre to the EJC. The camp has an initial capacity to host **5,000-6,000** refugees, but will be expanded to reach a capacity of **25,000** people by the end of June 2013.

The IOM EJC team provides orientation and reception services to the new arrivals and will launch a community participation program in the camp next week. The goal of this program is to involve the refugees in the community's activities and to improve the quality of services inside the camp. IOM has been providing technical support to the UAE Red Crescent in camp management and camp coordination since the beginning of January and will continue to do so throughout the upcoming expansion phases of the camp.

**Emergency Transportation of Refugees:** The movement of Syrian refugees crossing the border into Jordan increased in the past week as **12,267** Syrian refugees arrived, compared to **9,945** Syrian refugees who arrived during the previous reporting period. To date, IOM has facilitated the transportation of **262,118** Syrians from border areas to Za'atri camp and EJC.

**Emergency Health Assistance upon arrival in Jordan:** During the reporting period, **174** individuals with medical conditions, requiring immediate referral or treatment at Za'atri camp health clinics, were assisted by IOM. Since 29 July, IOM has assisted **2,361** individuals for further treatment upon arrival at the camp.

**Tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis and Prevention Activities:** During the current reporting period, IOM's medical team in Za'atri camp confirmed **2** new TB cases and is providing follow-up treatment for these cases. Since March 2012, IOM has screened **233,798** Syrians for TB and provided **72,416** Syrians with TB awareness-raising activities in the camp, transit centres, and host communities in Jordan.

**Inter-agency Participatory Training workshop and Assessment:** IOM staff and UN partners are participating in an Inter-agency Participatory Training Workshop and Assessment in Za'atri camp. IOM staff attended two days of training on how to conduct assessments, and are now carrying out a two-week assessment inside Za'atri camp. The assessments have been designed to consult the refugees and to collect information in order to have a better understanding of their needs.



Representatives from UN Agencies and diplomatic staff at Emirate Jordanian Camp. ©IOM 2013 (Photo: Valeria Stera)

<sup>1</sup> Hygiene kits include: soaps, soap containers, toothbrushes, toothpastes, shampoos, sanitary napkins, towels, plastic combs, nail clippers, washing lines, garbage bags, laundry buckets and laundry soap. Winter kits include: quilts, pillows and mattresses.

**General Situation:** During the reporting period, **241** Syrian individuals living in Al Qaim camps returned to Syria. The Rapid Assessment and Rapid response Team (RART) in Al Qaim interviewed some of the Syrian families in Al Qaim camp to find out why many Syrian families were returning back to Syria. Reported factors influencing the Syrian refugees to return back include:

- Limited access to work which pressures families to sell some of their dry food rations in order to purchase food items to supplement their diets.
- Families complain of a lack of NFIs, in particular, cleaning powder, soap, sanitary pads and other hygiene items.
- The quality of the water provided by the camp is reported to be of poor quality so families are bringing water from nearby water station for drinking.
- Restriction on movement and limited access to health facilities.

**Assessment of Sehayla crossing point in Ninewa:** Sehayla village is located to the north-west of Ninewa governorate close to the border with Syria. Sehayla village is in Zummar, a sub-district of Talafar district, Ninewa. On 10 April, IOM RART in Ninewa visited the area to interview Syrian refugees. Main findings include:

- A marked presence of members from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) security forces, the forces are responsible for receiving the Syrian migrants at the border, checking their documents (if any) and providing them with temporary identification documents to present to the authorities in Domiz camp in Duhok;
- On a daily basis, approximately **100 – 120** Syrian families and **400-500** Syrian individuals cross to the KRG through this border crossing point;
- Syrian migrants crossing the border on foot and proceeding to Domiz camp once they are cleared/assessed by the KRG security forces;
- The registration processes at the border takes approximately 3 to 4 hours. Many refugees arrive, tired and are in need of food and water. The conditions in the waiting area are difficult due to lack of a furnished waiting area, drinking water, food, and medical care or ambulance for emergency cases.
- From the initial registration point, some families hire private transport while others walk (for six to ten hours) to reach Domiz camp.

**Vulnerability assessments:** IOM has been conducting vulnerability assessments since 1 April and so far has conducted assessments in Karbala, Najaf and Baghdad, of a total of **39** Syrian refugee families and **129** Iraqi returnee families.

### Key findings include:

- Of the **22** Syrian families in Karbala, half of them were female-headed households;
- **38** Iraqi returnee families who are registered with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) in Karbala;
- In Najaf governorate, **17** Syrian refugee families are registered with UNHCR and are residing in Al Najaf city centre;
- A small portion of the **55** Iraqi families in Baghdad were female-headed households;
- The families are living in rented houses and report low living standards;
- Most families report at least one family member has access to informal employment (daily paid labour in restaurants, construction and hawking);



Syrian migrants at Sehayla border crossing point waiting to register. ©IOM 2013 (Photo: IOM Iraq)



- Returnee households are in need of basic household items including cooking utensils, storage containers, and blankets, in addition to other household items like fans, mattresses and hygiene items;
- Few families reported a fixed source of income and many expressed concern regarding financial insecurity;
- The families are in need of rental assistance as costs are too high. Some are unable to meet rental payments and are forced to live in smaller, congested houses/apartments, many of which are in a state of disrepair.

On 15 April, IOM met with a Syrian family living outside of a small house in Kaznazan sub-district in Erbil governorate. Aamina\* fled Syria with her husband and four young children and now lives in a garden of a small house in Kaznazan city. She spoke with IOM staff during the vulnerability assessment in Erbil:



*"We are from Alraqaa in Syria; we were living in a nice house with my brothers-in-law and their families. Last week there was heavy shelling on the neighbourhood, our house was destroyed, and one of my brothers-in-law died and another one was injured. We decided to flee immediately to save our lives. It took us two days to reach the borders; we crossed the border at Sehayla area by foot and finally managed to get inside Iraq. We didn't bring anything with us, just a small bag containing clothes for my baby. My husband decided that we would not to go to Domiz camp as we have no money and so it will be difficult to survive there, he said we should go directly to Erbil where he can find a job and we would be able to rent small house. We arrived in Erbil last Saturday after five days of travelling since leaving Alraqaa.*



IOM staff finalizing the procurement of **1,050** mattresses that will be distributed to Syrian refugees in camps. © IOM 2013 (Photo: IOM Turkey)

*When we arrived in Erbil we couldn't find a place to stay, some families informed us that there was a small house rented by Syrian refugees at the edge of Kaznazan city. We managed to find the house but unfortunately we found no space for our family. The house is just two rooms and there are four families living inside, we decided to stay in the garden as at least we are close to other Syrian families. Today is our third day living in the street and unless my husband manages to find a job we will stay outdoors. It's cold here and we have no blankets, no clothes, our neighbours provide some food but our children still feel hungry, and what about our other needs, the children need to change their clothes. I have been dreaming of shower since I left Syria "*

*\*Names have been changed to protect the identity of the family.*

## Turkey Operations



**NFI Distribution:** During the current reporting period, IOM finalized plans to distribute NFIs to Syrian refugees in camps through the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay). The distribution will take place between 20 and 22 April. **12,606** items (**1,050** mattresses, **6,500** pillows, **3,500** blankets and **1,556** bed sheets) will be provided to Kizilay for distribution. These items were identified in close cooperation with Kizilay and based on the needs identified of new arrivals in the camps. IOM activities are coordinated with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD).

## Lebanon Operations



**Transport Assistance:** From 9 – 16 April, **184** refugees (**91** women, **93** men) were provided with assistance to transit through Lebanon. Of the total, **32** were children.



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