

# SYRIA REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey

Monday 24 September 2012



This weekly update provides a snapshot of the response of the United Nations and its partners to the influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. The response is led by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and is undertaken in full co-ordination with host Governments, UN agencies, and NGO partners.

This report covers the period from 15 to 23 September 2012.

## Highlights

### Second Revision of the Regional Response Plan for Syrian Refugees

- Owing to a dramatic increase in the number of refugees fleeing to Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey in the past few months, agencies taking part in the regional response have revised their plans until the end of the year 2012. The revised document which brings together over 50 UN agencies and international and local NGOs will be launched in Geneva on Thursday 27 September.

### Al-Qa'im border crossing reopens (Iraq)

- On 18 September 2012, Al-Qa'im border was reopened, allowing Syrian refugees access to Iraq. Over 120 refugees were able to cross and were directed to the new camp of Al-Qa'im which currently provides shelter to 2,600 individuals. All border crossings into Iraq are now open.

### New Syrian refugee arrivals in September

- The first three weeks of September have seen the arrival of some 45,000 Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries. Although much less than in August, new arrivals have continued at a rate of a few thousand a day.



### UNHCR Special Envoy visit to Iraq

- UNHCR High Commissioner António Guterres and Special Envoy Angelina Jolie completed their tour of Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey on 14 September.
- After that the Special Envoy travelled to Iraq to meet with the authorities, Iraqi IDPs and returnees, as well as Syrian refugees. The visit included a stop in Domiz Camp (Kurdistan Region) which currently hosts 8,500 Syrian refugees.

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## Refugee Numbers as of 23 September 2012

| Syrian refugees        | Jordan** | Lebanon | Iraq   | Turkey | Total   |
|------------------------|----------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| Registered             | 52,634   | 53,233  | 16,398 | 84,084 | 206,349 |
| Awaiting registration* | 41,425   | 21,304  | 14,156 | -      | 76,885  |
| Total                  | 94,059   | 74,537  | 30,554 | 84,084 | 283,234 |

\* Figures are based on estimates and may vary.

\*\* According to the Government of Jordan, there are currently more than 200,000 Syrians in Jordan.

# Jordan

**There are now 52,634 Syrians registered with UNHCR in Jordan.**

## Registration and Protection

- The number of Syrians awaiting registration has considerably increased, doubling in the past month to 11,200 individuals. An average of 815 individuals per day are making appointments at UNHCR's office in Amman, and at UNHCR Help Desks in Ramtha, Irbid, Zarqa and Mafraq.
- There has been a slight drop in the number of arrivals at the border in recent days, with an average of 388 Syrians crossing each night. The security situation along the border remains precarious for refugees attempting to cross.
- The vast majority of Syrians continue to arrive from the governorate of Dara'a, over 53% registered refugees originating from villages, town and cities in that governorate, but predominantly the villages of Atman, Da'el, Sura, Hrak Kherbet Ghazala and Mahjeh.
- Some Syrians have recently departed from urban areas where they were settled in Jordan to come to Za'atri Camp due to economic hardship and lack of resources.

## Za'atri Refugee Camp

- The larger improved registration area is now fully operational: refugees arriving by night now have a place to rest, and receive food, water, blankets and sleeping mats, before the next day, when tents are assigned to them, and they are given non-food items (NFIs).
- The UNHCR-Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS) primary healthcare center is receiving upwards of 200 consultations a day. UNHCR will build a second primary healthcare clinic in the coming week.
- Work on communal kitchens has accelerated, and 87 blocks (176 kitchens) are on the verge of completion. Each block has two kitchens, and each kitchen will serve 12 families. UNHCR is aiming to complete the first group of kitchens by the beginning of October, to allow WFP to transition to dry food rations, with complementary food provided by UNHCR. The work and design of the kitchens has been carried out in consultation with the refugee community, who will play a lead role in the transition, and in the running of these kitchens.
- WFP is providing hot meals on daily basis to close to 30,000 people (60,000 meals/day).
- UNICEF reported that the school at Za'atri will be open by 26 September for an initial group of 2,200 students. Schooling will start in tents until the arrival of prefabricated units. Refugee children will be taught the local curriculum by Jordanian teachers.
- On 20 September, UNICEF delivered 1,043 cubic meters of water to Za'atri. A total of 87 WASH centers have been established corresponding to 435 latrines, sinks, and showers.
- Refugees, UNHCR's Community Services Team and NGO Intersos are working together to increase the representation of women and Syrians from areas other than Dara'a (Homs and Damascus) among refugee community leaders.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council is carrying out an on-site assessment for the winterization of the camp. While UNHCR is expecting a donation of 2,500 prefabricated units in the coming week from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, tents will still be necessary due to the large number of refugees already in Za'atri, as well as continuing new arrivals.
- Since its establishment at the end of July, Za'atri has seen one wedding and the birth of 16 babies.



New reception facilities, Za'atri Camp ©UNHCR 2012/M. Fawe

## Host Community Assistance

- Over the past week, UNHCR provided one-time urgent cash assistance to 41 families (171 individuals). The assistance is generally provided to cover the cost of rent or urgent medical care.
- WFP continues to distribute dry food vouchers twice a month to support vulnerable Syrians in Jordanian host communities. With 19,000 beneficiaries reached in August, WFP will aim to assist 35,000 Syrians by the end of September.
- Water remains a key priority which is why UNICEF is working on boosting the existing water capacity by 15% by the end of the year. UNHCR and UNICEF have planned the delivery of 12 water vehicles which will help poor communities most affected by the refugee influx.

# Lebanon

**Over 74,537 Syrians are receiving protection and assistance in Lebanon: 52,233 are registered with UNHCR and 21,304 have approached UNHCR to be registered.**

**To help refugee children continue their education, the Lebanese Ministry of Education has extended the registration period in public schools and has offered to provide support to any school who have insufficient space to welcome Syrian children.**

## Protection

- Over 400 Syrians arrived in Northern Lebanon last week from Homs and Damascus, most entering Lebanon legally through Masnaa crossing point and settling in the North because of family ties. Many reported difficulties in departing from Syria.

## Assistance

- In North Lebanon, WFP, UNHCR and UNFPA respectively distributed food kits and vouchers, hygiene kits and baby kits, and sanitary materials to over 3,600 individuals (730 families).
- In Bekaa, WFP, UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) continued the monthly distribution of food, hygiene and baby kits to 5,260 individuals (1,052 families) and Caritas distributed food kits and non-food items (NFIs) including blankets and mattresses to 865 newly arrived refugees (173 families).
- In Beirut, UNHCR, Caritas and the Makhzoumi Foundation are distributing food and non-food items (NFIs) to registered Syrians and organizing outreach activities through local municipalities and NGOs.
- Some Lebanese families who had been living in Syria are returning to Lebanon and are in need of assistance. IOM, WFP and UNHCR are in discussions with the Lebanese High Relief Commission (HRC) on ways to include this population in assistance and services.

## Education

- Since the start of school enrolment in September, a total of 965 Syrian children have registered and received education grants in the North and 740 children in the Bekaa have been registered and given bags, shoes, uniforms, and books/stationary coupons.
- Save the Children International reported that over 90 refugee families a day were coming forward in the Bekaa to register their children. The capacity of schools to absorb large numbers nonetheless remains a challenge.
- UNICEF and UNHCR are working to help refugee children integrate in schools with remedial classes, particularly in French and English.



Syrian children attending remedial classes,  
Lebanon©UNHCR 2012/D. Sleiman

## Health

- UNHCR and IMC covered the lifesaving hospitalization of 24 refugees while the Islamic coalition of NGOs and Arab Medical Doctors assisted with the health coverage of unregistered medical cases in North Lebanon.
- In the Bekaa, International Medical Corps (IMC) continues to provide basic health and hygiene awareness sessions and to refer refugees in need of special care to local clinics.
- Refugees in Southern Lebanon and Beirut receive primary and secondary healthcare services from UNHCR in partnership with Caritas and the Makhzoumi Foundation. Local NGOs, and primary healthcare centres and dispensaries are also assisting, giving access to free medical exams and ad-hoc provision of available medication.
- Funding gaps currently risk disrupting secondary healthcare coverage as well as access to medication.

## Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNHCR and DRC are continuing to seek solutions for Syrian families who are still residing in schools.
- DRC is expanding the shelter capacity in Akkar by providing prefabricated shelters for single family occupancy in addition to increasing the number collective shelters. In the Bekaa, DRC started rehabilitating the Mdoukha and Makassed schools in Saouiri and repair work is also underway in the Ain Ata School where three families are temporarily residing.
- UNICEF, in partnership with Action Contre la Faim (ACF), continues to deliver potable water to displaced families in the Bekaa valley, reaching over 4,300 people on a weekly basis.

## Iraq

The total number of Syrian refugees in Iraq stands at 30,554 refugees, close to 4,000 arriving between 13 and 19 September.

Following the reopening Al-Qa'im border crossing on 18 September 2012, 120 refugees were allowed to cross since, including families with children, women, as well as the elderly and injured persons. Most were directed to the new camp of Al-Qa'im which currently provides shelter to 2,647 individuals.



Al-Qa'im Camp©UNHCR 2012/ F. Al-Saghban

### Protection

- The Residency Directorate has resumed the process of granting residency permits to all Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region (KR), including those living in urban areas. So far around 4,000 Syrians have received residency permits.
- UNHCR is increasing its capacity in order to speed up registration and reduce waiting periods for Syrian refugees.

### Shelter, Water and Assistance

- In Domiz Camp, the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) continues to provide potable water to families and individuals by tankers, however, the recent increase in numbers in the camp means that the 440,000 litres provided per day are no longer sufficient. Urgent work is therefore underway to provide the constructed deep well with chlorine, power supply, and a diesel and generator operator in order to cover shortages in water.
- In Al-Qaim Camp, UNICEF continues the construction of latrines and showers for 93 new tents. UNHCR also provided hygiene kits and is organizing awareness-raising sessions about sanitation and hygiene issues in the camp.
- Over the past week, WFP distributed food items to 880 families (3,840 individuals) in Domiz Camp. Items included salt, sugar, lentils, and vegetable oil. UNHCR distributed 399 hygiene kits to families recently arrived in the camp.

### Education and Health

- A current priority for the Department of Health is to increase the medical assistance capacity in the camp of Domiz. A request was made to the visiting Minister of Health to expand the camp clinic and establish an additional caravan for patients.
- In Al-Qa'im, UNHCR and UNICEF have established seven tents to be used as school classes. Supplies are to be provided by UNICEF. The school could see up to 750 children enrolled.

### Iraqis leaving Syria

- Over 2,000 Iraqis departed from Syria in the past week, bringing the total number having crossed back into Iraq since June 2012 to 37,358 individuals. Most appear to be going to the Governorate of Baghdad followed by Anbar and Ninewa.

## Turkey

According to the latest update from the Government, there are currently 84,084 Syrian refugees registered and assisted in camps along the border with Syria.

UN and Arab League Special Envoy Mr. Al-Akhdar Al-Ibrahimi visited Hatay and the camp of Altinozu on 18 September 2012.

- The Turkish Authorities are advising that the borders are open for new arrivals. However, between 8,000 and 10,000 Syrians are believed to be waiting at the borders of Kilis and Hatay in Syria. They are receiving food, water and medicine and are being admitted into Turkey in groups and transferred to camps as quickly as processing allows.
- According to local authorities, the camps in Kahramanmaraş and Osmaniye are now operational, which brings the total number of camps to 12. An additional four new camps are being prepared. When all camps are complete, Turkey will have the capacity to host 130,000 people.

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