

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

24 - 30 May 2014



This situation update is prepared by UNHCR Office of the Director, Middle East and North Africa Bureau. It provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 157 partners across the region.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Italian Navy on 22 May assisted 488 people (including 247 Syrians) to shore in Augusta, Sicily, after the two ships they were travelling on experienced serious difficulties.
- The verification of registration data of Zaatari camp residents is nearing completion. The current population of the largest refugee camp for Syrians is now estimated to be between 85,000 and 90,000 people.
- Syria's presidential election takes place on 3 June. Early voting for Syrians living abroad began on 28 May.
- Preliminary results from Egypt's presidential election indicated that former army chief Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi received more than 93 per cent of the vote.
- Government formation in Iraq is ongoing following the release of preliminary election results, which indicated that Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki's State of Law Coalition gathered the highest number of seats (92).

IN THIS ISSUE

- Education: Increasing efforts to promote access and attendance, p.2
- Jordan: Enhancing opportunities for learning in Azraq camp, p.2
- Zaatari camp verification of registered population, p.3
- Egypt: Syrians risk lives attempting to depart irregularly for Europe, p.3
- Turkey: Strengthening measures to assist growing refugee population, p.3
- UNDP: Needs assessment of most affected host communities in Jordan, p.4

REGIONAL FIGURES

2.8 million Syrian refugees have fled to neighbouring countries and North Africa

51% of the Syrian refugee population are under 18 years of age

73% funding gap in the 2014 Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP6)

Total number of refugees registered and awaiting registration **2,834,827**

Registered Refugees **2,764,306**

Awaiting Registration with UNHCR **70,521**

TURKEY
761,297
registered.

LEBANON
1,087,814
Registered: **1,030,413**
Awaiting reg.: **57,401**

IRAQ
225,409
Registered: **212,289**
Awaiting reg.: **13,120**

EGYPT
137,532
registered.

JORDAN
599,408
registered.

N. AFRICA*
23,367
registered

* Morocco, Algeria and Libya

Sources AFAD, Government of Egypt, Government of Iraq, Government of Jordan, Government of Lebanon, UNHCR Regional Datawarehouse, Common Operational Dataset (COD), UNGIWG, Natural Earth, UNCS

0 25 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Refugee population as of 2 June 2014, based on available data. For updated figures, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

EDUCATION: INCREASING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ACCESS AND ATTENDANCE

- Lebanon - An increased number of refugee children in the Bekaa are working in the fields following the start of the potato and onion harvest season. The harvest season has disrupted non-formal education programmes, normally provided to over 23,300 children, many of whom reside in informal settlements. UNICEF and its partners continue to engage in dialogues with refugees as well as host communities in order to ensure the continuity of children's learning.



Sharifa (left), 12, from the Syrian city of Homs, studies by the sheep pen in her tented camp in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. Her textbooks are in French, like many in Lebanese schools, and pose a challenge. UNHCR | L. Addario

- Jordan - In Zaatari camp, UNICEF and Save the Children Jordan conducted nearly 30 focus group discussions with religious leaders and community members to develop new key messages for the new "Back to School" campaign that will start in August. In Emirates Jordan camp, distribution of stationery and payment of fees are ongoing for primary and secondary school exams and for summer remedial classes led by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). In the Youth Centre, UNICEF and NRC have implemented the mid-year exam for technical youth training (electric and tailoring training). Successful participants graduated on 29 May.
- Egypt - On 25 May, UNHCR signed an agreement with the Ministry of Education to assist in the absorption of Syrian children into the public education system. Through the joint agreement, UNHCR is supporting the refurbishment of existing classrooms and construction of new teaching spaces in nine schools in areas with a high concentration of Syrian refugees.
- Iraq - UNHCR continues to follow up with UNICEF on the condition of primary schools in the camps. Notably, the harsh climatic conditions affected the tents in Qushtapa and Darashakran camps and there's an urgent need to replace the tents with a more permanent structure. Issues with infrastructure, lack of water, and poor sanitation conditions in and around the schools continue to raise concerns on the part of refugee councils and camp management.

JORDAN: ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING IN AZRAQ CAMP

- Formal education - NRC in partnership with UNICEF has begun providing the first learning opportunities to vulnerable Syrian refugee children through its Education Programme, launched in late May, in Azraq. The UNICEF-supported school under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education (MoE) is not set to open until the start of the next school year in September, but with some 6,000 residents, there is a vital need to support children in the camp.
- NRC registered more than 290 children in the first week and will temporarily use the site of the MoE school. The NRC-UNICEF programme will ensure that refugee children impacted by the now more than three years of conflict in Syria do not fall further behind and critically gives a sense of normalcy to children in an isolated refugee camp. "Catch-up" classes in Arabic, English, Math and Science are based on the Jordanian curriculum and taught by Jordanian teachers. NRC is also providing children with recreational and sports activities.
- Informal education - In partnership with UNICEF, Relief International (RI) is providing an education programme to Syrian refugee children in Azraq Camp. The programme aims to help children to overcome their current challenges to academic progress and adopt skills for a better future. Since 11 May, RI is providing informal education activities for youth aged 12 -18 years, aiming to build literacy, numeracy, life skills, recreational activities and coping skills for these out of school children. The project employs Jordanians from Zarqa Governorate and Syrian refugees from the camp as teachers, case managers, and community mobilizers.

ZAATARI CAMP VERIFICATION OF REGISTERED POPULATION

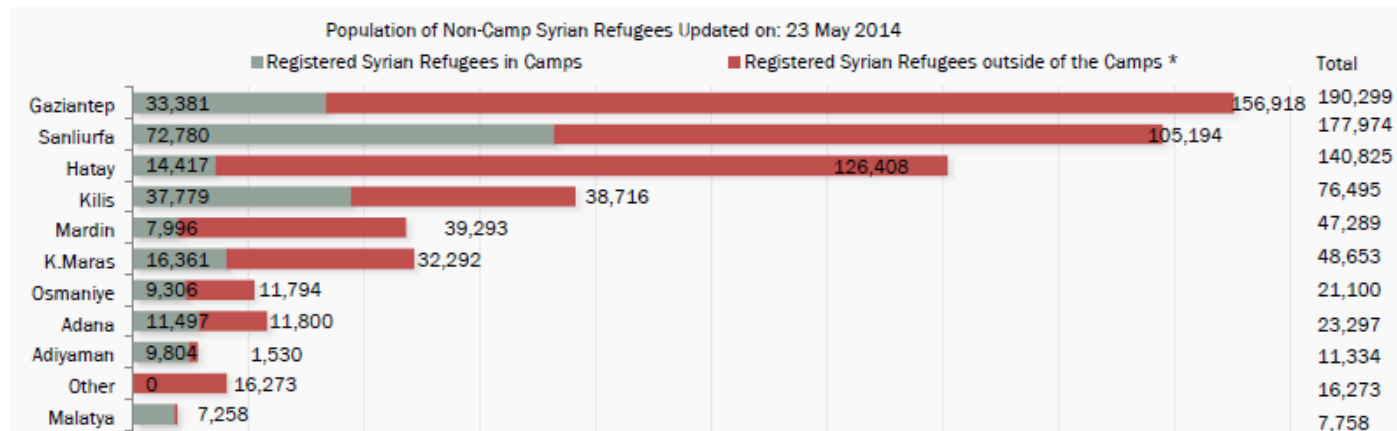
- The main phase of population verification exercise in Zaatari was completed on 21 May. With the addition of the refugees who arrived in Zaatari after 22 March, it is estimated that the final population of the camp will be between 85,000 and 90,000 Syrian refugees.
- The introduction of biometrics registration in Zaatari has helped UNHCR to identify duplicate registrations and refugees who have spontaneously left the camp. Refugees are inactivated if they fail to present themselves to UNHCR for verification within ten days after their scheduled appointment or have duplicate files in the registration database.
- Verifications will continue during an additional period of one month to process the cases of individuals who are on hold for different reasons.

EGYPT: SYRIANS RISK LIVES ATTEMPTING TO DEPART IRREGULARLY FOR EUROPE

- On 22 May, the Italian Navy assisted 488 people (which included 247 Syrians) to shore in Augusta (Sicily) after the two ships they were travelling on experienced serious difficulties. One of the ships had disembarked from Egypt near Alexandria 12 days earlier. Smugglers had loaded the passengers onto small wooden boats which carried them out to the high sea. Passengers were then transferred to a ferry that transported them to the main vessel that carried them on the rest of the journey.
- UNHCR is aware of 96 Syrians who were arrested for attempting to irregularly depart Egypt and are in detention in Alexandria and its surrounding governorates. As part of positive trend, however, Egyptian authorities have been conducting regular releases of people from detention shortly after their arrest. Those released consist mostly of families, children, the elderly and those with immediate relatives in Egypt. Egyptian authorities are reportedly issuing three-month residency permits to Syrians who are being released. UNHCR's implementing partners Caritas and Resala have been providing emergency assistance to detainees, including food, blankets and medical care.

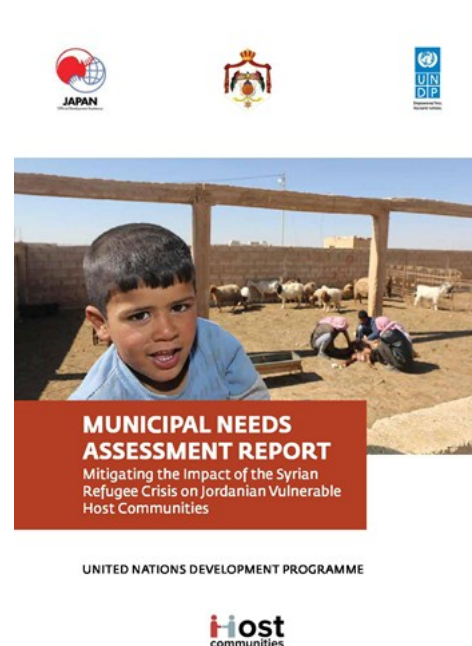
TURKEY: STRENGTHENING MEASURES TO ASSIST GROWING REFUGEE POPULATION

- The Government of Turkey undertakes registration and extends Temporary Protection to all Syrians in Turkey. There are currently some 220,000 Syrian refugees accommodated and assisted in 22 camps located across ten provinces. Refugees residing in camps managed by AFAD are provided with food, shelter, education, basic services and medical assistance. Most camps have reached capacity.
- In Ceylanpinar camp, a vocational course on the care and maintenance of electrical items has been established. About 18 males are currently reported to be attending the course, where they repair electrical items belonging to camp residents under the supervision of two technicians. In addition, there are also 331 (214 female and 117 male) camp residents attending various other vocational courses such as computer, hairdressing, textile and handicrafts classes.
- Significant efforts are also being made at local levels to address the needs of the increasing numbers of the urban population through registration activities. The Government has registered more than 540,000 Syrians living outside of camps. Registration is still ongoing in many urban centres across the country, and the number of Syrian refugees is likely to continue to increase.
- International Medical Corps is running five clinics in southern Turkey to provide medical services to non-camp Syrians (two in Kilis and one in each Mersin, Nizip and Reyhanli). IMC is also finalizing the process to open a new clinic in Sanliurfa province, which will provide physiotherapy as well as health services. IMC has also provided medical equipment to both Ceylanpinar and Viransehir camps.



UNDP: NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF MOST AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES IN JORDAN

- UNDP completed a [needs assessment](#) in 36 municipalities across Irbid and Mafrq governorates to better understand the needs of host communities and gauge public perception about the Syrian refugee crisis. The study focused on the needs of the host communities in relation to the delivery of municipal services (solid waste management, water, sanitation, infrastructure), Government services (education, healthcare) and other issues (employment, housing, environment, and agriculture).
- The findings indicate similar challenges across municipalities in Jordan's northern Governorates, with some variations.
- The report finds that challenges regarding the delivery of municipal services pre-empted the crisis, but such challenges have been severely compounded due to the influx of refugees. The assessment concluded that solid waste collection and disposal is the most affected sector in most municipalities. Consequently, waste management is the first priority for interventions in the municipalities of Irbid and Mafrq governorates.
- Findings are based on both a quantitative survey and qualitative focus group discussions with municipal councils, women representatives, youth and tribal leaders. The survey was designed to assess the municipal needs and challenges from an official and technical perspective, focusing on the support needed for public service delivery, while focus group discussions were designed to assess the needs of regular citizens and to detect signs of tensions or antagonism towards Syrian refugees.



The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 157 participating organizations, including 105 appealing agencies:

ABAAD | [ACTED](#) | ActionAid | [Action contre la faim](#) | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | [Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance](#) | Al Majmoua | [AMAN](#) | AMEL | [Arab Medical Union](#) | Arc en Ciel | [ARDD-Legal Aid](#) | Association de Charité Humanitaire | [Association Justice et Miséricorde](#) | Association of Volunteers in International Service | [BBC Media Action](#) | Beyond Association | [British Council](#) | CARE International | [Caritas](#) | Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre | [Catholic Relief Services](#) | Central Association for Kindergarten Supervisors League | [Centre for Victims of Torture](#) | Civil Development Organization | [Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli](#) | CONCERN | [Cooperazione Internazionale](#) | Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services | [DRC](#) | Family Guidance and Awareness Centre | [FAO](#) | Finn Church Aid | [Finnish Red Cross/Iraqi Red Crescent Society](#) | French Red Cross | [Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura](#) | GIZ | [Global Communities Partners for Good](#) | Gruppo di Volontariato Civile | [Handicap International](#) | Heartland Alliance International | [High Relief Commission](#) | Hilfswerk Austria International | [Human Relief Foundation](#) | Humedica | [ILO](#) | Institution for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation | [International Alert](#) | International Catholic Migration Commission | [International Children's Continence Society](#) | International Medical Corps | [International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) | International Relief and Development | [International Rescue Committee](#) | Internews | [INTERSOS](#) | IOM | [Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project](#) | Iraqi Youth League | [Islamic Relief Worldwide](#) | JBA | [JEN](#) | Jesuit Refugee Service | [Jordan Health Aid Society](#) | Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization | [Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development](#) | Jordan Red Crescent | [Jordan River Foundation](#) | Jordanian Women's Union | [KAFA](#) | KG | [KnK](#) | KURDS | [Lutheran World Federation](#) | MADA | [Madrasati Initiative](#) | Mines Advisory Group | [Mahmoud Mosque Society](#) | Makassed | [Makhzoumi Foundation](#) | Medair | [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#) | Médecins du Monde | [Mercy Corps](#) | Mercy USA | [Ministry of Public Health](#) | Ministry of Water and Irrigation | [Movement for Peace](#) | Muslim Aid | [NAJMAH](#) | National Centre for Culture and Arts | [NICCOD](#) | NRC | [Operation Mercy](#) | Organization for the Development of Women and Children | [Oxfam](#) | PEOPLE IN NEED | [Plan International](#) | Polish Centre for International Aid | [Psycho Social Training and Services Institute in Cairo](#) | PU-AMI | [Public Aid Organization](#) | QANDIL | [Qatar Red Crescent](#) | Questscope | [Rassemblement Democratique des Femmes du Liban](#) | Relief International | [Refugee Education Trust](#) | Refugee Egypt | [Resala](#) | RESCATE | [RESTART](#) | Royal Health Awareness Society | [Safadi Foundation](#) | SAWA | [SCI KR-I](#) | SCI | [SCJ](#) | Search for Common Ground | [Secours Islamique France](#) | Seraphim GLOBAL | [SHEILD](#) | Solidar Suisse | [Solidarités International](#) | Soins infirmiers et développement communautaire | [St. Andrew's Refugee Education Service](#) | STEP | [TADAMON](#) | Taghyeer | [TDH](#) | TDHI | [THW](#) | TRIANGLE GH | [UAE Red Crescent](#) | UNAMI | [UN Women](#) | UNDP | [UNESCO](#) | UNFPA | [UN-Habitat](#) | UNHCR | [UNICEF](#) | UNOPS | [Un Ponte Per](#) | UNRWA | [WAAJC](#) | War Child UK | [War Child Holland](#) | WARVIN | [WFP](#) | WHO | [World Rehabilitation Fund](#) | World Vision International | [Young Man's Christian Association](#) | Y-PEER

This report is prepared by UNHCR. Humanitarian response partners are invited to contribute to this report. For more information or to be added to the distribution list, please contact [Anna King](#), UNHCR Regional Reporting Officer | kinga@unhcr.org