



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 1st 2011 is now close to 9,500 April 16th, 2012. In addition, there are over 4,500 Syrian individuals with appointments to register with UNHCR.
- UNICEF has signed an agreement with Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) to cover the cost of Syrian children attending public schools.
- WFP have operationalised their response as numbers of Syrians in Jordan have grown significantly, with hot meals planned for those in Bashabsehe and other designated facilities. Further plans include the distribution of food packages to 15,000 JHCO registered Syrians to be carried out by the Red Crescent and JHCO.
- Joint needs assessment between UN partners and the Government of Jordan has been completed. Results expected shortly.
- First 20 cases of Syrians to receive financial assistance through the ATM system have been approved by UNHCR.

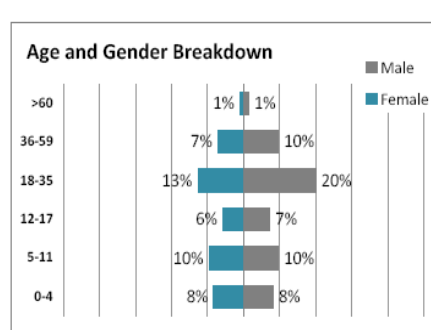
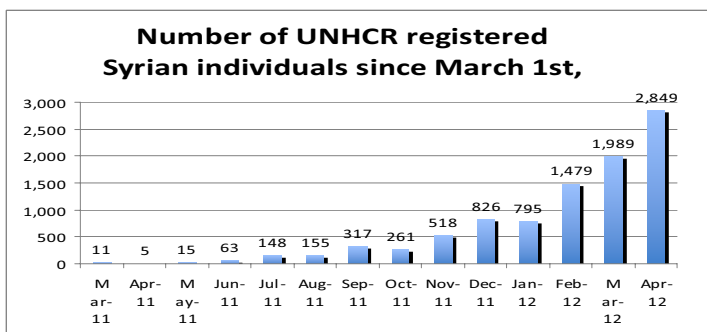
II. Situation Overview

Registration and Numbers

UNHCR has now registered close to **9,500** Syrian individuals, with a further **4,000** with appointments. This figure marks a significant departure from earlier registration trends, with close to double the number of those registered in entire month of February, now registered in first 16 days of April. This figure does not include the Syrians that have been in Jordan prior to this time and registered with UNHCR earlier. UNHCR acknowledges that this figure does not accurately reflect the number of vulnerable Syrians in Jordan since March 1st, since many are reluctant to register due to security fears and/or geographic distance from Amman. Estimates from the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) are closer to 30,000 vulnerable Syrians in need of assistance.

UNHCR is working to increase registration capacity through an enhanced rapid registration process rolled out during the previous reporting period, and working with the Government of Jordan to identify possible options to carrying out off-site/mobile registration.

Below is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of March 2011 up to April 16th 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching the Agency to register, with a significant rise in registration numbers since January of this year.



Registration Highlights

- ❖ 89% of those registered come from the cities of Homs, Dara, Damascus and Hama;
HOMS: 3,627
DARA'A: 2,853
DAMASCUS: 855
HAMA: 769
- ❖ 85% of Syrian are located in Amman, Irbid and Mafraq;
Irbid: 3,235
Amman: 2,750
Mafraq: 1,847



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Ramtha Transit Facility

Numbers at Ramtha facility have remained high but steady in recent weeks, with 1,200 individuals on average at the facility arriving. UNICEF has completed the rehabilitation of sanitation and hygiene facilities in all five buildings of the Ramtha facility. ACTED is providing continued support to maintain and clean the sanitation facilities and overall building.



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UNHCR Staff member at work in Ramtha Facility.

The facility is a Government of Jordan temporary guesthouse for those who have crossed the border illegally (by virtue of exiting Syria 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. In response to the increasing pressure on the facility, the Government of Jordan has revised its bailing system.

The current numbers have placed enormous strain on the facility, and agencies, along with Al Kitab Wal Sunna are currently working with the local officials to identify alternative locations to Bashabshe. Contingency sites are being evaluated and UNICEF and ACTED have carried out field visit to assess the water and sanitation situation in new alternative sites.

UNICEF is working closely with Noor al-Hussein Foundation to strengthen their capacity to respond to the changing needs of vulnerable Syrians arriving in Ramtha facility.

WFP have made arrangements to provide hot meals for Syrians during their time at the facility, which is expected to be implemented very shortly.

The informal permanent presence of UNHCR staff is ongoing, who are carrying out counselling, protection interviews, and referring arrivals to the appropriate and available services.

Needs Assessment

Joint Needs Assessment between the Government of Jordan and UN Partners has been completed. The needs assessment is an effort to place the Syrian community at the centre of decision-making concerning their protection and well-being through engagement while ensuring that women and men of all ages and backgrounds are given the opportunity to identify and voice their priorities, opinions and solutions while enhancing both the knowledge base and partnerships with persons of concern for those responding to their needs.

JHCO played a key role in hosting the large field teams in all five locations, as well inviting the Syrians to attend these meetings.

The different focus group discussions were conducted separately with women and men, and were distributed according to age and gender as follows: youth female, youth male, adult female, adult male, elderly female, and elderly male as women, girls, boys and men of different ages and backgrounds experience both similar and different challenges and can access and benefit from services and resources differently. It is also an opportunity to gather insights into cultural practices, traditional protection mechanisms, and other issues which maybe affecting community members.

At total of 24 focus group discussions were conducted, along with 7 key informant interviews with governors, the head of a community based organization and the heads of health and education departments at the governorates level.

Results are expected to be released shortly, however preliminary results suggest that cash assistance is the ideal response.

Cash Assistance

In addition to the provision of emergency cash assistance, the first 20 cases of Syrians have been approved for financial assistance through the ATM system. UNHCR intends to include the most vulnerable Syrians as part of its ATM financial assistance programme, with field teams currently visiting eligible Syrian families to confirm their needs before cards are issues.

As an additional safeguard, and in line with UNHCRs current cash assistance programme for Iraqi refugees, "iris scans" will be incorporated into security checks for beneficiaries.



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Two families share rented accommodation in Ma'an.

Health

Health care provision has remained a key concern for Syrian community in Jordan. UNHCR through its implementing partners, Caritas and Jordan Health Aid Society are providing out-patient curative, preventative and health promotion services including maternal and child health services. Clinics are located in Zarqa, Mafraq and Irbid and are free of charge to Syrians. Furthermore, JHAS mobile medical units are also free of charge and travel as far south as Ma'an to pockets of Syrians. 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.

Since 1st April 2011, 2581 individuals have been assisted by health program, 54% of assisted Syrians are not registered with UNHCR while 95% have been assisted on out patient basis.

Most prevalent acute diagnosis include upper respiratory tract infection and common cold while the most prevalent chronic diagnosis were diabetes and hypertension, 50% of tertiary assistances were for life saving purposes.

Reproductive Health

UNFPA chairs the Reproductive Health (RH) sub-working group, whose members (representing Ministry of Health, NGOs and UN) are currently discussing critical RH issues for Syrians. The need for additional support to Syrians, particularly the MoH clinic in the Ramtha facility was noted, and in response, select members of the sub-group (WHO, UNFPA and UNHCR) visited Ramtha on 1 April to assess available RH services.

Mission involved visit to MoH supported clinic in the Ramtha facility, Ramtha General Hospital and a JHAS-run clinic. Members of the team noted the absence of a dedicated room for female patients to be seen privately in the health clinic in the Ramtha facility. UNFPA, in consultation with MoH, agreed to equip another exam room. Equipment has already been purchased and delivered to the clinic. UNFPA's Emergency RH Coordinator provides ongoing technical support to MoH staff through regular field visits.

UNFPA recently contracted Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS) to provide reproductive health services to Syrians residing in Irbid, Mafraq and Ramtha via a mobile medical unit (MMU). The MMU started delivering services at the end of March; approximately 45 Syrians (mostly pregnant women) have accessed services. A community health worker and nurse raise awareness about services and do general screening for a gynecologist who is contracted to see Syrian patients once a week.

UNFPA has also pre-positioned reproductive health kits to ensure facility based safe delivery, and provision of contraceptive and started distributing them as needed.

Education and Psychosocial Support

UNICEF and partner organisations continue to support displaced Syrian children and family members with psychosocial support and remedial education, in addition to facilitating the registration of Syrian children in public schools. To date, UNICEF has assisted some 1,500 vulnerable Syrian children and family members with psychosocial support and remedial education in Jordan. During the reporting period, some 80 new Syrian children and adolescents were also enrolled in schools in Ramtha.

Together with Save the Children Jordan, UNICEF is working to follow-up on individual cases to facilitate registration of vulnerable Syrian children in public schools. To date, some 4,000 children and families have been assisted with information about access to education and necessary follow up.



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On 2 April UNICEF signed an Agreement with the MoPIC in support of the Ministry of Education (MoE) to cover the cost of Syrian children attending public schools in Jordan. Some 5,500 Syrian children are now registered in Jordanian public schools. This Agreement will support the Ministry of Education to cover costs including tuition, textbooks, and teachers' salaries, remedial education and, in targeted areas, renting additional learning spaces to accommodate the increasing number of pupils in already overcrowded schools.

UNICEF continues to carry out regular field visits to monitor the situation of vulnerable Syrian children and their families. During the reporting period UNICEF conducted visits to Ghor, Mafraq and Ramtha to monitor the situation of vulnerable Syrian children and their families. This included joint field visits to both locations with the Ministry of Education and SDC(Swiss Development Cooperation)to assess the capacity and needs of schools with a high number of Syrian students; and a joint field visit with a German Parliamentarian delegation to Ramtha on 13 April to see UNICEF projects in the Ramtha facility and to visit vulnerable Syrian families in urban areas of the town.

Through the UNHCR registration process, protection and community services staff continue to promote the registration of children in the Jordanian public education system. Information is shared on an individual case level at BO Amman, and more generally through an SMS system in an effort to encourage school attendance and reduce the burden on families. This follows increasingly worrying reports of child labour among the most vulnerable Syrian community.

Children and Women's Protection

In response to the protection concerns for Syrian refugees in Jordan, a new working group has been established, known originally as the Children and Women's Protection in Emergencies Working Group, the group has been renamed to Children and GBV Working group, recognizing that it is not only women and children affected in emergency situations. UNHCR and UNICEF co-chair this working group, which meets every two weeks, which was formed to specifically coordinate/address protection needs for the most vulnerable Syrians, women and children.



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Syrian children in rented accommodation in Ma

UNFPA is an active member of the working group and supported, on behalf of the Working Group, a one-day workshop on 5 April focused on strengthening the referral pathway for Syrians. More than 26 multi-sectoral partners attended the workshop, which was aimed to facilitate communication between different service providers and address key protection issues for children and women. Based on the results of the workshop, members are developing a leaflet that identifies organizations providing services that meet global standards of care. The leaflet will be distributed to all implementing partners.

Save the Children in coordination with Terre des Hommes, UNICEF, UNFPA and IMC are taking the lead on developing a sector specific (child protection and GBV) assessment tool designed to gather more concrete information (much of the current information is largely anecdotal) about the specific protection needs of Syrians residing in Jordan. Members are waiting for the results of the inter-agency rapid assessment to be published before finalizing the sector specific tool.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Interior has agreed to the joint request of UNICEF and UNFPA to better support vulnerable Syrians through the Family Protection Department. The role of the Family Protection Department is integral to raising awareness on child protection issues and in managing cases of violence against women and children.

Field Visits

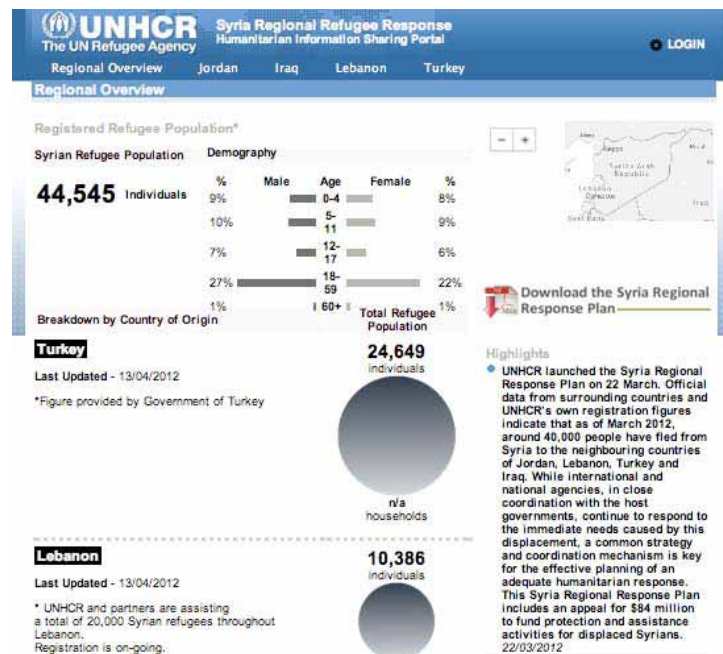
UN teams, along with implementing and operational partners are spending an increasing amount of time in the field as the response for Syrians is strengthened and intensified. Inter-Agency visits have become more frequent, as UN Partners work together to identify the ideal response.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and UNICEF conducted a joint mission to the Jordan Valley on April 4th, paying close attention to school capacity, and the nexus between financial vulnerability, child labour and low school attendance. The visit also incorporated home visits to Syrian families, many of whom arrived since March 1st 2011, and find themselves in a very vulnerable situation, and in need of assistance.

UNHCR staff are conducting daily missions to the field, 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.

Information Sharing: Launch of Webportal

During the reporting period, UNHCR launched a *webportal* as part of the Regional Response Plan for Syria Situation. This site - <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees> - provides up-to-date information on the response to the Syria refugee situation. Humanitarian partners, donors, media, and the public now have access to information about the demography and distribution of the refugee population in host countries, needs assessments, funding and an emergency response map featuring refugee locations, border crossing points, and assistance distribution.





Contact

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