



*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:

- The number of registered Syrians with UNHCR since March 1st up to 29 December 2011 is 2,265. Since December 1<sup>st</sup>, 738 Syrians have registered.
- Syrians continue to arrive in Jordan; those fleeing from Deraa cite a crackdown as the reason for their flight.
- Rising tensions at Ramtha facility this week, where a Syrian was assaulted by other Syrians, necessitating the intervention of the police and additional gendarme unites to control the situation.
- UNHCR has now established a low-key permanent presence in Ramtha facility. The two staff will cover the northern region, including the border and Mafraq.
- In Mafraq, there has been unrest between tribesmen and the Muslim Brotherhood. Mafraq is near the border with Syria, and is host to a large number of Syrians.

## II. Situation Overview

Jordan has witnessed a slow but continuous influx of Syrians into Jordan since the beginning of the disturbances in Syria in March 2011. The Government of Jordan has kept its border open.

UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, UNESCO and WFP, in an inter-agency task force led by UNHCR, are providing relief assistance (food, non-food items) and other support such as refurbishment of shelter, psychosocial care and facilitating the enrolment of Syrian children in public schools. Syrians are residing in urban centres throughout the Kingdom, mainly in border towns such as Mafraq and



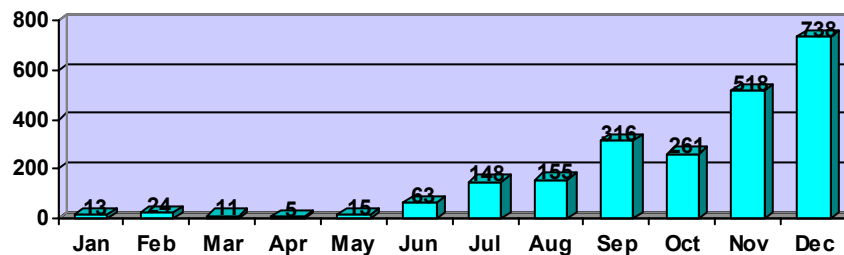
Map Sources: Europa Technologies, UNCS.  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created Jun 2010 - [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

Ramtha, but also in Amman and as far south as Madaba, Ak Karak and Ma'an.

The UNHCR response thus far has involved concentrated efforts in the guesthouses in Ramtha, as the most vulnerable populations have been gathered there, however the next phase will be a concerted focus on urban refugee support. UNHCR is in the process of reaching out and providing basic NFIs with a view to capturing the totality of needs and numbers, and mounting a systematic programme of support to refugees and their hosts.

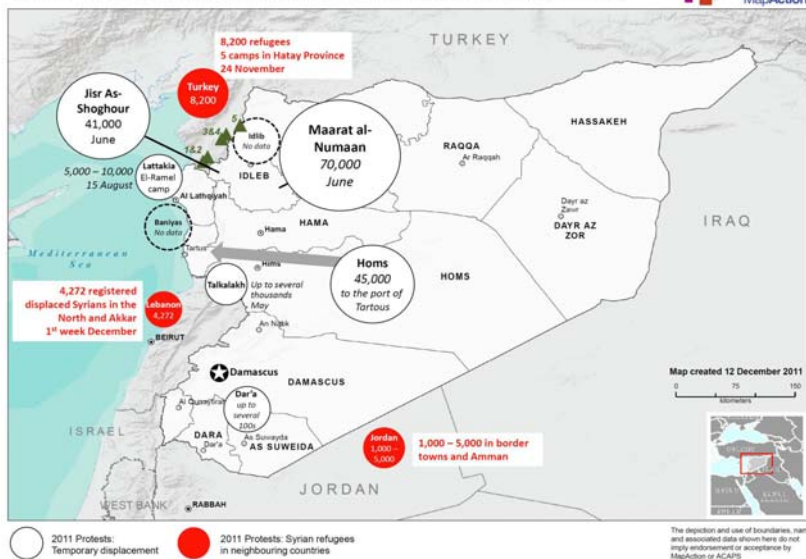
The total number of Syrians registered with UNHCR Jordan since March 2011 is **2,265**. This figure does not include the Syrians that have been in Jordan for years and registered with UNHCR earlier. Below is a table showing the registration trends for 2011 up to 28 December.

### Registered Syrian Individuals 2011



Map of Syria courtesy of Emergency Capacity Building Project<sup>1</sup>

#### Syria: Current displacements and refugees (during 2011)



According to a recent survey of 78 adult Syrians carried out in November 32.5% of this group come from Daraa, followed by Damascus 23.3%, Homs 18.18%, Idlib 12.9% and Hama 9.09%. The rest are from various Syrian cities.

The majority reside in Irbid (Northern Jordan), followed by Amman, Mafraq and Zarqa. Since November, a large number of Syrian families have also been identified in Ma'an in the south of Jordan.

<sup>1</sup> Emergency Capacity Building Project: *Secondary Dara Review, Syrian Arab Republic*, 13/12/2011

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

#### PROTECTION

While the protection space in Jordan remains positive, as in previous weeks, Syrians arriving in Jordan continue to express concern for their safety and that of their families in Syria. In the coming days, UNHCR, in coordination with Task Force partners, will carry out a rapid needs assessment in an effort to map and ascertain the needs of vulnerable Syrians in Jordan. UNHCR continues to follow up on persons of concern who have been detained for illegal entry.

Syrians have also expressed concerns regarding overpriced items and food scarcity in Homs area of Syria, due to continuing instability and as a result of economic sanctions.

#### SHELTER

Most of the displaced Syrians reside with host families. The border city of **Mafraq** (close to Al Jaber border crossing) located 80 Km to the north of Amman. UNHCR is aware of 227 families dispersed within the local population. Other groups of Syrians are reportedly in Ramtha, Irbid, Ma'an, Zarqa, Salt and Amman.

In **Ramtha**, another border city, near to Deraa on the Syrian side, 110 Kilometers from Amman, there are currently 110 Syrians being accommodated. The facility in Ramtha consists of six buildings – five of which are used (maximum capacity around 350 persons), privately owned and normally used to accommodate guest-workers. Their freedom of movement is restricted as a result of their illegal entry. On the other hand, the possibility of bailing continues to be implemented, allowing Syrians who wish to move out of Ramtha to do so after providing the GoJ with a Jordanian sponsor. Almost 500 persons have passed through this facility so far.

The buildings were not well equipped initially (with sanitation and hygiene facilities) but are currently being refurbished in preparation for winter. Repairs are expected to be completed before the end of the year. As part of the winterization plan, UNHCR will be providing vouchers for winter clothing, heaters, high thermal fleece blankets, plastic sheeting, jerry cans, kitchen sets as well as other needed items.

In addition UNHCR has identified a number of families that entered the country legally and who are dispersed within the community of Ramtha, living with relatives or in rented houses. UNHCR is currently aware of 121 families.

In **Salt**, a group of army deserters is being hosted in a separate facility by the GOJ. The numbers are increasing and are currently at 126 persons. UNHCR is currently carrying out a profiling of this group and has been supporting them with the provision

of various NFIs as well as weekly and monthly food packages and a one time equipment of the kitchen.



## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Outreach workers continue to visit the displaced Syrians in Ramtha, Mafraq and Salt in order to counsel them, assess their needs, and refer new comers to UNHCR for registration if they wish to do so.

UNHCR staff often in coordination with UN partners conducts weekly missions to the North (Ramtha and Mafraq) for the purpose of assessing the protection needs and the socio-economic situation of the Syrians, in addition to distributing food and non-food items. UNHCR meets with local CBOs that are in touch with families as well as with local governmental entities to try to coordinate assistance efforts and target needs as well as address gaps.



## **EDUCATION**

UNICEF has been advocating with the Government of Jordan for displaced Syrian children to access public schools. On 21 December, the Prime Minister has agreed, through the decision of the Cabinet, to allow Syrian children in public schools regardless of their status in the country waiving tuition and text books fees with the support of UNICEF. Previously, the Jordanian Government policy stated that Syrian children whose family have a work permit can access public schools while those without are referred to private schools which many cannot afford.

In addition, UNICEF, through Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), is providing remedial education classes as well as psychosocial services for children of illegal Syrian entrants housed in Ramtha facility. A child friendly space within Ramtha facility has been set up and UNICEF and the partner are currently refurbishing the space. This week, UNICEF delivered a School-in-a-Box kit to Ramtha facility to facilitate the learning of these children. The Kit covers up to 80 children for three months period including teaching and learning materials for students.



## **FOOD SECURITY & NFI ASSISTANCE**

UNHCR regularly distributes food and non-food items to displaced Syrians. UNHCR has entered into a contract with "Food Security", a distribution company for the provision of food packages to the Syrians residing in the Ramtha facility. Comprehensive food packages are delivered on a monthly basis, with fresh food supplements and bread delivered on a weekly basis. UNHCR will be equipping the kitchen facilities with utensils, pots and pans, as well as electrical appliances (i.e. fridge, stove, water coolers) once the refurbishment is completed. Kitchen equipment with utensils and electrical appliances as well as NFIs were delivered to Salt.

## UNHCR has provided the following materials since March 2011:

Item	Quantity Distributed	Item	Quantity Distributed
Mattresses	180	Newborn kits - layettes	2
Pillows	100	Clothing	30 T-shirts & 30 underpants
Quilts - Generously provided by IRD	370	Food Items to the value of 44961.87 USD	Meals, meat/Poultry, vegetables, fruits, dry/canned food, bread and water
Plastic Mats	88	School kits	48
Kitchen Sets	17		
Plastic sheeting/tarpaulines (4x5)		Electrical Appliances 1 fridge, 2 washing machines, 2 gas cookers, 2 water coolers & 4 water kettles	11
Kitchen Utensils	cutlery, plates, pots, pans	Ramadan Food Packages	100 packs
Hygiene kits	290	Ramadan Dates	40 kg
Tooth brushes / toothpaste	98	Eid Adha Sweets	50 kg



## HEALTH, INCLUDING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The Medical Mobile Unit of the Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS), an implementing partner of UNHCR and UNFPA, has from October 2011 begun to extend its services to Syrians, conducting regular weekly visits to Ramtha and Mafraq. Primary health care assistance and medication are provided at the site. JHAS has started to provide medical services related to reproductive health targeting vulnerable-Syrian-pregnant women in Mafraq and Al Ramtha governorates through conducting home visits by a medical team consisting of a gynecologist and a nurse. The team is responsible for assessing the needs of the pregnant women, providing them with necessary medical tests and helping them with referral to public hospitals. The visits also include raising awareness on family planning methods, antenatal and postnatal care and other issues related to reproductive health.

A decision was taken by the GOJ to cover the cost of treating Syrians in Mafraq governorate as the insured Jordanians or MOSD beneficiaries during the last reporting period. The formal letter for this was distributed to all Governorate of Mafraq health facilities last week. The move was welcomed by the UN Task Force, and the implications will be assessed in the coming weeks along with exploring the possibility of broadening the initiative to cover other pockets where Syrians are being accommodated.

## IV. Coordination

UNHCR continues to maintain regular, multi-level and multi-ministry contact with the government in order to ensure that borders remain open, protection considerations are accounted for, and coordination and policy direction are shared. These positive working relations have resulted in close partnerships with the government, in particular the Ministry of Interior where UNHCR has had the opportunity to discuss and advise the

Mol on plans to prepare a site for a proposed reception center/ transit facility in case of a sudden mass outflow from Syria.

UNHCR is leading the UNCT Jordan response to the Syrian situation through chairmanship of the Task Force and coordination of activities. The Task Force comprises of UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, UNDP (RC), UNFPA, UNESCO and WFP.

National and international NGOs are being engaged via directing implementing partnerships, *ad hoc* briefings and, as of this week, via sectoral working groups.

UNHCR has also met with heads of several community-based organizations that are providing assistance to the displaced groups.

The above partnerships have allowed for a positive protection environment where the needs of persons of concern and affected communities are being holistically addressed, including the following: assistance to meet basic needs; education and remedial classes; provision of medical and psychosocial care.

## V. In the Press

**Displaced Syrian children in Jordan show signs of distress (UNICEF);** By Najwa Mekki  
Full report available at, <http://www.reliefweb.int/node/467365>

RAMTHA, Jordan, 23 December 2011 – As I pull out my camera, Salwa looks at me and blurts out, “No, no pictures, please. Otherwise the police will slaughter us.” She is 5 years old. Salwa is one of thousands of Syrians who have come to Jordan over the past few months, fleeing unrest and violence in their hometowns. Nearly 2,000 Syrians have registered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), though it is estimated that the actual number of people who have sought safety in Jordan is much higher. Most of the displaced are either staying with relatives or renting accommodations on their own.

A large number have fled to Ramtha, a Jordanian border town 1.5 hour’s drive from Amman and 10 km from the Syrian town of Deraa, where the unrest began. They tell stories of fear, violence and retaliation.

Omar, 13, is one of about 26 children at the guarded facility in Ramtha. He arrived over three months ago(...) “Children are visibly distressed by the events unfolding in Syria,” says Dominique Hyde, UNICEF Representative in Jordan. “UNICEF’s priority is to make sure that Salwa, Omar and other children like them recover their lost sense of safety and protection, and resume their education.”

\*Names have been changed to protect interviewees’ identities

## VI. Contact

Ms. Aoife McDonnell: [UNHCR Amman; mcdonnel@unhcr.org](mailto:mcdonnel@unhcr.org): Tel: 079 7049984