

External update on influx of Syrian refugees

UNHCR Representation in Turkey

25 September 2014

UNHCR **Airlifts and** **response**



The first airlift of key core relief items from UNHCR's Global Management Stockpiles has landed this morning at 9:15 at Adana Airport. Seven more flights are scheduled to arrive by 3 October. The A310 plane from Amman is the first of eight flights, and is part of a huge operation to bring in aid by land, sea and air for up to 200,000 refugees from UNHCR's global and regional stockpiles. Today 4,108 kitchen-sets and 2 big rub halls arrived. Together, the eight flights (ranging from 35 to 65 metric tons each) are expected to bring in over 130,000 sleeping mats, 107,500 blankets, 15,000 sets of cooking utensils, 13,500 plastic sheets, and five prefabricated warehouses. Further aid is on its way by road convoy from Copenhagen and via sea from Dubai to Mersin,

Turkey, expected to arrive on 11 October. UNHCR is also buying mattresses, hygiene and other priority items locally.

Several of the items provided by UNHCR have already been distributed. Syrians who come for pre-registration and leave with their relatives, as well as locals hosting Syrians, are given blankets when they approach either YIBO or Suleyman Shah Park. So far 5,000 blankets and 2,000 mattresses have been sent to YIBO, 3,700 and 1,000 to Suleymen Shah Park and 1,950 blankets distributed from trucks in Suruç town centre. All other donated items are at the Cukobirlik warehouse on standby to be distributed.



Arrivals

The only open crossing point, Yumurtalik, reported 1,300 new arrivals on 24 September. Over 140,000 Syrians and sometimes up to 200,000 persons are reported to have arrived since Friday 19 September.

Some families reported to UNHCR fear of the approaching ISIS cells believed to be 5-10 km out of Kobani city center (Ayn Al Arab), where there are reportedly still men taking care of their families' properties. The families that witnessed several ISIS atrocities before leaving their homes had to cross mine fields on their way to Turkey. UNHCR staff heard mine explosions at Yumurtalik several times in the last few days. So far there have been reports of 11 persons who were injured by land mines. UNHCR was present when five injured Syrians, three of whom by mine explosions, were brought onto Turkey's territory.

Reception

Turkish authorities continue their three phased process to admit refugees: Security check; health checks and vaccinations of children (All newly arrived children under 15 years of age are being vaccinated at the border for polio and measles and been

issued vaccination cards); and finally transfer for registration as far as their capacity allows.

The Deputy Governor informed UNHCR that the livestock on the Syrian side of the border is being provided with water and forage and it is also reported that the authorities will designate an area on the border where the animals can be safely kept, as there are minefields.

Registration

On 24 September all 1,300 arrivals of at Yumurtalik have been pre-registered. The pre-registration is done at the border by GDMM Staff and persons are provided with an appointment date for 15-30 days later to get fully registered at Suruç Registration Centre.

Registration Locations in Suruc District as of 25 September 2014



UNHCR met some families living in Suruç Town accommodated with relatives. These refugees have not registered and have reiterated their (false) understanding of having to be relocated to a camp if they register. In a mosque hosting 15 families, the imam explained that the municipality and the muftu's office have registered the families.

Shelter and assistance

In two buildings and a tent area at YIBO Boarding School is offering shelter to 2,200 refugees.



Distribution of mattresses at YIBO boarding school photo UNHCR/ A.S.Baran

Two more rub halls are being prepared in addition to the 36 already operational. AFAD reported that WASH containers to serve these new rub halls have been requested to HQ.

The Municipality of Haliliye (district of Sanliurfa city centre) distributed 150 cradles; and mattresses, blankets, pillows, milk bottles, pacifiers, syrup for fever, baby formulas (300 each). They are bringing in 20 staff for cleaning the two YIBO buildings.

According to AFAD there are currently 150-200 refugees hosted at the Suleyman Shah Park shelter.

Health

The public health authorities have placed a vaccination team at the border (Yumurtalik); also it covers the transition centres with vaccination teams and the opening hours for family health centres are expanded until midnight. The Ministry of Health has increased the age of children requiring measles and polio vaccination to 15 years. As many refugees stay in the private homes of the host population, a house to house vaccinations effort is planned in Suruç and its surrounding villages in the next few days.

The WHO is supporting the Public Health Directorate in Sanliurfa in developing urgent, short term and medium term response plans for these vaccinations and in their implementation. Actors providing community, psycho social or healthcare and protection services in Turkey are being urged to remind the families to bring their children for vaccination. A major challenge as of today is the lack of medication for chronically ill out-patients. AFAD reported having requested extra medical personnel from the Ministry of Health (MoH) to address the urgent need for more medical support.

Returns

Following up on reports about Syrians returning to their country of origin, UNHCR went to the Mursitpinar border and observed that Syrians, women and children included, bearing their national ID card were allowed to return. Late afternoon on 24 September the number of returns since Monday 22 September had reached 2,500 (around 500 of those returnees were women and children). UNHCR observed more Syrians waiting around the border area for updates from Kobani before they decide whether to return or stay.

Coordination of the response

UNHCR, the Urfa Provincial Director of AFAD, the Deputy Governor of Urfa and the Sub-Governor of Suruç, are organizing an “Operational Coordination Meeting” in Suruç on the afternoon of 25 September including UN Agencies and NGOs. The meeting is expected to cover among others: info on locations where people of concern are residing, latest numbers/ stats, unmet urgent needs, as well as coordination of needs assessments, distribution plans and information dissemination.

Donor Countries of UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme for Turkey:



Other Donor Countries contributing to UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme in alphabetical order including un-earmarked funding:



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