

## UNICEF Syria Crisis Sub-regional Situation Report Jordan/Lebanon/Turkey/Iraq

07 May 2012

### Highlights:

- **More than 54,100 registered refugees** to date in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, over half of them children (UNHCR, May 2012).
- Ceasefire violations are occurring in Syria as **UN monitors continue to arrive in the country** in increasing numbers to monitor the Syrian Government's implementation of Kofi Annan's Six Point Plan (UN Peacekeeping Chief, May 2012).
- The second **Syria Humanitarian Forum** took place on 20 April and featured a briefing by the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator on the humanitarian situation in Syria and priority actions in the draft Syria Response Plan, as well as a briefing by UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator on support provided to Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq (UNHCR, May 2012).
- Working alongside host governments and UNHCR, **UNICEF continues to provide leadership** in the areas of education, child protection and WASH, in support of displaced Syrian children.

### Situation Overview

Ceasefire violations by Syrian government and opposition forces continue as more UN observers arrive in the country to monitor the Syrian Government's implementation of Kofi Annan's Six Point Plan (UN Peacekeeping Chief, May 2012). Following the UN Security Council's authorization of the deployment of 300 unarmed military observers for a 90-day mission in Syria, there are currently about 50 monitors on the ground in Syria.

The Syrian Government-led UN/OIC assessment mission conducted in March 2012 in Syria estimated the number of affected people at **one million, of whom around 470,000 are children and adolescents**<sup>1</sup>. The UN/OIC response plan was presented to the government and is under review.

### Impact on Syrian Children in the Sub-region

The combination of escalating levels of violence, disruption of services and livelihoods threatens to put more children's lives at risk. To date, more than **54,100 people are estimated to have fled the violence** in Syria, taking refuge in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq (UNHCR, May 2012). It is estimated that **around half of all displaced Syrians are children and adolescents**, who continue to face interruption of schooling; limited access to basic services; and psychosocial distress caused by witnessing violence and displacement.

In Lebanon, some 24,000 displaced Syrians are receiving assistance, **13,582** of them registered with UNHCR. It is estimated that there are around 2-3,000 unregistered refugees in Tripoli and another 9,000 in the Bekaa Valley. This increase is due to further outreach and verification exercises, which revealed larger numbers of displaced families in the area. There are more limited concentrations of refugees in the Beirut area, with around 790 registered with UNHCR (April, UNHCR). In Jordan, **14,252** Syrians are now registered with UNHCR, with **4,251** more awaiting registration. In addition, local organizations have identified 30,000 Syrians in Jordan as in need of assistance.

According to the Turkish Government, the number of displaced Syrians currently sheltered in tent camps on the border totals **23,298** (May 2012). The number of displaced Syrians who have crossed into Iraq currently stands at **2,970** (May, UNHCR). The majority of registered refugees are in Dohuk, where there are 2,321 individuals. There are 583 individuals registered in Erbil and 66 individuals registered in Sulaymaniah. The majority of displaced Syrians in Iraq are adults. Registration is managed by UNHCR and the Department of Migration and Displacement (DDM).

<sup>1</sup> 46% of the Syrian population are under 18 - UNICEF SOWC 2011

*On 23 March 2012, the UN and its humanitarian partners issued an appeal for US\$ 84 million to help Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. The Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) outlines the response needs for Syrian refugees who have fled the country since March 2011, as well as anticipating the needs of future arrivals. The plan is an inter-agency framework led by the UNHCR and the result of a coordinated effort between seven UN agencies (including UNICEF), 27 national and international NGOs, and host governments. **UNICEF's funding requirement from the RRP is US\$ 7,416,000; representing 8% of the total RRP funding requirements** (please see funding table on the last page for details). Should current refugee flows continue as per current trend, and should funding be made available, UNICEF aims to be in a position to assist up to **40,000 children and adolescents in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, including children of host communities**. UNICEF Iraq stands ready to respond should the need arise.*

## Inter-Agency Collaboration & Partnerships

Under the overall coordination of UNHCR in Jordan and Lebanon, **UNICEF is working with various partners** through emergency working groups and task forces that involve key Ministries, UN agencies and national and international NGOs. UNICEF continues to provide **leadership to the education, child protection (particularly psychosocial support) and WASH sectors**.

In **Jordan**, as lead agency for the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (formerly Children and Women's Protection) and Education sectors, UNICEF co-chairs working group meetings for both these sectors, discussing areas for potential collaboration and ways to strengthen coordination of efforts. Meetings for the Education Sector working group take place monthly, co-chaired by Save the Children International, while meetings of the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence sector, led by UNICEF and UNHCR, take place every two weeks. UNICEF also continues to participate in fortnightly Syria Taskforce meetings led by UNHCR. Coordination at Governorate level is ongoing. UNICEF is participating in operational meetings in Ramtha and Ma'raq, involving UN agencies, local authorities and NGOs. Coordination meetings will continue in other Governorates including Ma'an and Irbid in coming weeks.

In **Lebanon**, UNICEF actively participates in UNHCR-led bi-weekly national Inter-Agency Coordination Meetings. Bi-weekly sectoral meetings held separately in the two response regions of the country, Akkar and Bekaa, now include Protection Working Groups and it is agreed by participants that Child Protection will be mainstreamed into these Protection discussions. This is in addition to the national Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group, co-chaired by UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs. Shelter Working Group meetings have recently added a WASH Working Group component, which is co-facilitated by UNICEF and UNHCR. Education Working Group meetings in both locations are co-facilitated by UNHCR and UNICEF/Save the Children Sweden.

In **Turkey**, and as a member of the UNCT, UNICEF continues to receive information from Turkish authorities on the situation of Syrian women and children in the camps. UNICEF remains ready to respond if and when the need is established.

In **Iraq**, UNICEF is collaborating with UNHCR, the DDM, and with Syrians (including youth) to assess the required technical support for the emergency response. UNICEF Iraq is recommending to continue health and nutrition awareness campaigns including breastfeeding, complementary feeding and immunization of children through the Directorate of Health; to continue monitoring essential water and sanitation service delivery to ensure adequate provision continues; to collaborate with the Directorate of Education to establish a plan to enable school-aged children to continue their education; and, work with the Child Protection Committee in Dohuk and partners to monitor child protection issues such as psychosocial support and emergency response training.

The **UNICEF Regional Office** continues to provide surge capacity, leadership and oversight to support the response in the sub-region, in line with agreed inter-agency coordination mechanisms.

## UNICEF Programme Response to Date

In Syria, UNICEF and its partners are providing assistance to Syrian children in need (both displaced children and children of host communities), in the areas of Health, Nutrition, Education, Child Protection and provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs). During the month of April 2012, **UNICEF and its partners were able to reach 22,000 people, including more than 18,000 children**, with First Aid Kits, remedial and recreational activities, psychosocial support, and NFIs.

## **Programme Response in the Sub-Region**

As UNHCR's key partner in providing support to more than **54,100 registered Syrian refugees** in the sub-region (of whom **an estimated 50% are children**), UNICEF is focusing on areas where it has a comparative advantage. In doing so, UNICEF is supporting displaced Syrian children, as well as children of host communities with a view to provide equitable services to all those in need.

Throughout the sub-region, UNICEF has prioritized the facilitation and promotion of increased access to formal and informal education for all children within host governments' schooling systems (other than Turkey due to language constraints), as well as provision of psychosocial care through the establishment of recreation opportunities and establishment of referral systems where needed. The response undertaken by the UNICEF Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey Country Offices is summarized below:

### **Jordan**

**UNICEF Portion of RRP Budget for Jordan: US\$ 4,116,000**

**Total RRP Budget for Jordan: US\$ 39,645,749**

*In Jordan, 14,252 Syrians are now registered with UNHCR, with 4,251 more awaiting registration. In addition, local organizations have identified 30,000 Syrians in Jordan as in need of assistance, and the Government of Jordan estimates 100,000 displaced Syrians are in the country.*

The first draft of the joint rapid needs assessment is being finalized with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and is due for release in the coming weeks. The report will include analysis of Education and Child Protection issues.

**Protection:** UNICEF has signed agreements with International Medical Corps and Terre des Hommes to provide community-based child protection and psychosocial services as well as case management for vulnerable Syrian families and host communities in targeted areas of Jordan including Ramtha, Irbid and Mafrq. UNICEF and partner organizations continue to support displaced Syrian children and family members with psychosocial support. Since December 2011, UNICEF has assisted a total of more than 1,600 vulnerable Syrian children and family members with psychosocial support in Jordan.

UNICEF continues to monitor 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, with particular attention to the Ramtha facility. During the reporting period field visits were conducted to Ramtha, Mafrq and Zarqa.

The Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Working Group, led by UNICEF and UNHCR, liaised with the ILO to agree on procedures and referral of child labour issues. Specific information about how to respond to child labour will be included in the referral network document for the organizations, currently under development. UNICEF chaired the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Working Group meeting on 26 April. The group has expanded to include gender-based violence against men, and new partners continue to join. UNICEF has prepared a draft of key messaging around protection issues to raise awareness at the community level. The draft will be finalized with the Working Group in coming days. UNICEF plans to sign agreements with Zenid to provide child protection services and psychosocial activities to vulnerable Syrian children next week.

**Education:** UNICEF is supporting 5,500 children with free access to public education across the country through the Ministry of Education. UNICEF and partner organizations continue to support displaced Syrian children and family members with remedial education. Since December 2011, UNICEF has assisted a total of more than 1,600 vulnerable Syrian children and family members with remedial education in Jordan. To date, UNICEF has also supported some 4,000 Syrian children in Jordan with information about school enrolment and necessary follow-up. UNICEF has finalized its agreement with Questscope to provide informal education activities for displaced Syrian children in Ramtha, Mafrq, Irbid and Amman. As lead agency for the Education Sector, UNICEF chaired the Working Group meeting on 23 April. On 30 April UNICEF hosted a coordination meeting for operational agencies on informal and non-formal community-based education services. The Education Working Group has agreed to refer child labour cases to Save the Children Jordan, who will link with Questscope and other actors to provide necessary follow up services. The Education Working Group is in the process of mapping education interventions by geographical location to assist in coordination of activities.

**WASH:** UNICEF has taken the lead in emergency WASH interventions in all camp-like settings in coordination with the Jordanian Government and UNHCR. Assessments were conducted for sanitation and hygiene facilities at alternate sites in Ramtha, including Cyber City, Stadium and King Abdullah Park. UNICEF has begun work with partners on operationalizing water and sanitation systems in the Cyber City building in Ramtha that will shortly house vulnerable Syrian families. UNICEF partner ACTED has purchased new water tanks, and begun plumbing works to connect them to the building, to provide drinking water. ACTED stands ready to deploy water trucks once people start moving in. Similar work at King Abdullah Park will soon follow. UNICEF, through ACTED, is maintaining and cleaning sanitation and hygiene facilities in the Beshabshe facility. Hygiene promotion activities have begun, reaching some 120 women through focus groups to date. Future hygiene promotion activities will be aimed at men. Hygiene promotion will be ongoing as there is high turnover of residents.

## **Lebanon**

**UNICEF Portion of RRP Budget for Lebanon: US\$ 2,250,000**

**Total RRP Budget for Lebanon: US\$ 28,997,551**

*In Lebanon, 24,000 displaced Syrians are receiving assistance, 13,582 of them registered with UNHCR. North Lebanon currently hosts around 13,000 displaced Syrians and latest estimates are that a further 9,000 are in the Bekaa valley and around 790 people in and around Beirut. The number of people arriving on a daily basis continues to increase and verification is ongoing.*

In North Lebanon, UNICEF identified 36 Syrian families which were not registered and their presence and need for assistance was highlighted by the municipality. There is a normal flow of Syrian migrant workers in the agricultural sector due to the season; however this year many are also bringing their families and the 36 families appears to be mixed, including families of migrant workers and others. The families stay in temporary shelters in agricultural areas and there are concerns for the children and vulnerable women who are living in difficult conditions without access to assistance. UNICEF, in collaboration with UNHCR will assess this group in the coming period. Urgent WASH concerns are also emerging as the strain on household infrastructure capacity increases. During the reporting period, hosting households have requested support for water storage, water trucking and emptying of septic tank as the cost of this has significantly increased. Water shortages normally experienced during dry summer months may also require a response to support the Syrian families and their hosts. UNICEF is in discussion with WASH partners to consider options for response.

**Protection:** The Child Protection in emergency working group, co-led by UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs has agreed on guidelines and standards to be used in the creation of Child Friendly Spaces. The working group has also commissioned a short mission to map the child protection and psychosocial services available in the areas in the north and Bekaa valley. A senior social worker will be assigned to conduct the work for the establishment of a referral mechanism and standards for case management related to child protection concerns. A capacity training matrix has been developed for the different training initiatives related to psychosocial support, child protection and school integration. The development of Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) is still in the process with NGO partners, however it is expected that PCAs will be signed with Terres de Hommes and War Child Holland the first week of May.

**Education:** In partnership with Save the Children, UNICEF has launched the Rapid Assessment in Education, covering North Lebanon and Bekaa. This will provide a starting point for defining the education needs of the Syrian refugee children and identify information gaps and emerging issues for consideration and will inform responses to identified needs, as well as serve as a baseline for monitoring and evaluation purposes. A consultant has been hired and is currently conducting focus groups with parents and teachers in Akkar. UNICEF is close to signing a PCA for the summer camps and the selection of schools where the summer camps will be organized are soon to be finalized.

**WASH:** The WASH Working Group is being co-chaired by UNICEF and UNHCR in Bekaa and North Lebanon. Urgent water issues are emerging for host families, as added people to the household increases the economic burden for water trucking, water storage and sewage disposal and this is proving increasingly difficult for many people. In the country ACF and ACTED have arrived as NGOs with emergency water expertise and UNICEF is assessing their capacities to respond and is coordinating their possible activities.

**Health:** UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, YMCA and IMC are in the process of designing and implementing a joint health Communication for Development (C4D) campaign focused on health education in areas where there are Syrian refugees. The group has identified key health topics and corresponding messages to be

disseminated among the population in order to address the persistence of misconceptions about a series of health topics. As agreed upon by all partners, "Facts for Life" by UNICEF will serve as reference text for this purpose and will be complemented as needed by other relevant material recommended by partners.

## **Turkey**

**UNICEF Portion of RRP Budget for Turkey: US\$ 650,000**

**Total RRP Budget for Turkey: US\$ 12,356,800**

*The total displaced Syrian population in Turkey in nine locations with eight tent cities and one container site located in the border provinces of Hatay, Gaziantep, and Kilis is 23,298 according to the Turkish Government (May 2012). The largest number of displaced Syrians is now located in the newly established container camps in Kilis with more than 9,000 people.*

UNICEF visited the Container Camp in Kilis in a joint mission with UNHCR on 27 April 2012. Overall investment, infrastructure and management of the camp by the Turkish authorities are above standards. Basic needs are being addressed through a comprehensive set of services and facilities.

**Protection:** There is no specialised Child Protection system in place, but health, security and social work professionals respond to cases as part of overall protection response. However, adolescents and youth are especially in need of qualified training and education, as well as creative and empowerment activities, so as to avoid destructive behaviours and negative habits that may affect them and the rest of the camp community.

**Education:** Education is being generally provided in the camps and is planned to be expanded, in line with the Turkish curriculum.

## **Communication**

For recent Human Interest Stories and videos on UNICEF support to Syrian refugees in the sub-region, follow the links below:

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon\\_62283.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_62283.html)

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon\\_62222.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_62222.html)

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/syria\\_62068.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/syria_62068.html)

An article on UNICEF's work supporting education for displaced Syrians in Jordan appeared in the Jordan Times on 27 April 2012 <http://jordantimes.com/syrian-students-in-jordan-offer-lesson-in-hope>

## **Fund Raising - UNICEF Regional Response to the Syrian crisis (Syria excluded)**

<i>Funding requirements in US\$ - Summary per sector per country</i>						
<i>Updated 21 March 2012</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Turkey</b>	<b>MENARO</b>
Child Protection	2,350,000	32%	800,000	800,000	650,000	100,000
Education	3,710,000	50%	2,785,000	825,000		100,000
Health & Nutrition	606,000	8%	531,000	75,000		
Water, Hygiene & Sanitation	650,000	9%		550,000		100,000
Non Food Items	100,000	1%				100,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>7,416,000</b>		<b>4,116,000</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>650,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>

*Prior to the launch of the RRP, UNICEF received generous contributions from Norway (US\$ 536,970), Germany (US\$ 511,393), and the French National Committee (US\$ 393,186). UNICEF since then also recently received contributions from the Dutch National Committee (US\$ 664,011), the UK National Committee (US\$ 316,456), the Swiss National Committee (US\$ 275,635), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (US\$ 190,124), and the US Fund (US\$ 42,000). A funding pledge of around US\$ 1.3 million from SIDA is expected to be received soon.*

During the reporting period UNICEF Lebanon submitted a proposal to the Said Foundation and is continuing to pursue the donors that are present in the country. A meeting is planned with the Red Crescent of UAE in the first week of May, as they were a large contributor to UNICEF's emergency response during the war in 2006. A joint UN meeting with donors was organized during the last week of April and the RC expressed difficulties in mobilizing funds for the emergency and urged donors to increase their efforts to meet the needs of the refugees.

UNICEF Jordan has submitted funding proposals to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Union, CERF, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, ECHO and the Arab Gulf Programme for Development.

**Note:** All in all, UNICEF has thus far received around US\$ 3.3 million against its total requirement of US\$ 7.416 million within the RRP. **Additional funding is needed extremely urgently** for UNICEF to be able to continue to expand its programme outreach towards all Syrian children in need in the sub-region, alongside UNHCR and partners.

## Operations

**Human Resources:** In order to complement and boost its current capacity for the emergency response to the Syria crisis, UNICEF Offices in Syria and the Sub-Region are in the process of immediately recruiting international and national posts in the areas of emergency coordination, child protection, education, WASH, supply-logistics and information and reporting. Ten staff have already been deployed and additional human resources surge may follow, as needed.

**UNICEF Jordan** is strengthening staff capacity to support the emergency response. A WASH Officer and a Child Protection Officer began work during the reporting period.

**UNICEF Lebanon's** international surge capacity from standby partners is currently comprised of a Logistic Officer, a Communication and Reporting Officer, a Child Protection specialist and a WASH Specialist. In addition, the office has finalized the recruitment process of a National Education Officer and a new international Emergency Coordinator has joined the team.

### Supply

**Jordan:** UNICEF has procured 7,000 school kits, containing essential supplies to assist vulnerable children attending schools in targeted areas of Jordan. The kits are now in country and UNICEF is working with partners and community-based organizations to identify areas for distribution.

**Lebanon:** 100 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, 50 School in a box and 80 recreational kits have been released from customs and are now stored in UNICEF's warehouse in Tripoli. A total of 1,467 hygiene kits have been distributed in the north and in Bekaa valley, expecting to benefit 5,868 children, as well as 1,000 Jerry cans and 615 plastic buckets. UNICEF is in the process of developing a PCA with DRC for the procurement and distribution of baby hygiene kits.

***The next SitRep is planned for 21 May 2012***

**For further information, please contact:**

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