

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

4 June 2012

Situation Highlights:

- The **third Syrian Humanitarian Forum** will be held on 5 June to discuss humanitarian priorities.
- **67,665** registered refugees to date in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, over half of them children and adolescents (UNHCR, June 2012).

Programme Highlights:

- In Syria, **UNICEF and its partners were able to expand their activities to reach 52,000 people, including more than 37,000 children**, with First Aid Kits, remedial and recreational activities, psychosocial support, and NFIs (between 20 and 31 May 2012).
- The number of Syrian children attending public schools in Jordan has reached **more than 7,300**. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to provide these children with free access to education.
- A joint assessment of public wells in Ramtha Jordan was carried out by UNICEF, UNHCR, Mercy Corp and Japanese Emergency NGO (JEN). UNICEF will support the rehabilitation of two wells to **boost the water supply for host communities and transit facilities** in Ramtha.
- Preliminary findings from a gaps assessment in the north of Lebanon done through UNICEF's implementing partner ACTED indicate an **above normal occurrence of diarrhoea among children**, linked to unsanitary conditions and water contamination.

Situation Overview

UN Refugee Coordinator for the region, Panos Moumtzis announced last week that the estimated **number of displaced Syrians in the country has more than doubled to 500,000** since the April 2012 ceasefire. Moumtzis also added that Syrians were still leaving for Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, in numbers that are influenced by the level of violence in the country.

UNOCHA with OIC will chair the **third Syrian Humanitarian Forum in Geneva on 5 June**, where the humanitarian response progress will be discussed in light of the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan recently agreed to by the government.

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, **67,665** people have fled the violence in Syria and registered as refugees in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq (UNHCR, June 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, there are now over 26,500 Syrians refugees receiving assistance, of whom **17,041** are registered and an estimated 50% of the registered are children (UNHCR, June 2012). It is estimated that there are around 3,000 unregistered refugees in Tripoli and registration in the North continues to be slow paced due to the ongoing security situation in Tripoli and recent unrest in Akkar. Formal registrations have started in Bekka valley and 1,893 displaced people have been registered in Aarsal and Saadnaye. Registration will continue in the Bekaa until some additional 7,500 people have been registered. There are more limited concentrations of refugees in the Beirut area where 883 have been registered with UNHCR and there are around 1,300 Syrians entering on a monthly basis (UNHCR, June 2012).

In Jordan, **21,778** Syrians are now registered with UNHCR, of whom an estimated 50% are children, with **2,500** more awaiting registration. In addition, local organizations have identified 30,000 Syrians in Jordan as in need of assistance. Displaced Syrians in Jordan are concentrated in northern governorates and in Amman.

According to Turkish Government, the number of displaced Syrians currently sheltered in tent camps on the border totals **24,433** (June 2012). In Northern Iraq, **4,413** Syrian nationals of Kurdish origin are registered with UNHCR, (June 2012) in collaboration with the Department of Displaced and Migration (DDM). The majority are hosted by the Governorate of Dohuk where there are 3,215 individuals and a further 243 Syrian persons awaiting registration. This is followed by Erbil with 698 individuals and Sulaymaniyah with 125 individuals.

*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 Programme Response to Date

Programme Response in the Sub-Region

As UNHCR's key partner in providing support to **67,665 registered Syrian refugees** in the sub-region (of whom **an estimated 50% are children and adolescents**), 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, Turkey and Iraq 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, 21,778 Syrians are now registered with UNHCR, with 2,500 more awaiting registration. In addition, local organizations have identified 30,000 Syrians in Jordan as in need of assistance.

Child Protection: To date, UNICEF together with partners has provided assistance to **more than 5,000 vulnerable Syrian children and family members** with psychosocial support in Jordan. A UNICEF tent has been set up as a Child Friendly Learning Space at Cyber City transit facility to provide informal education and psychosocial support for children and their parents. 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 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.

Members of the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Working Group have begun work to update the Regional Response Plan to reflect the growing protection needs of the increasing number of displaced Syrians in Jordan. Noor al-Hussein Foundation is now the co-chair of this working group. UNICEF and UNFPA will rotate the chairmanship responsibilities.

UNICEF has signed an agreement with the Jordan Red Crescent to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable Syrian children and parents, as well as life skills activities, in East Amman.

Education: The number of **Syrian children attending public schools in Jordan has reached more than 7,300**. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to provide these children with free access to education. UNICEF and partner Save the Children Jordan (SCJ) are supporting displaced Syrian children and family members with information about school enrolment and necessary case management. Since January, **4,700 vulnerable Syrian children** have been reached by UNICEF partner SCJ and 1,500 of them have been registered in public schools. SCJ have also conducted 16 awareness sessions in Ramtha, Mafraq, Irbid and Amman to provide parents with information about school enrolment.

UNICEF, in collaboration with partners and the Ministry of Education, is preparing to deliver school-based remedial education classes during the summer school holidays, beginning mid-June and 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. UNICEF is also finalizing an agreement with East Amman Charity to provide informal education, recreational activities and life skills training to vulnerable Syrian children and youth.

WASH: UNICEF is working with ACTED to meet the urgent water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in all transit facilities in Ramtha. UNICEF is providing safe water, sanitation and hygiene services at Bashabshe, Cyber City and Stadium transit facilities. The number of people accommodated at these facilities peaked at some 1,200 individuals during the reporting period. Solid waste management is organized in the Bashabshe and Cyber City facilities. Hygiene awareness sessions are also provided in the facilities.

UNICEF and partner ACTED have operationalized WASH facilities at King Abdullah Park transit facility in Ramtha. A joint assessment of public wells in Ramtha was carried out by UNICEF, UNHCR, Mercy Corps and Japanese Emergency NGO (JEN). UNICEF will support the rehabilitation of two wells to boost the water supply for host communities and transit facilities in Ramtha.

On 17 May, UNICEF participated in a field visit to Mafraq to assess the WASH requirements at a potential new transit site for displaced Syrians. As part of the UN contingency planning, on 29 May UNICEF took part in a further joint assessment of potential new sites in Mafraq to house displaced Syrians, with UNHCR, ACTED, JEN, Mercy Corps and Islamic Relief. UNICEF has also begun work to assess the water supply and needs in Mafraq to identify possible areas of intervention to support the host community. 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.

Lebanon

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

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

In Lebanon, more than 26,000 displaced Syrians are receiving assistance, 17,041 of them registered with UNHCR (June 2012). Latest estimates are that a further 7,500 are in the Bekaa valley and 3,000 in Tripoli. In addition, 883 refugees have been registered in the Beirut area. The number of people arriving on a daily basis continues to increase and verification is ongoing.

Protection: To date, UNICEF Lebanon has supported the establishment of five Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) benefitting 300 children, and outreach activities have been conducted in the surrounding communities. 45 teachers, community workers and caregivers have been trained on psychosocial interventions, as well as identification of psychosocial difficulties and referral mechanisms.

During the reporting period, Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) were signed with War Child Holland (WCH) and Terres de Hommes (TdH-It) for the implementation of nine Child Friendly Spaces in Tripoli (2), Akkar (4) and Bekka Valley (3). The four Child Friendly Spaces in Akkar are already operating, expected to benefit 320 children directly. TdH has identified schools for the three centres in Bekka valley and UNICEF is negotiating with the Ministry of Education for the use of these schools.

For the next reporting period, it is expected that two more PCAs will be signed with Save the Children and Association Culturelle for Child Friendly Spaces in Walid Khaled and Hermel (Bekka Valley), expected to benefit 600 children directly. A proposal will also be developed with the NGO Amel for establishment of Child Friendly Spaces in Bekaa valley and it is expected that the three Child Friendly Spaces implemented by TdH in Bekaa valley will be operational in the next coming weeks.

Education: In partnership with Save the Children, UNICEF is currently conducting a Rapid Assessment to gain an overview of the educational conditions and the needs of the refugee children in the north and Bekka valley. The first preliminary findings show that the dropout rates are reaching nearly 50% amongst the Syrian enrolled children in the Wadi Kahled area of Akkar. The findings also highlighted issues such as lack of transportation, high discrimination against the Syrian students, language barriers (mainly French), and most importantly the non-attendance of school children. The assessment will identify the type of activities to be implemented and will provide baseline data. Schools have been identified for the implementation of summer camps which will provide Syrian children with a six-week intensive reading and writing course, aimed at reintegrating them into the Lebanese public school system. The summer day camps are expected to commence on 11 June in six public schools in the Bekaa valley. In the next coming weeks, PCAs will be developed with Mouvement Social and Save the Children for vocational clubs for out of school children age 12-17 and a school empowerment project that will target 6 -12 year olds.

WASH: To date, UNICEF has distributed 1,467 hygiene kits, benefitting around 5,868 Syrian children mainly in Akkar and Bekaa valley. Preliminary findings from the gaps assessment in the north done through UNICEF's implementing partner ACTED indicate that there is above normal occurrence of diarrhoea among children, linked to unsanitary conditions and water contamination. The gaps assessment done by ACF in the Bekaa valley is still ongoing and the preliminary report is expected by mid-June. In order to improve coordination between shelter and WASH, combined meetings will be scheduled from now on to ensure a more comprehensive response for people living in collective shelters and in host communities.

For the next reporting period the assessment reports will be finalized and based on the findings, PCAs will be developed with ACTED and ACF. It is also expected that the PCA with DRC for the distribution of baby hygiene kits will be finalized and signed in the next coming weeks.

Health and Nutrition: To date, ten health, social and community workers were trained on UNICEF's flagship publication 'Facts for Life'. This is aimed at addressing the most urgent concerns and priorities related to a healthy and protective environment for all children by providing families and communities with the information they need to save and improve the lives of their children.

A PCA for the training of health workers is being finalized with YMCA and the selection of trainees has been completed in Akkar where 15 health workers have been selected. The selection process is still ongoing in Bekaa and is being supported by IMC. The training in Akkar will start on 6 June and it is expected that the 15 health workers will start their outreach session around 11 June. The training of health workers in Bekaa is expected to start in the coming weeks with subsequent outreach sessions.

Following the initiative of the UNICEF Jordan Country Office, UNICEF Lebanon is finalizing the preparation of the nutrition survey for the North and Bekaa valley. A proposal has been received by the implementing partner ACF for the sampling and contact was established with WHO. The assessment is planned to start by 15 June.

Turkey

UNICEF Portion of RRP Budget for Turkey: US\$ 650,000
Total RRP Budget for Turkey: US\$ 12,356,800

The total number of displaced population in Turkey is currently 24,433 according to the Turkish Government, of whom an estimated 10,500 are children and adolescents (June 2012). The ten civilian camps are spread along the border over four provinces. The authorities are transferring newcomers as a priority to Kilis (Oncupinar), Gaziantep (Islahiye) and Sanliurfa (Ceylanpinar) so as to keep a balanced distribution among the camps. Families with children are given priority to Kilis and family reunification is criteria for the selection of one of these three camps when transferring people from Hatay.

A request from the Turkey UN Country Team (UNCT) for funding from the Rapid Response window of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was approved. UNICEF Turkey was granted funding to provide safe educational and recreational and psychosocial care for children affected by the Syrian crisis, in alignment with the RRP. Through the RRP, UNICEF plans to reach some 22,500 Syrian children with key interventions in education and child protection, and some 5,000 people with WASH interventions.

Protection: The one-day joint mission with UNHCR to the Container Camp in Kilis in late April revealed that there are reportedly no unaccompanied minors. However, issues such as legal guardianship and decision-making concerning separated children may need to be examined.

Education: Education is being generally provided by the Turkish Government in the camps and is planned to be expanded, in line with the Turkish curriculum. Turkish bilingual teachers are working and vocational training is being made available in most camps.

Iraq

UNICEF Portion of RRP Budget for Iraq: N/A

In Northern Iraq, 4,413 Syrian nationals of Kurdish origin are registered with UNHCR, (June, 2012) in collaboration with the DDM. 243 Syrians are currently awaiting registration.

Child Protection: UNICEF and its partners established a Child Friendly Space to provide an opportunity for recreation activities for Syrian children in the Domiz camp with the support of community volunteers. Psychosocial support is being provided to the children at the Child Friendly Space in collaboration with the Mental Health Unit of the Directorate of Health in Dohuk. UNICEF is also advocating for the creation of a Protection Unit for children and women at the Domiz camp that will receive and respond to complaints from children and refer cases for assistance as necessary. Mine Risk Education (MRE) has been provided for new arrivals and will continue for those arriving in the camp. The Child Friendly Space was set up through an existing Standby Agreement with the NGO ACTED, while MRE is provided by Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) with support from Handicap International and Mine Action Group (MAG). In collaboration with UNICEF, the Dohuk Child Protection Committee plans to undertake regular visits to monitor the situation of children and the ongoing activities in the camp.

Education: An assessment to map out actions required to commence education activities, identify existing resources and strategies to address the gaps is underway through the Education Working Group supported by UNICEF, the Directorate of Education and UNHCR. After agreeing, UNICEF convened the first Education Working Group Meeting in Dohuk and reviewed the needs and actions required to commence education activities in Domiz camp in early June.

WASH: With leadership from UNICEF and UNHCR, the WASH Working Group was established and will convene the first meeting at the Domiz camp this week to review the overall situation of water and sanitation in the camp. The working group will define indicators and develop a monitoring and reporting mechanism.

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, Education, and WASH sectors, UNICEF co-chairs working group meetings for these sectors, discussing areas for potential collaboration and ways to strengthen coordination. UNICEF also continues to participate in fortnightly Syria Taskforce meetings led by UNHCR, as well as fortnightly area coordination meetings in Ramtha, Mafraq and Ma'an with relevant actors, including UN agencies, local authorities and NGOs.

Revision of the Syria RRP is underway. UNICEF is leading the Education, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence, and WASH sections. The revised RRP will cover March to December 2012,

In **Lebanon**, UNICEF actively participates in the UNHCR-led bi-weekly national Inter-Agency Coordination Meetings. During the reporting period several coordination meetings were cancelled due to the security situation. UNICEF called for the re-activation of the education in Emergencies unit and together with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and partners will support the unit to finalize an action plan that will serve the current Syrian emergency, as well as any impending crisis.

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 continues to participate in UNHCR-led inter-agency coordination meetings to review the situation of Syrian arrivals in the Kurdistan Region and to jointly discuss interventions and coordinate assistance.

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.

Communication

An article covering UNICEF support to Syrian school children in Jordan appeared in Alrai newspaper on 29 May. The article can be accessed (in Arabic) at <http://alrai.com/article/516536.html>

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>	Total	%	Jordan	Lebanon	Turkey	MENARO
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
Total Cost	7,416,000		4,116,000	2,250,000	650,000	400,000

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 SIDA (US\$ 1.3 million), 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).

During the reporting period UNICEF Lebanon has reviewed and resubmitted a proposal for US\$ 453,000 to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The CERF was finalized and a letter of confirmation was received from the ERC for the Child Protection proposal. It is expected that the response for WASH will follow in the next coming days.

UNICEF Jordan has submitted further funding proposals to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Union, Norway, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, ECHO and the Arab Gulf Programme for Development. UNICEF participated in an operational briefing with donors on 24 May, sharing programme updates for the Education, Child Protection and Gender Based Violence and WASH sectors. UNICEF participated in a joint field visit with UNHCR accompanying a delegation from Sweden on a field visit on 30 May to Ramtha.

Note: All in all, UNICEF has thus far received around **US\$ 3.8 million** (more than 50%) against its sub regional RRP requirement of US\$ 7.4 million. **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 respond to the needs and boost their current capacity for the emergency response to the Syria crisis, UNICEF Offices in the region have recruited international and national posts in the areas of emergency coordination, child protection, education, WASH, supply-logistics and information and reporting. 12 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. In addition to the staff already recruited for the emergency (Child Protection Officer, Reports Officer and Field Support Specialist), a Child Protection Specialist from the UNICEF Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPT) Office has been deployed to UNICEF Jordan for one month.

UNICEF Lebanon's surge capacity currently comprises a Logistic Officer (MSB), a Communication and Reporting Officer (NRC), a Child Protection specialist (RedR), a WASH Specialist (Irish Aid), an Emergency Coordinator, an Emergency Chief of Operations, a National Education Officer, a Logistic Assistant and a driver.

UNICEF MENARO has recruited a Supply and Logistics Specialist, an Information Management Specialist, a Communication Specialist and a Fundraising and Donor Reports Specialist, to support UNICEF's sub-regional response.

Supply

Jordan: UNICEF is in the process of procuring 9,000 baby hygiene kits, utilizing a long-term agreement with a local supplier. 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.

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

Lebanon: 13 recreational kits and ten Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits were distributed to Save the Children, and six recreational kits and three ECD kits have been distributed to TdH. 50% of the stock from the warehouse in Tripoli has been repositioned to the warehouse in Raz Al Ayn in the south due to an increase in security incidents in Tripoli.

The next SitRep is planned for 18 June 2012

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