



*This 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

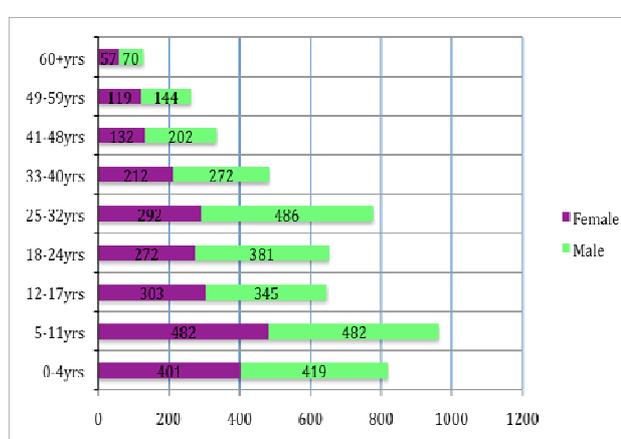
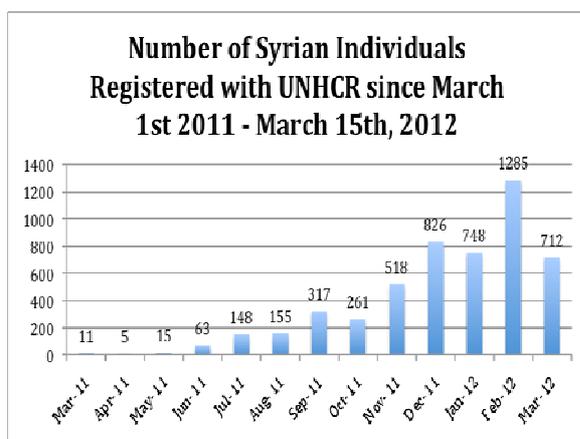
- The number of Syrian individuals registered with UNHCR Jordan since March 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 has continued to steadily increase with 5,391 individuals registered with the Agency up to 15 March, 2012. Notably, over 2,000 Syrian individuals have appointments to register with UNHCR.
- Ramtha facility has witnessed a significant rise in numbers, with 755 individuals at the facility by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- Two new appointments have been made related to the continuing unrest; UNHCR has appointed a Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Syrian Situation, along with OCHA, who have created the post of Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the situation. Both positions reflect the regional dynamics of the Syrian situation, and need for a regionally coordinated response.
- During the reporting period, work on a Regional Response Plan for Syria has been initiated in close coordination with operational and implementing partners in Jordan.

### II. Situation Overview

#### Registration and Numbers

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 up to 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 is **5,391**. This figure does not include the Syrians that have been in Jordan prior to this time and registered with UNHCR earlier.

Below is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of March 2011 up to mid March 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching the Agency to register. Indeed, UNHCR also has 2,012 Syrians with appointments to register in Amman, bringing the total number of Syrians captured to over 7,000 individuals.



*\*Age and Gender Breakdown of Registered Syrian Individuals*

## Ramtha Transit Facility

The Ramtha facility has witnessed a significant increase in numbers in recent weeks, and at time of reporting the number of individuals there stood at 755. The facility is a Government of Jordan temporary guesthouse for those who have crossed the border into Jordan illegally, with the aim of providing temporary shelter and protection on arrival in Jordan. There is a bailing system in place, which allows Syrians to leave the facility.

UNHCR is supporting the facility through significant renovation and refurbishment work, along with the provision of food on a weekly basis, and non-food items on arrival. Through its permanent, informal presence, UNHCR is monitoring the situation closely, in particular the numbers entering the facility. UNHCR staff are also utilising the opportunity to carry out preliminary interviews of new arrivals in an effort to ascertain any protection challenges they face.

As the number of Syrians in the Ramtha Facility increases, focus has turned to improving sanitation with UNICEF planning to support such efforts in coordination with UNHCR.

As of 13 March, the number of Syrian children in Ramtha Facility stands at 285. UNICEF will be expanding the child friend space in Ramtha Facility including outdoor space to accommodate increased number of children. UNICEF is working with partners to facilitate the transportation of vulnerable Syrian children in the Ramtha Facility to attend nearby public schools.

## Health

Health services for Syrians in north of Jordan are ongoing through UNHCR IP's on a primary and secondary level. Since unrest started, 922 registered and 957 non registered Syrians have been assisted through the UNHCR health program. The most prevalent disease is acute disease (72%) like upper respiratory tract infections, while the most prevalent chronic disease are hypertension and diabetes.

16 cases have been assisted with tertiary high cost treatments, mostly for cardiac interventions, treatment of injuries and complicated deliveries.

*\*On top right hand side is an example of the baby kit (including towel, baby products such as oil and clothes), and below the hygiene kit (including toothbrush and paste, shampoo, and razor blades.)*



## Food and Non-food Items Assistance

The cornerstone of UNHCR Jordan's response has been the provision of food and NFI assistance to vulnerable Syrians through its implementing partners, JHAS and Caritas. Distributions include much needed household items including; mattresses, blankets, bed linen sets, pillows, towels, heaters, mats, underwear, kitchen sets, jerry cans along with female hygiene products.

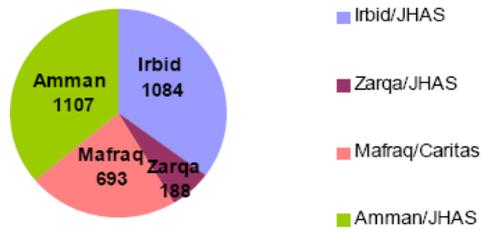


*\*UNHCR distributions taking place at Ramtha/2012*

In addition, family hygiene kits, baby kits, school kits and winter clothing vouchers have been distributed as UNHCR works to alleviate the pressure and burden on families in these difficult circumstances.

In the case of the Ramtha facility, this has involved a weekly food distribution and NFI assistance, including mattresses, blankets, stoves and heaters.

3,072 Total Syrian Individuals dispatched for NFIs



Distributions of the above mentioned NFI assistance have taken place in Zarqa, Irbid, Amman, and Mafraq, with over 3,000 Syrian individuals assisted.

## UNFPA

In an effort to tackle and raise awareness on GBV, UNFPA Jordan has received approval for a GBV advisor and is expected to arrive shortly. At the Ramtha facility, UNFPA are looking at possibility of preparing a female room at the clinic.

UNFPA have also stockpiled a significant amount of reproductive health kits in Jordan as part of emergency preparedness. Furthermore, as an entry point to providing assistance to Syrians in an urban setting, UNFPA is also preparing to distribute hygiene kits.

## Education and Psychosocial Support

UNICEF continues to assist vulnerable Syrian children with psychosocial and remedial education in the Ramtha Facility and also in Ma'an. To date, UNICEF has supported approximately 200 children in the Ramtha Facility, while some 190 Syrian children including 15 youth are receiving similar assistance in Ma'an. As of 13 March, the number of Syrian children in Ramtha Facility stands at 285.

Better parenting sessions are being conducted in Ma'an to empower Syrian parents with necessary skills in providing adequate health and nutrition care for their children. The initiative launched by UNICEF and its partner, the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), is designed to guide parents with best care practices for their children promoting positive behavioural change. In Ramtha Facility, UNICEF held the first better parenting session with Syrian parents on 14 March.

UNICEF together with Save the Children Jordan is working to follow-up on individual cases to facilitate registration of vulnerable Syrian children in public schools.

Sectoral response plans for vulnerable Syrians in Jordan are being prepared in coordination UNHCR and relevant partners. UNICEF plans to call to cover urgent education, child protection and health needs of vulnerable Syrian children and their caregivers.

The first meeting of the newly established Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group was held on 11 March. UNICEF chaired the Education Sector Working Group meeting on 13 March.

***In the Media: an article on the work of UNICEF Jordan and its local partner in Ma'an was published on UNICEF's global website last week. It can be accessed at [http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/jordan\\_61949.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/jordan_61949.html)***

## Field Visits

UNHCR staff are conducting sustained missions to the field along with home visits aimed at the Syrian population in Jordan. Teams are comprised of field, community services and protection staff, in order to holistically assess the challenges faced by persons of concern in Jordan in the urban and village setting. UNHCR has established *Information Desks* in areas with large concentrations of Syrians. The so-called *info desks* have been instrumental in communicating UNHCR and partner information, along with setting up registration appointments in order to limit the need to travel to Amman.

The UNHCR health team is also frequently conducting field missions in an effort to identify gaps and vulnerabilities in providing primary and secondary health care to Syrians.

During the reporting period, UNHCR field staff accompanied a European Commission mission to the Governorate of Mafraq. Meeting with the Governor, Mr. Ali Al-Nazal, discussions took place on the close coordination and strong partnership between UNHCR and Government of Jordan. Mission also encompassed a visit to JHAS medical clinic and the Widow and Orphans Association.

UNICEF continues to carry out regular field visits to East Amman, Ramtha, Ma'an, and Mafraq, to better provide technical guidance on programme activities as well as to closely monitor the situation of vulnerable Syrian children. In East Amman areas, UNICEF and its national partners including JOHUD and Jordan Red Crescent are looking at expanding its child protection support and psychosocial services to vulnerable Syrian children.

## Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP)

Bearing in mind the critical importance of a common strategy and coordination mechanisms for effective planning of a humanitarian response, the drafting of a Syria RRP has been initiated, led by UNHCR. The Syria RRP forms a part of the Syria Humanitarian Response Framework, together with the "Rolling 90-Day Response Plan for Syria", covering needs inside Syria under the lead of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

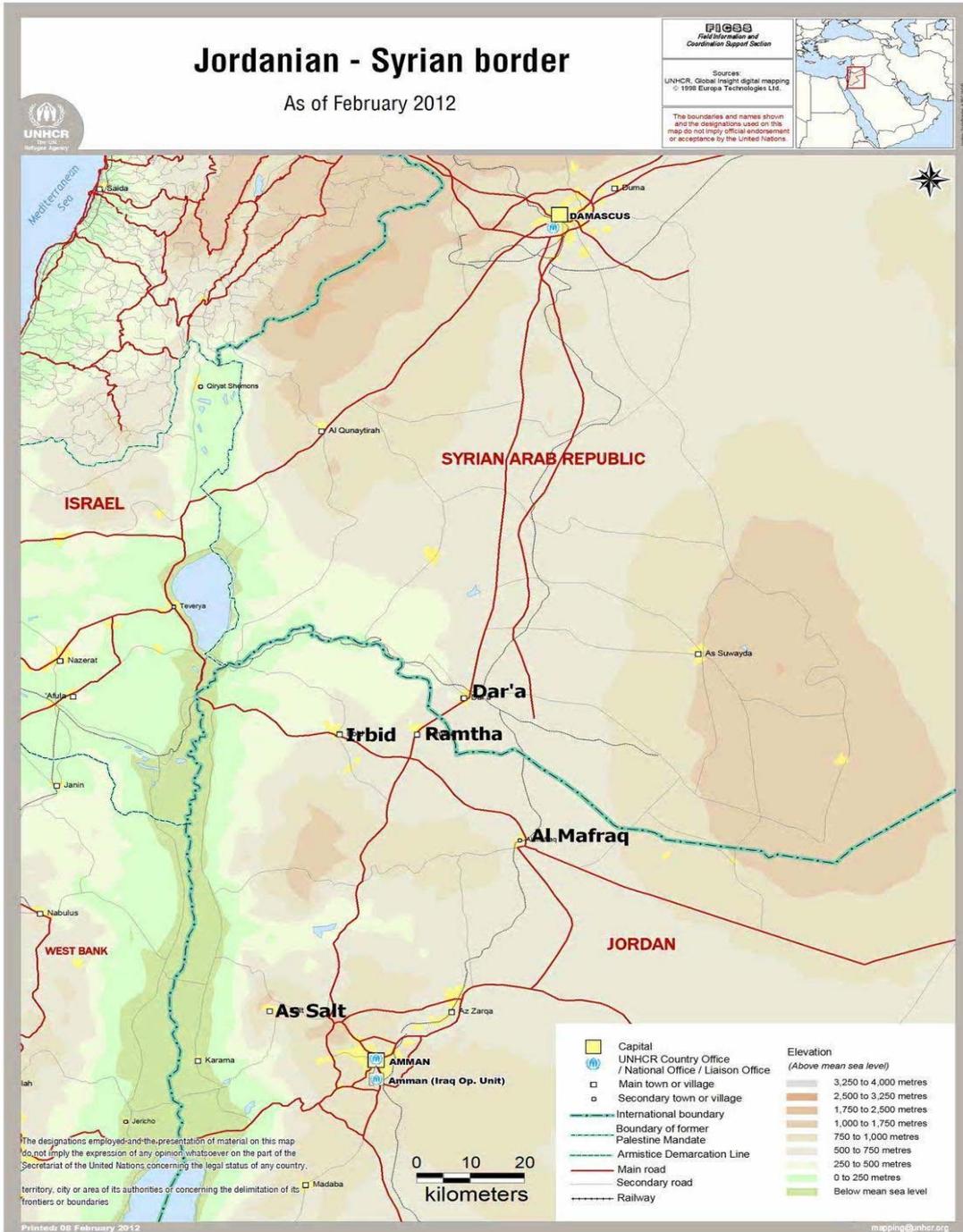
This Plan is a result of the coordinated effort of international and national agencies involved in the refugee response. It is based on a current assessment of requirements for six months. It may be revised throughout the year, depending on developments inside Syria, and in the neighbouring countries covered by this plan.

## Regional Refugee Coordinator

During the reporting period, UNHCR High Commissioner, Mr. António Guterres created a new temporary regional position in response to the rapidly growing needs of Syrian persons of concern on the region. Mr. Panos Moutzidis assumed his position as Regional Refugee Coordinator on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for an initial period of three months. Tasked with ensuring close coordination between country representatives, along with ensuring smooth cooperation with the relevant inter-agency coordination mechanisms, Mr. Panos will be based in Geneva and report to the Director for the Middle East and North Africa Bureau, and liaise with the Director for Europe.

Moutzidis will also work closely with the also newly appointed UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, Mr. Radhouane Nouicer, in ensuring effective linkages and cohesion between the refugee operations in neighbouring countries and the broader humanitarian response plan.

***In the Media: Press release for appointment of Panos Moutzidis on UNHCR's global website; <http://www.unhcr.org/4f5f48156.html>***



## Contact

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