

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

23 - 29 May 2013



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 66 partners across the region. Published weekly on Thursday, the next update will be available on 6 June 2013.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 1.6 million people have registered or have registration appointments but the actual number is much higher. This is due to concerns that some Syrians have regarding registration. The increasingly widening gap between the needs and resources available is a growing challenge.
- Refugees say the increased fighting and changing of control of towns and villages, in particular in conflict areas, results in more and more civilians deciding to leave. The situation has deteriorated rapidly over the past four months when compared to the previous 20 months of this conflict.
- After a week of dramatically decreased numbers of refugees crossing the border, new arrivals to Jordan have resumed at the previous usual rate of 1,000 to 2,000 a day.
- Tensions have intensified across north Lebanon and northern Bekaa, inhibiting operations and humanitarian access. Agencies have been forced to temporarily suspend operations.
- Over 100 partners, including 84 appealing organizations (13 UN agencies, IOM and 70 NGOs), are part of the revised Syria Regional Response Plan, which will be launched on 7 June in Geneva. The Plan includes Government Plans from Jordan and Lebanon and covers the period January to December 2013.

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REGIONAL FIGURES

1,602,085 refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

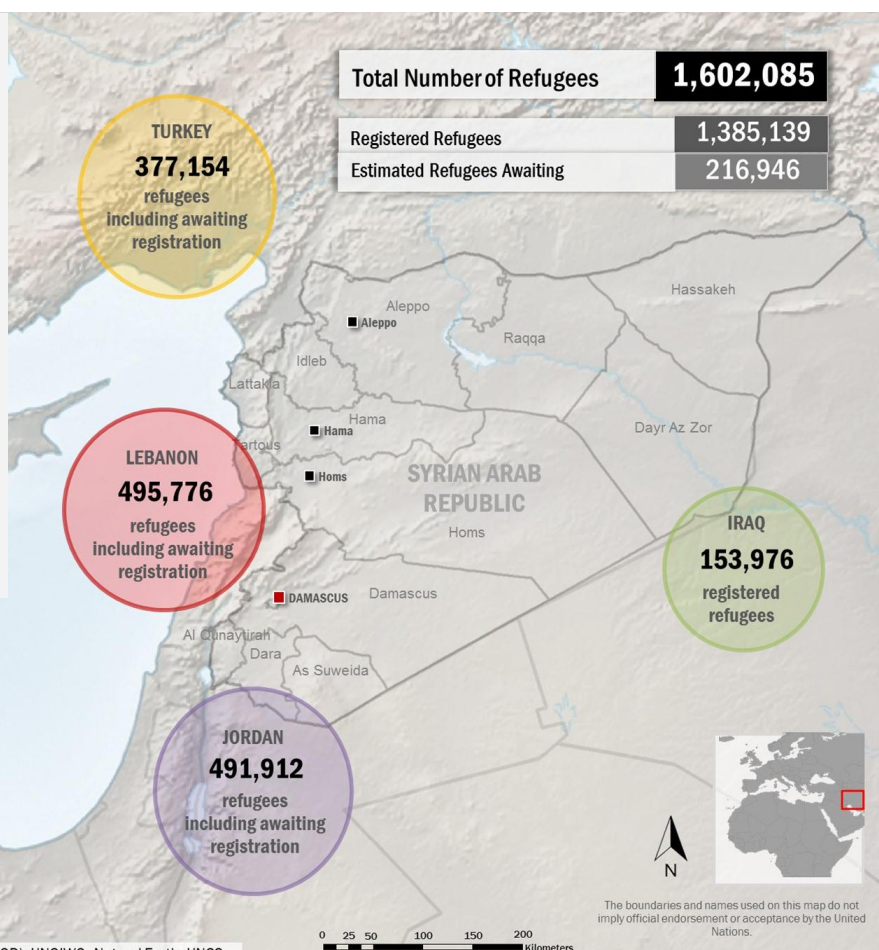
1 million refugees in first five months of 2013 alone

22% of registered refugee households are female-headed*

498,000 children vaccinated against measles by UNICEF and partners

77% of registered refugees live outside camps in host communities

* Excludes Turkey for which data is not available.



Sources UNHCR Regional Datawarehouse, Common Operational Dataset (COD), UNGIWG, Natural Earth, UNCS

Refugee population as of 29 May 2013, based on available data. For updated figures, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

NRC: Shelter solutions for camp and urban refugees across the region

- **Lebanon** - Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is the main provider of shelter solutions to refugees arriving in Lebanon from Syria, including upgrades and rehabilitation to existing homes and buildings, as well as the provision of heating stoves, fuel coupons and other items to help host communities accommodate refugee families. NRC is developing contingency plans to provide temporary shelter for large numbers of refugees in case of a mass influx and is also increasingly providing shelter services in Palestinian refugee camps where newly arrived Palestine refugees from Syria are seeking shelter.

- **Jordan** - NRC is the lead partner of UNHCR in providing camp-set up activities in Za'atri Camp ensuring all new arrivals of refugees have immediate needs met through provision

of non-food items (NFI) such as tents, mattresses and hygiene articles. To mitigate growing security concerns in Za'atri camp, NRC will conduct trainings to sensitize Jordanian police on humanitarian principles and refugee camp context. With the majority of refugees in Jordan living outside of camps, NRC is working to design alternative shelter solutions for refugees living in host communities, including income generating opportunities and substantial support incentives for host communities.

- **Iraq** - NRC has opened two offices in northern Iraq (in Erbil and in Dohuk) to manage activities aimed at assisting Syrian refugees in the area. NRC has launched WASH activities in Domiz camp aiming at increasing access to potable water and sanitation with the installation of additional tanks and emergency latrines.



Mohammad, a newly arrived Syrian refugee from Homs, receiving his mattresses in NRC's distribution compound. UNHCR | S. Malkawi

Save the Children: Cash for Work programme first

- **Lebanon** - High costs of living, limited labour opportunities and wage deflation are resulting in an increasing gap between expenditure on basic needs and household income for both Syrians and host communities. To cope with this deteriorating situation, refugees are employing different strategies including taking on debt, sending children to work to supplement family income, and selling assets.

- Save the Children (SC) is currently implementing a successful Cash for Work pilot project in Akaar and the Bekka, and is the first agency to implement Cash for Work as part of the emergency response. Cash for Work is not a sustainable solution to the lack of employment opportunities; however it will provide immediate assistance to alleviate the use of negative coping strategies (which could have long-term affects) and will provide a long-lasting benefit to communities. Furthermore, the project promotes unity between Lebanese and Syrian communities.

- Cash for Work activities vary depending on community needs and are community-led. Households unable to participate in Cash for Work (those with no capacity to work) receive unconditional cash transfers. SC estimates that approximately 20 per cent of households are unable to work.

- In particular, Cash for Work activities focus on strengthening SC's humanitarian interventions in other sectors including Child Protection, Education and Shelter. For example, Cash for Work activities could include rehabilitation and improvements to spaces around child-friendly spaces, schools, and tented settlement sites.

- Cash for Work has begun in both implementation sites (Qobayat and Bekaa); 240 beneficiaries (approx. 50 per cent Lebanese, 50 per cent Syrian) have completed the first of three rounds of work. Activities were selected by the communities to ensure that the maximum number of people benefit from the project, such as tented-settlement clean-up, renovating community centres, maintaining community green space and rehabilitation of a sewage canal system.

- Thus far, SC has received positive feedback from beneficiaries and municipalities and will share all lessons learned in the appropriate working groups including Livelihoods and Cash Assistance.

Ensuring the rights of refugees with disabilities

- Lebanon - The Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) completed a four-week assessment in Beirut, the Bekaa and the North (Tripoli and Qobayat) and identified gaps in the response for persons of concern with disabilities. Interviews were conducted with 72 humanitarian actors, group discussions with 127 refugees (including 65 persons with disabilities), and home visits were made to families in rented accommodation, collective shelters and tented settlements.

- Based on the data available, WRC believes that physical and intellectual impairments are most common – and that a large proportion of those with physical disabilities may have new impairments as a result of war-related injuries. Findings include:

- Rehabilitation - There are currently gaps in rehabilitation services for persons with new impairments. Inpatient rehabilitation services not covered under UNHCR health strategy, and are met by local NGOs and charities which are now reaching full capacity. Some organizations, such as Handicap International, are providing limited rehabilitation for urgent cases in their homes. To date, there is no comprehensive mapping of the longer term and holistic rehabilitation needs of this group which is needed to promote full functional independence and inclusion in their community.

- Community centres - Community centres seem to becoming a critical component for the response in Lebanon providing a central point for the delivery of information, assistance and services. The most vulnerable women with disabilities or care givers of persons with severe disabilities find it difficult to attend community centres because of lack of transportation, concerns about who will care for their disabled children, and/or physical accessibility of some centres. Furthermore, only a limited number of children with disabilities are accessing the activities run by the humanitarian community.

- WRC has developed some guidelines for identifying risk and prioritizing persons with disabilities for individual case management. WRC also designed and delivered training on case management for persons with disabilities and the wider implementation of UNHCR's operational guidance on Working with Persons with Disabilities in Forced Displacement. A full report is forthcoming. Findings will be shared with other country operations. For more information, please visit www.womensrefugeecommission.org



Ahmad, 13, was injured during a demonstration in Syria. Rebel fighters carried the boy across the border to hospital in Lebanon. He is recovering after losing his right lower leg. UNHCR | S. Malkawi

Positive examples of inclusive practices in the field:

- International Rescue Committee is running discussion groups in their women's centres for women who have persons with disabilities in their families, allowing these women to reflect on and share challenges.
- Danish Refugee Council has developed a partnership for the implementation of community centre activities with the Forum for the Handicapped in Tripoli providing an accessible venue as well as expertise in activities with persons with disabilities.
- International Medical Corps has been working with men with new impairments in hospital through their psychosocial support programme, and are now looking to identify skills development activities for them, as well as community activities.

Egypt: Establishing community-based protection networks

- UNHCR and community leaders are identifying community activists to form Community Based Protection Networks (CBPN) as a first protection tool at the community level. CBPNs have been established in al Mansoura, Dakahlia Governorate, and Helwan, Cairo Governorate.

- The purpose of the CBPN is to identify families with protection concerns, and report on problems and concerns they encounter in their own communities. The network would also raise awareness and disseminate information. Members of the CBPN will also work as focal points between their community and humanitarian response partners.

Relief International: Emergency WASH assistance for refugees and host communities

- Beginning in 2012, Relief International (RI) set-up lifesaving operations in Jordan and Lebanon to assist Syrian refugees living in camps and in host communities. Throughout the region (including Egypt and Iraq), RI is committed to responding to the needs of refugees and host communities by providing essential services including remedial education, WASH, and NFI distribution.
- Jordan** - RI has taken the lead in implementing WASH activities to benefit host communities and refugees in the Irbid and Mafrqa Governorates, which have the highest Syrian refugee population. Since December 2012, RI has worked to ensure that refugees and host communities have access to adequate water and sanitation facilities and engage in healthy hygiene practices. More than 3,000 families were reached (20,645 persons) since the inception of the project and new families in need are identified every day. RI is distributing hygiene kits that include soap, toothbrushes, sanitary pads for women, and other basic supplies that allow Syrian refugees to practice minimum hygiene and live with dignity. RI has also distributed household items including mattresses and blankets to help families survive the harsh winter conditions that set in across the region last season.
- Lebanon** - RI is working with Syrian refugees and host communities in Northern Lebanon to improve access to safe drinking water, repair WASH facilities and increase awareness of best hygiene practices. RI has led hygiene promotion sessions in Lebanese public schools for Syrian and Lebanese students. Furthermore, RI reached 945 households and families through distributing hygiene kits and cleaning tools kits parallel to hygiene promotion sessions that took place in several areas of Northern Lebanon. RI also led the distribution of ceramic filters to 360 Syrian households and hosting families, which allows access to potable water and decreases infections from polluted water.

DRC: Assisting new arrivals with urgently needed items

- Since January 2013, more than half a million displaced Syrians have received emergency relief from the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. Traditional emergency relief as blankets, clothes, hygiene kits, establishing shelters in public buildings and water and sanitation are still a central part of DRC's emergency effort but the unstable security situation and the massive number of displaced means that it is necessary to launch new initiatives all the time.
- Lebanon** - In partnership with UNHCR and other organizations, DRC is assisting about 20,000 newcomers every month, which represents 25 per cent of all arrivals. This week, more than 6,035 newcomers were assisted with emergency and non-food items consisted of hygiene kits, baby kits, blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, buckets, torches and gas vouchers. Newcomers are less likely to have access to mainstream services. To cope with this situation, DRC's outreach workers are conducting home visits and are following cases of persons with specific needs.



DRC staff in Tripoli explain to beneficiaries their distribution entitlements
DRC | C. Agumbi

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 66 participating agencies:

ACF | ACTED | AMEL | Arab Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights | ARRD-Legal Aid | Association of Volunteers International | CARE International | CARITAS | Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre | Centre for Victims of Torture | CHF International | CISP/RI | Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services | DRC | FCA/ACT Alliance | GVC/Muslim Aid | HAI | Handicap International | ICMC | IMC | IOM | International Orthodox Christian Charities | IRD | IRC | Internews | Intersos | Islamic Relief Worldwide | JEN | JHCO | JHAS | JRF | Madrasati Initiative | Medair | Médecins du Monde | Mercy Corps | Movement for Peace | NRC | Oxfam GB | People in Need | PU-AMI | Psychosocial Training Institute in Cairo | Questscope | Relief International | Restart | Save the Children Jordan | Save the Children International | Saudi National Campaign | ShelterBox | Solidar-Suisse | Terres des Hommes | THW | UAE Red Crescent | Un ponte Per | UNDP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHABITAT | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNOPS | UNRWA | UNWOMEN | War Child Holland | WFP | WHO | World Vision International

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