

Syrians in Jordan Situation Report January 19-25 2012



UN Inter-Agency Update General Situation and Response.

This weekly update provides a snapshot of the United Nations inter-agency response to the influx of Syrians into Jordan. The response is led by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and is undertaken in full coordination with the Government of Jordan.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Syrians continue to arrive in Jordan and the number of registered Syrians with UNHCR since March 1st up to 24th of January 2012 is 2,886. In January of this year, 568 cases were registered with the Refugee Agency.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR field, community services and protection teams joined UNICEF in an information session attended by over 100 women in Mafraq. The information session was followed by a discussion of protection challenges, including exploitation at work, early marriages, and a briefing on access to education.
- NFI Urban Distribution: UNHCR implementing partner Caritas carried out a distribution during the reporting period in Mafraq, along with JHAS who are close to completion of their distribution in Irbid. Upcoming distributions of NFI assistance will be aimed at Zarqa and Amman. UNHCR field teams carrying out ongoing distribution of winter clothing vouchers, including for vulnerable, unregistered Syrians.
- The Government of Jordan have commenced construction on a possible camp in Mafraq as part of broader contingency measures. A UNHCR Senior Physical Planner met with the GOJ and advised on UNHCR minimum camp standards, and explored in coordination with the GOJ other possible locations in the event of a mass influx as part of UNHCR contingency planning.

II. Situation Overview

During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to conduct field missions to villages and urban centres, predominantly in the north of Jordan in an effort to identify pockets of Syrians and conduct a rapid data collection exercise. Mafraq, a governorate which borders Syria to the North was the focus of sustained missions by teams made up of protection, field and community services staff. Results will be shared as information is compiled and verified.

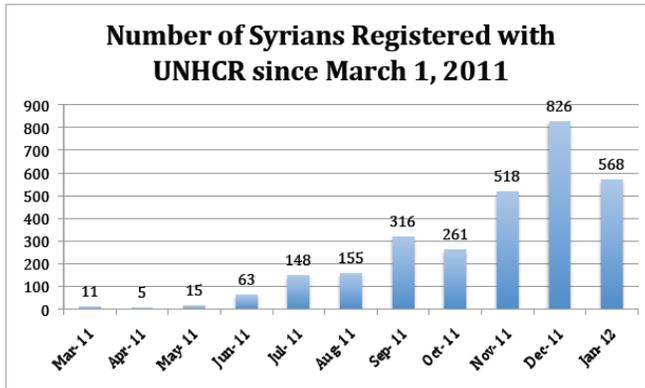
A large-scale Non-Food Items (NFI) distribution effort is underway in conjunction with UNHCR implementing partner; JHAS and Caritas. Items such as stoves, blankets, and mattresses are being distributed to vulnerable Syrians identified in Ramtha, Irbid and Mafraq areas.



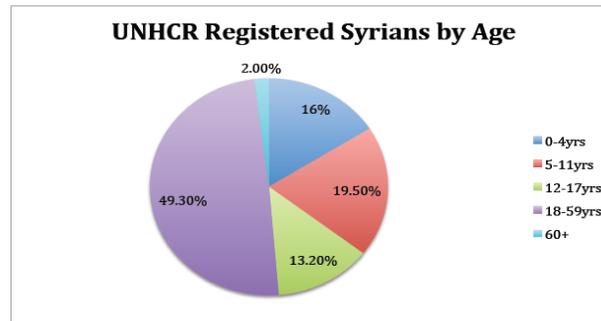
Map Sources: Europa Technologies, UNCS.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created Jun 2010 – www.reliefweb.int

As insecurity in Syria prevails, Syrians continue to cross the border both legally and illegally into Jordan. The total number of Syrians registered with UNHCR Jordan since March 2011 is **2,886**. This figure does not include the Syrians that have been in Jordan for years and registered with UNHCR

earlier. Below is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of March 2011 up to 25 January 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching the Agency to register. Throughout Jordan, local NGOs are playing an important role in referring Syrians of concern to UNHCR for registration, in addition to outreach efforts carried out by UNHCR community services, field staff and protection staff.



In addition, an *updated* breakdown is provided according to age of Syrians registered with the Agency as of late January 2012. According to UNHCR registration data, a little over 48% are under the age of 17 years old.



Access to health care and education remains a key concern for those arriving from Syria, and the Inter-Agency task force on Syrians in Jordan is continuing to work with the GOJ to provide such services. UNICEF, through the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, are providing remedial classes to Syrian children at the Ramtha Facility and are exploring the possibility of extending this to Syrians in Ma'an.



The Minister of Health visited Ramtha governorate (and the hospital) during the reporting period and announced that Syrians (namely principle applicants referred through Al Bashabsheh health care centre) will not be charged in the event they are referred for emergency reasons to the Ramtha hospital, which applies to new arrivals at the Ramtha transit centre. JHAS/MSF will remain in close coordination with the MOH staff, if further support is needed.

JHAS mobile team prepare to assist Syrians in need of medical attention.

The snap shot to the right provides a closer look at the specific needs of registered Syrians including; number of unaccompanied or separated children; serious medical conditions and those with specific legal and physical protection needs of concern to UNHCR.

Specific Needs	% of the total active Syrians	
Specific legal and physical protection needs	125	4.4%
Serious medical condition	114	4.0%
Disability	29	1.0%
Torture	22	0.8%
Woman at risk	20	0.7%
Unaccompanied or separated child	12	0.4%
Single parent	2	0.1%
Older person at risk	2	0.1%
Child at risk	2	0.1%
An individual can have more than one specific need		
Individuals with Specific Needs:	298	10.6%

King Abdullah on Friday concluded a several-day working visit to the US, which included a summit meeting with President Barack Obama and senior administration officials, along with key players in the US political, business circles and three interviews with the media. The King gave an interview to the PBS network, in which he reiterated Jordan's position on the crisis on Syria, stating that the Kingdom will go with the Arab consensus regarding what to do with the Syrian regime.

Outlining reform in Jordan, which he stated began more than a decade ago and accelerated last year, King Abdullah noted: "Our policy of openness is a strategic choice, and a vital need, for a relatively small country with limited natural resources". His Majesty also stated that elections, both municipal and parliamentary will take place in 2012.

III. Contact

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