



*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 registered Syrians in Jordan reached 31,873. This number now surpasses the number of Iraqis registered with UNHCR Jordan.
- Increase in numbers entering Jordan illegally, placing pressure on transit sites and resulting in more UNHCR registrations taking place in Ramtha than Amman during the reporting period. In response to the spike in arrivals, UNICEF mobilised 20 portable latrines within 24 hours. These latrines met the urgent needs of the nearly 2,000 people now at the facility.
- Cash assistance through iris recognition launched by UNHCR Jordan for the most vulnerable 293 cases, reaching 1,123 individuals, with the aim of reaching 3,000 of the most vulnerable cases by December 2012.
- As part of contingency planning, the Government of Jordan has agreed to the establishment of a refugee camp in the event of a major influx and as a last resort. The GoJ has entrusted JHCO as camp manager of the site in Za'atri, Mafraq governorate I partnership with UNHCR.

### II. Situation Overview

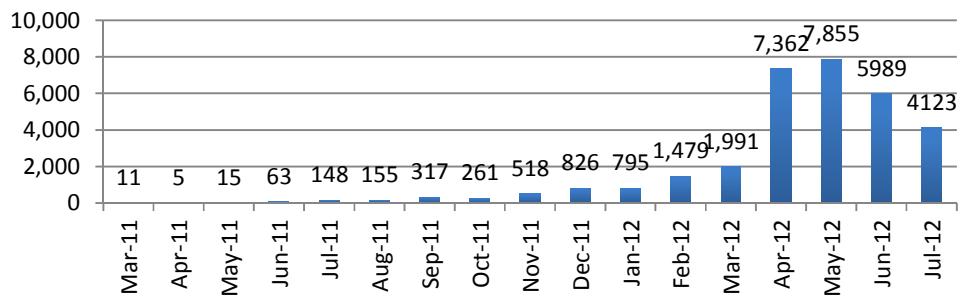
#### Registration and Numbers

UNHCR Jordan has registered 31,873 Syrian individuals, and for the first time more registrations took place in Ramtha transit centres than in Amman during the reporting period. UNHCR Jordan has reached a milestone with close to 32,000 Syrian registered with the Agency, a number which now surpasses the number of Iraqis registered in Amman.

In recent weeks Jordan has experienced a spike in the numbers crossing illegally, with as many as 900 crossings in one night, and in the past week, 2,301 individuals arrived. This increase, attributable to growing instability in neighbouring Syria, has resulted in overcrowding in the existing transit sites in Ramtha.

*Below: Registration trends per month from March 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 to mid-July*

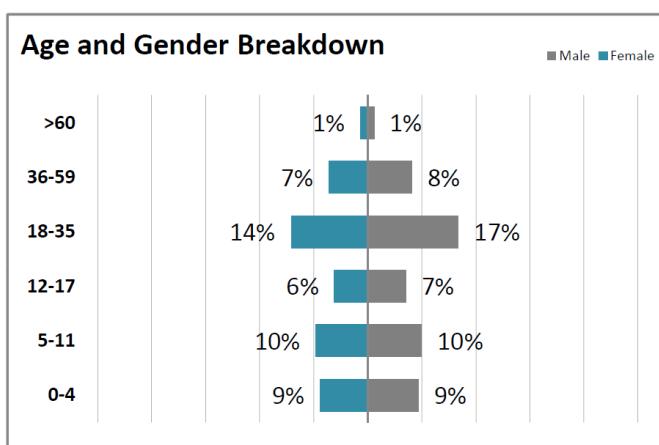
#### Number of UNHCR registered Syrian individuals since March 1st, 2011



79% of UNHCR registered Syrians registered in the past four months, with increasing numbers of women and children crossing the border (74% registered are women and children under the age of 18). Over half of the registered population are from Homs, however in the past fortnight, over 70% of those registered have been from Dara'a, an area close to the border with Jordan and the scene of reported violence in recent times.

The needs of those crossing are growing, with many leaving with little more than the clothes they are wearing, and following many months of unemployment. The needs of those who arrived earlier during the unrest are also growing as their resources rapidly diminish the longer they stay in Jordan, further exacerbated by the high rental and living costs in Jordan in comparison to neighbouring Syria.

27% of the Syrian case load are female headed households, with women and children under 18 making up 73% of registrations with UNHCR. 75% of registered families have four or more children. On closer analysis of adults from Homs (aged 18 – 59), a little over 90% are unemployed or manual workers, with 95% with an education level below the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.



### Transit Facilities/Sites in Al-Ramtha



*Bashabsheh transit site, Ramtha. UNHCR/Jordan/A. McDonnell*

Transit sites are managing to cope with increased numbers as the bailing system continues to work to alleviate pressure. During the reporting period, there was significant movement of people through the transit sites, as all illegal entries were funnelled through the Ramtha facilities. The Stadium in Ramtha was reopened due to congestion in Bashabsheh, with agreement from single males to return to the site. Families were then free to move to the King Abdullah Park container site. In light of the increase in illegal entries, a significant increase has also taken place in the bailing system, with some 3,000 individuals being bailed out to family members or friends.

As part of contingency planning, UNHCR welcomes the decision by the Council of Ministers for the establishment of a refugee camps to accommodate Syrian refugees in the event of large influx from

Syria, and as a last resort. Mafraq, a governorate bordering on Syria in the North of Jordan is the proposed area for the possible site. The large desert site, known as Za'atri was nominated by the Government of Jordan as part of a joint contingency planning process with UN partners.

As an initial emergency response, priority is the erection of the Rubb Hall warehouse as well as water and sanitation infrastructure. The site is seven square kilometres in area, with a potential capacity of 113,000 individuals. Construction work on latrines, water storage and warehouses will begin as part of the initial preparation work. The camp will be constructed based on a modular system, each module accommodating 5,000 individuals in tented accommodation, with a view to expanding as the need arises.

Based on UNHCR standards, there will be a designated common space in the centre of each module, which will accommodate a clinic for primary and secondary health care, a women's centre, and a community centre. In addition, each module will have an area for sporting activities, a child-friendly space and shaded community spaces for adults. In interest of safety in the Za'atri camp, fire safety boards will be erected in each module, with the goal of also training Syrians accommodated at the site to form a first response team.

The Government of Jordan has designated the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) as the body responsible for the management of the proposed refugee camps, in partnership with UNHCR.

## Emergency WASH



WASH facilities at King Abdullah Park/UNHCR Jordan/2012

Following the spike in the number of displaced Syrians in the Stadium transit facility, UNICEF mobilised 20 portable latrines within 24 hours. These latrines were organised to help meet the urgent needs of the nearly 2,000 people now at the facility.

UNICEF is mobilising to provide and maintain safe water, latrines, hygiene facilities, solid waste management and hygiene promotion activities in new sites currently being established in the northern governorate Mafraq (Zatari and Rana Zahrani sites).

UNICEF is providing assistance to meet the urgent water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in all transit facilities in Ramtha. To date, more than 11,000 displaced Syrians have benefited from this support. Water conservation and hygiene awareness sessions are also provided in the facilities. To date, more than 800 people, including 100 children, have attended these sessions.

9,000 baby hygiene kits have been procured and distribution of the first batch of 3,000 has begun in the transit sites.

## Food

WFP is providing hot meals to transit centres and family food packages to a third site, with the aim of transitioning to food vouchers upon availability of cooking facilities in the sites. UNHCR continue to provide supplementary food packages.

In the urban environment, WFP, through partners Jordan Red Crescent (JRC) and Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) have distributed 207 metric tonnes of family food packages reaching 23,400 vulnerable Syrians.

## **Health**

Through UNHCR and partner JHAS, 2,700 POCs (registered / non-registered) have been treated at primary and secondary services, through static clinics and Mobile Medical Units, including Mental Health and Psychosocial services. Furthermore, all UNHCR registered persons of concern are referred to governmental facilities at no cost.

During the reporting period, 22 Syrians were approved by ECC (UNHCR covered), for mostly emergency life-saving, trauma, complicated deliveries.

TB screening in transit sites are taking place with now over 1,300 individuals screened and awareness sessions reaching 4,975 individuals. Following screening, follow-up has taken place for 35 confirmed and suspected TB cases. IOM is using a portable X-Ray vehicle to screen PoCs

Health coordination meetings are taking place in Amman, and Ramtha, to address the main challenges of access for persons of concern .

## **Women's Health and Reproductive Health**

UNFPA's continues to support to Ministry Of Health's female room in Al Bashabsheh and JHAS's RH clinic in Cyber City through the provision of medical equipment and much needed medication providing the needs of 10 000 individuals for up to 3 months.

UNFPA has provided 500 Hygiene kits (also referred to as UNFPA Dignity kits) targeting 2,500 individuals for distribution by UNCR.

UNFPA's RH services has reached 2,978 women through JHAS's static clinics and medical mobile units. Through the Ministry of Health's female room, UNFPA's RH services have reached 557 women.

UNFPA has furnished community room in Cyber City.



*UNFPA Female room in Bashabsheh >> @UNFPA Jordan/2012*

UNFPA has started awareness raising sessions and targeted psychosocial support through NHF's IFH program to all sites and host communities.

## **Protection**

Favourable protection space has been maintained in Jordan, in spite of increased number of arrivals, with an open dialogue between UNHCR and Government of Jordan to respond and address protection issues.

Capacity building activities and training continued (upcoming camp management training for government counterparts and protection training for child labour inspectors at the MoL).

20 Quick Impact Projects to be completed by end of July 2012 across Ramtha, Mafraq and Ma'an including a well in Mafraq to increase and improve water capacity for the host community, the Governor's building in Ramtha is under rehabilitation, garbage collection, and a community park for children, to be serviced with a mobile library has been completed with UNHCR partner IRD.

## Children and GBV in Emergency

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

UNHCR and UNICEF are conducting follow-up on unaccompanied minors, there are some 29 unaccompanied minors identified in transit sites.

UNICEF and partners are supporting vulnerable Syrian children and family members with psychosocial activities in Ramtha and Ma'an delivering child protection awareness raising activities in key areas, and providing case management and referrals to vulnerable Syrians in key areas. Nearly 6,500 children and family members have been reached with this assistance.

A UNICEF tent has been released for use as a child friendly space in the King Abdullah Park transit site where children and families will now be accommodated.



One of UNICEF's child protection posters for transit sites

On 5 July International Medical Corps delivered an information session in Ramtha on how to use the interagency referral form. This is the first of a series of capacity building activities for service providers working in child protection and gender-based violence.

UNICEF has signed an agreement with the Family Guidance and Awareness Centre to provide psychosocial activities and remedial education to vulnerable Syrian children and family members in Zarqa.

UNFPA and IFH signed an agreement which enable the implementing partner to provide psychosocial support and awareness rising on GBV and RH in Bashabshe and Cyber City as well as to refugees living within the host communities. The activities have started last week and will last for the next six months.

Preparation is underway to conduct the following trainings: 120 MOH Health service providers on how to identify, counsel and care for GBV survivors; 60 Family Protection Department/Border Patrol and police personnel on identification and care for GBV cases; 20 MOH service providers on clinical management of rape; 20 MoH trainers – ToT – on provision of psychosocial support for survivors of GBV.

## Education and Psychosocial Support

UNICEF, in collaboration with partners and the Ministry of Education, began school-based summer holiday remedial education classes in mid-June, targeting 5,500 vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian children in 15 directorates. To date, 3,500 Syrian and 500 Jordanian children are attending these activities. UNICEF partner Save the Children International is providing recreational activities and psychosocial support in 40 public schools to complement these activities. UNICEF has distributed 64 education kits and 28 psychosocial kits to public schools hosting the activities.



A. McDonnell@ UNHCR Jordan/2012

Save the Children Jordan and UNICEF have held eight awareness raising sessions in Zarqa and Amman to inform people about the summer activities in schools. Some 275 Syrian parents and 565 children attended these sessions. Some 1,000 brochures to inform parents and children about the activities have also been distributed.

UNICEF partner Questscope is carrying out a programme study to examine literacy levels among displaced Syrians in four governorates. The outcome will inform the implementation of upcoming informal education activities.

## CASH/Non- Food Items



In response to the growing needs, UNHCR Jordan this week launched its cash assistance programme through iris recognition for 293 of the most vulnerable Syrian cases, reaching 1,123 individuals.

UNHCR Representative, Andrew Harper, described the project as a “world first using technology and systems developed in Jordan with worldwide applications to enhance accountability and with the ability to reduce costs and potential for fraud, and as a means to protecting the dignity of the most vulnerable.”

The assistance is intended to be used to cover rental costs. 446 cases have been approved for July inclusion, with 3,000 registered families (15,000 individuals) to benefit from Cash Assistance by December 2012. Assistance is to be provided for three months, and can be extended following review process.

In line with increasing accountability avoidance of duplication of assistance, UNHCR is launching a bar coding system which will also seek to improve tracking and monitoring of NFI assistance.

*<< Syrian person of concern registers with Cairo Amman Bank/UNHCR/2012*

UNHCR has distributed 660 basic needs vouchers distributed to registered and unregistered in Amman, Irbid, Karak, Ma'an, Mafraq, Ramtha, and Zarqa.

UNHCR has prepositioned NFI stock for 3,000 individuals/600 families for the Za'atri site as a contingency measure.

## Coordination

The fourth Inter-Agency briefing to donors and operations partners took place during the reporting period. Attended by over 100 persons representing Embassies and organisations, UNHCR Representative briefed the group on contingency measures in place in the event of a mass influx, including the early preparation work currently being carried out by UNHCR and UNICEF. In addition, the chairs of sector working groups presented an update on activities.

The UNICEF Representative in Jordan undertook a field visit to Mafraq on 24 June to meet with the Governor of Mafraq and the education and water authorities, as well as visiting UNICEF-supported school-based summer activities and child protection partners.

Area coordination meetings are on-going, bringing local and national partners together with UN counterparts to address challenges in the response on a local level. Co-chaired by local governors and UNHCR area coordinators, UNICEF participated in area coordination meetings in Mafraq, Ramtha and Ma'an with relevant actors.



## Contact

To receive the Situation Report please contact Aoife McDonnell at; [mcdonnel@unhcr.org](mailto:mcdonnel@unhcr.org)