



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. In an effort to ensure this Report is an inclusive document, please keep UNHCR Jordan informed of your organisation's activities.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Registration numbers continue to increase, with another record set with 7,800 Syrians registered in May. This brings the total number of those registered with UNHCR Jordan to 22,000 since March 2011.
- WFP is continuing in its efforts to reach vulnerable Syrians in host communities. WFP plan to distribute food rations to up to 25,000 Syrians.
- A UNICEF child friendly space has been set up at Cyber City transit facility to provide informal education and psychosocial support for children and their parents.
- Shortly after his visit to Syria this week, UN – Arab League Special Envoy Kofi Annan met with authorities in Jordan. Mr. Annan was briefed by the RC/HC, UNICEF and UNHCR Representatives in Jordan on the response to the influx from Syria into Jordan.
- The revision process for the Regional Response Plan for the Syria Situation is now underway in Jordan, for programmes running until end of December 2012, with a new population planning figure of 70,000 individuals. Submissions have to be finalised by 13th June.

II. Situation Overview

Registration and Numbers

Continuing unrest in Syria has led to 110,000 Syrian persons of concern to cross into Jordan since March last year according to the Government of Jordan. Estimations from the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation, suggest that up to 50,000 Syrians are vulnerable and in need of assistance, as identified by local community based organisations across Jordan.

UNHCR Jordan has continued in its efforts to increase outreach and registration, with a record-breaking month. 7,800 Syrians registered in May, bringing the total figure for registered Syrians in Jordan to 22,000. Trends suggest that with sustained unrest in Syria, and growing awareness of the Agency, UNHCR will continue to register on average 7,000 Syrians per month.



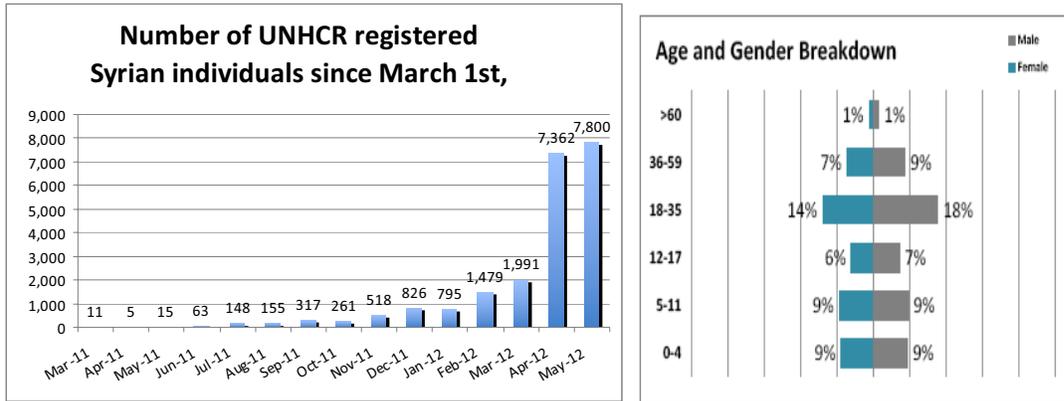
@UNHCR Jordan/2012/Bartolini

In terms of border crossings, during the month of April, between 40-100 people crossed per day illegally. However, since mid-May this pattern has changed somewhat, with over 300 arrivals in one day at some points. This number is continually fluctuating; there is an observable trend of less illegal arrivals by the end of May, with indications that this is due to increased military operations on Syrian side of the border with Jordan. However, given the fragile situation in Syria, including in Dara'a town close to the Jordanian border, there is a continued risk that arrival rate will increase again in the short term. These figures are based on daily interaction with local governor's offices in the North of Jordan, the police force and UNHCR staff operating in the transit facilities.

In terms of numbers, this figure does not include the Syrians that have been in Jordan prior to this time and/or registered with UNHCR earlier. Furthermore, the above figures do not take into consideration the

number of migrant workers and their families who left prior to the violence and now unable to return to Syria.

Below is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of March 2011 up to May 29th 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching the Agency to register, with a significant rise in registration numbers since April of this year. Also presented is an age/gender breakdown of registered Syrians.

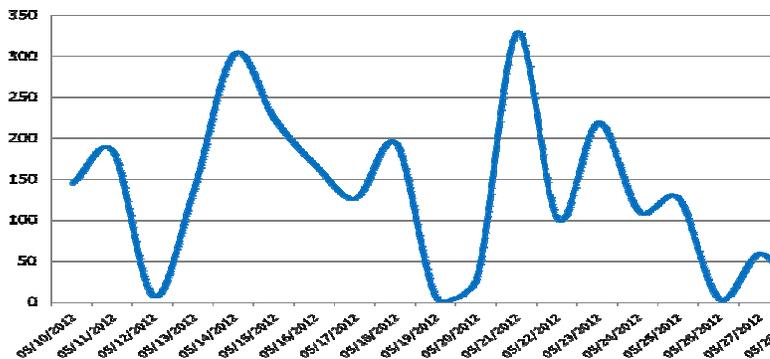


In terms of demographics, out of the 7,532 registered cases, 36% are single males, 25% are female-headed households, with the remaining made up mostly of male-headed households. Underlining the vulnerability of the Syrian population who have arrived in Jordan, 43% of registered Syrians identify themselves with no occupation; 19% as husbands/wives; 18% as manual labourers; 10% as students; and just 9% as salaried professionals.

52% of Syrians registered with UNHCR are coming from Homs, with 26% arriving from Dara'a, 7% arriving from Hama and Damascus respectively. A pattern is emerging as to where Syrians are migrating to, with 80% of Syrians from Homs area remaining in Amman, Irbid and Mafraq in almost equal measure. In comparison, 76% of Syrians originating from Dara'a remain in Irbid. This could be attributed to the close familial and cultural ties Dara'a holds with the North of Jordan, and an expectation to return when situation improves.

Focusing on the illegal entries, 85% of those registered with UNHCR through the Ramtha transit facilities originate from Homs.

Daily Arrival in Ramtha



Illegal entry trends

The adjoining graph illustrates the rate of arrivals to the transit facilities between the 10th of May and 29th of May 2012. The figure crossing continues to fluctuate over the three week period, with anecdotal evidence of heightened security on the Syrian side of the border.

Jordan's borders remain open to Syrian refugees fleeing the unrest.

Transit Facilities: Ramtha

There are currently three Government of Jordan transit sites operating in the North of Jordan; Bashabshe, Cyber City and the King Hussein Stadium. Furthermore, a fourth site is close to completion, King Abdullah Park. The transit sites are for those who have crossed the border illegally (by virtue of their illegal exit from Syria) 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. However, based on the above arrival trends indicated of illegal arrivals increasingly clear that transit facilities are nearing capacity despite bailing system in place, based on a continuation of the above trend in arrivals.



From left to right; Bashabshe transit facility for new arrivals; Cyber City transit facility for families. Below; l-r, King Abdullah Park under construction; WFP and UNHCR Rub Holes in Ramtha, North of Jordan.



Bashabshe

UNHCR food and NFIs distribution continued and the following items were distributed to the new arrivals upon their arrival and during their two-three days stay at the transit center: Complementary food packages, baby diaper packs; sanitary napkins; hand washing soaps, dish washing bottles, washing powder along with other much needed NFI. In Bashabshe, the primary health clinic continues to be operated by MOH with support from Medecins du Monde. UNICEF is providing safe water and sanitation and hygiene services at Bashabshe, Cyber City and Stadium transit facilities. Solid waste management is organized in the Bashabshe and Cyber City facilities. Hygiene awareness sessions are also provided in transit facilities in Ramtha.

Cyber City

As it becomes apparent that new arrivals are arriving with less and less, UNHCR is scaling up its distribution of NFI's to those at Cyber City included mattresses, blankets, pillows, kitchen sets, family kits, baby kits, towels, bed linen amongst other much needed items. Furthermore, ACTED and UNICEF are continuing a waste management awareness campaign.

A UNICEF child friendly space has been set up at Cyber City transit facility to provide informal education and psychosocial support for children and their parents, and a full time teacher for special needs is available now.

In terms of health care for families at Cyber City, the JHAS clinic is continuing to be upgraded with better equipment. The Jordanian Public Health Department has carried out vaccination was for the new arrivals.



©UNICEFJordan/2012/Leighton: A UNICEF tent provides a child friendly space at Cyber City transit facility in Ramtha.

Jordan Representatives for UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP visited the four Ramtha transit facilities on 23 May to assess the capacity of existing sites and monitor progress.

UNICEF partner Noor al-Hussein Foundation has supported some 500 vulnerable Syrian children and youths, and 250 parents, with psychosocial activities and remedial education in Ramtha during the reporting period.

Stadium for single males

UNHCR food and NFIs distribution continued and the following items were distributed to the new arrivals upon their arrival and to the presenting population at the Stadium; Complementary food packages; single hygiene kits; washing powder packs; Dish washing liquid bottles. Furthermore, WFP continued two meals distribution every day at the stadium.

JHAS mobile clinic is increasing its presence at the Stadium, with the organisation present for two hours almost every day, providing health services, medications, and making referrals to hospitals in some cases.

WASH

A joint assessment of public wells in Ramtha was carried out by UNICEF, UNHCR, Mercy Corp and Japanese Emergency NGO (JEN). UNICEF is exploring possibilities to support the rehabilitation of two wells to boost the water supply for host communities and transit facilities in Ramtha.

As the lead in Emergency WASH, UNICEF, with partner ACTED, has operationalised WASH facilities at King Abdullah Park transit facility in Ramtha, in addition to water, sanitation and hygiene needs in all transit facilities in Ramtha.

Solid waste management is organised in the Bashabshe and Cyber City facilities. Hygiene awareness sessions are also provided in transit facilities in Ramtha.

Food

Through it's implementing partners, the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) and the Jordanian Red Crescent, WFP are reaching out to vulnerable Syrians and host communities through the distribution of food rations (rice, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar). This package is aimed at 25,000 Syrians living in host communities, with the aim of covering Irbid, Zarqa, Mafraq, Karak and Amman.

In the transit facilities WFP is also distributing hot meals, distributing over 19,000 meals to those accommodated in Cyber City, Bashabshe, and the Stadium. An agreement has been made between

UNHCR and WFP, with WFP soon to assume all food operations at the Ramtha facilities, including the distribution of dry rations in Cyber City facility, whereby UNHCR has equipped kitchens for families. During the reporting period, UNHCR delivered 1,500 complementary food packages to the Bashabshe and Cyber City transit facilities.

Health Care

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.

271 unique patients received primary and secondary health care services mainly through JHAS clinics and mobile medical units. Mafraq clinic had 140 patients, 35 women received antenatal services at Mafraq clinic.

JHAS as obtained additional funds from OFDA (US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance) to establish a hospital in Dleil - Mafraq for the treatment of Syrian war wounded patients. The hospital facility has 5 ICU beds, 32 bed capacity, surgery and pre-natal ward. JHAS has established a collaboration network with Syrian doctors currently in Jordan or abroad who would perform operations or provide specialist treatment.

A referral mechanism was agreed between UNHCR and the Qatar Red Crescent, who have a budget to cover operations and injuries.



@UNHCR Ivan Bartolini/2012

35 applications were submitted for the Exceptional Care Committee review. 15 applications are emergency referrals. The total applied cost is 97,982 JDs (emergency referral cost 38,362 JDs). The main disease group are cardio/circulatory (9), eye (mainly cataract) - 7 cases, perinatal conditions (4), cancer/tumour (4) and injury/trauma (4).

NFI and Cash Assistance

The UN family, implementing and operational partners, along with community based organisations have ramped up assistance and support to registered Syrians outside of the transit sites, and to host communities across the country. International Relief and Development (IRD) are carrying out a series of Quick Impact Projects funded by UNHCR to support host communities, and also looking to implement Community Impact Projects in an effort to boost the absorption capacity of host communities, and the relieve the burden on existing infrastructure.

During the reporting period, IRD implemented Quick Impact Projects in Ramtha with the procurement of two fogging machines and the provision of 150 liters of insecticide, which will be handed over to the Ramtha municipality to address the large volume of insects in areas. IRD also supported the Ramtha municipality with another QIP in relation to waste management.

Care International have provided much needed urgent cash assistance to Syrians Jordan - to date, CARE has provided 202 Syrian Heads of Households (HH) with emergency cash assistance, of which 31 HH were female. The aim of the facility is to address urgent needs, including: costs for newly arrived refugees waiting for assessment and inclusion in other assistance packages, protection cases, those living in unsafe housing or threatened with eviction, legal support, urgent medical costs not covered by health providers. The amount provided to each case ranges from \$350 - \$750. The average amount is \$400. UNHCR during the reporting period also provided 20 cases (78 individuals) with one-time urgent cash assistance of 100 JDs.

Caritas Jordan has been supporting the UNHCR registration process in Mafraq through the assembly of Syrians wishing to travel to Amman to carry out registration. As a UNHCR implementing partner, Caritas has also carried out NFI distributions for single males, single females and for families. Furthermore, Caritas will continue to distribute diapers to the Syrians in Mafraq and Ramtha on monthly bases for the coming six months.

Noor Hussein Foundation (NHF) conducted screening of 117 Syrian families for psychosocial and other needs, they have been also providing counselling for Syrians in the transit centers.

UNHCR has distributed 77,472 sanitary packs to implementing partners' centres and clinics in Amman, Marfaq, Ramtha, Fuheis, Hosn and Irbid.

UNICEF Jordan released emergency supplies stored in Zarqa Free Trade Zone warehouse. The supplies include education kits, recreational kits, as well as WASH items. The supplies have been delivered to UNICEF partners to be used in transit facilities and at the community level.

Education and Psychosocial Support

The number of Syrian children attending public schools in Jordan has reached nearly 7,400. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to provide these children with free access to education. UNICEF and partner Save the Children Jordan is supporting displaced Syrian children and family members with information about school enrolment and necessary case management.



@UNHCR Ivan Bartolini/2012

UNICEF, in collaboration with partners and the Ministry of Education, is preparing to deliver school based remedial education classes during the summer school holidays targeting 4,500 children in 19 directorates with high numbers of Syrian students.

UNICEF has signed an agreement with Yarmouk Baq'a to provide informal education to vulnerable Syrian and other children in Baq'a.

Un Ponte per (UPP) Italian NGO together with the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) started providing psycho-social assistance for displaced Syrians in Ramtha and Irbid with a particular focus on vulnerable women. Primary health care services are also available for free at Irbid JWU center.

Community Based Protection

Community Based Protection Working Group meeting was held during this week at UNHCR Amman. Seventeen Implementing and Operational partners of UNHCR attended in order to receive an update on the Syrian situation as well as to improve coordination at the operational level and to identify possible protection gaps in the response to the Syria emergency.

The Orphans and Widows and Charity Association in Mafraq and Al Takaful in Ramtha are working with UNHCR community services staff to identify extremely vulnerable cases in their respective areas of operation, with the aim of providing such cases with clothing vouchers along with much needed NFIs.

UNHCR has appointed area coordinators for Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq, Ma'an, Irbid, and Ramtha (sites), who are conducting ongoing missions to implementing partners, NGOs and CBOs. During the reporting period, Mafraq coordinator organized a Cash Area Coordination meeting along the Governor and NGOs/CBOs.

UNHCR field staff report a noticeable increase in numbers approaching the Information Desks seeking information on services including health and educative services along with making appointments for registration at BO Amman.

Focus Groups Discussions that included Syrian male and female youth (as well as other nationalities such as Iraqis, Somalis and Sudanese youth) were held as a part of the UNHCR global review of its engagement with displaced refugee boys and girls. The FGD were held in Nawares Al Rahman Association in Amman.



@UNHCR/Ivan Bartolini 2012. UNHCR Field staff meet with Syrians at Info Desks around Jordan

Children and Gender Based Violence Sector

During the reporting period, child protection and GBV Working Groups meetings took place as well as a meeting on early marriage action plans in light of growing concern for young vulnerable Syrian women.

UNICEF partner Noor al-Hussein Foundation has supported some 500 vulnerable Syrian children and youths, and 250 parents, with psychosocial activities and remedial education in Ramtha.

A meeting was held with the Child Labour unit of the Ministry of Labour and it was agreed that UNHCR will provide training on refugee protection to the 20 child labour inspectors working in the Kingdom. Referral of identified child labour cases by labour inspectors to area coordination focal points was also agreed upon and an invitation to the child labour focal point to attend area coordination meetings was extended.

Reported cases of alleged SGBV were followed upon by UNHCR protection team, as well as unaccompanied minors cases. Protection presence was maintained in all three reception sites by UNHCR and appropriate interventions were carried out. In several urgent medical cases for children, fast track registration and referrals to JHAS were carried out and appropriate treatment was secured.



@UNHCR/Ivan Bartolini 2012

UNICEF is also monitoring the situation of vulnerable Syrian children together with partners, and maintains close collaboration with UNHCR to refer urgent child protection cases identified through field visits.

A UNICEF child friendly space has been set up at Cyber City transit facility to provide informal education and psychosocial support for children and their parents.

UNICEF has signed an agreement with Jordan Red Crescent to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable Syrian children and parents, as well as informal vocational training for youths, in East Amman.

Training and Capacity Building

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Education held two workshops for a core team of 80 school counsellors on 21 and 23 May. The workshops aimed to orient the counsellors on the psychosocial care and protection of children in emergencies. These 80 counsellors will hold orientation sessions at the regional level to strengthen support for vulnerable children in schools. The training also covered information about available services at a community level and use of the referral mechanism.

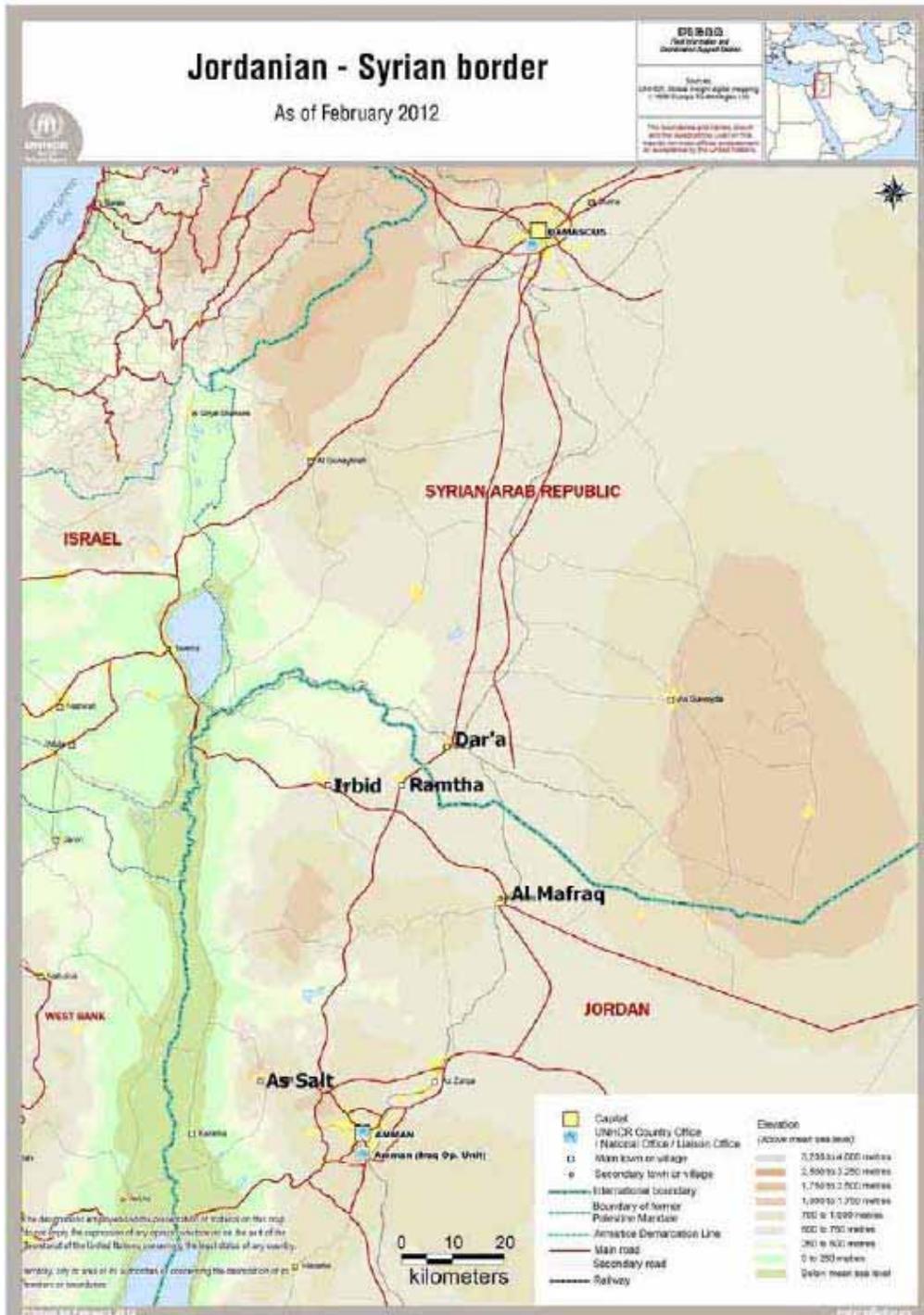
UNHCR has carried out numerous trainings during the reporting period, including training targeting Peacekeeping officers covering 33 persons of different ranks. Furthermore, training was conducted in Mafraq for security forces from the Militarily Intelligence, General Intelligence Department and members of the Governor's office for both Mafraq and Irbid Governorates. The training focused on international Refugee Law and the Jordanian national laws in dealing with refugees and asylum seekers. It also focused on article 33 and *non-refoulement* of a refugee which is present in both the MOU signed with the GOJ and in the Jordanian Constitution.

UNHCR legal unit also conducted training in Ramtha for the PSD personnel who are present in the 3 different transit sites for the Syrians in Ramtha. 35 officers from different ranks attended. The training focused on the international Refugee Law and the Jordanian national laws in dealing with refugees and asylum seekers. The training also discussed the code of conduct (COC) in dealing with persons of concern as well as the police COC.

Coordination:

On May 24th, the third Inter Agency Briefing for donors and operation partners on the Syria Situation was held. The coordination meeting, facilitated by UNHCR, was an opportunity for an update on working groups efforts as part of the Syrian response, to some 50 UN and NGO Partners. The event was also used to initiate the launch of the Regional Response Plan for Syrian Situation (RRP) revision process. Guidelines, process and formats for the RRP revision were agreed upon. As a follow up, sector working groups will now review the progress made against initial RRP targets, and revise RRP programmes until end of December 2012, with a new population planning figure of 70,000 individuals.

The revision is both an answer to increasing numbers of Syrians arriving in Jordan, along with broader contingency planning efforts between UN partners and the Government of Jordan. The meeting also covered the update of the Jordan contingency plan, which will be ready in early June. The updated contingency plan is an inclusive document, with figures and scenarios agreed upon in full partnership with Government of Jordan.



Contact

To be added to the Situation Report please contact, Aoife McDonnell at; mcdonnel@unhcr.org