

SYRIA REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey

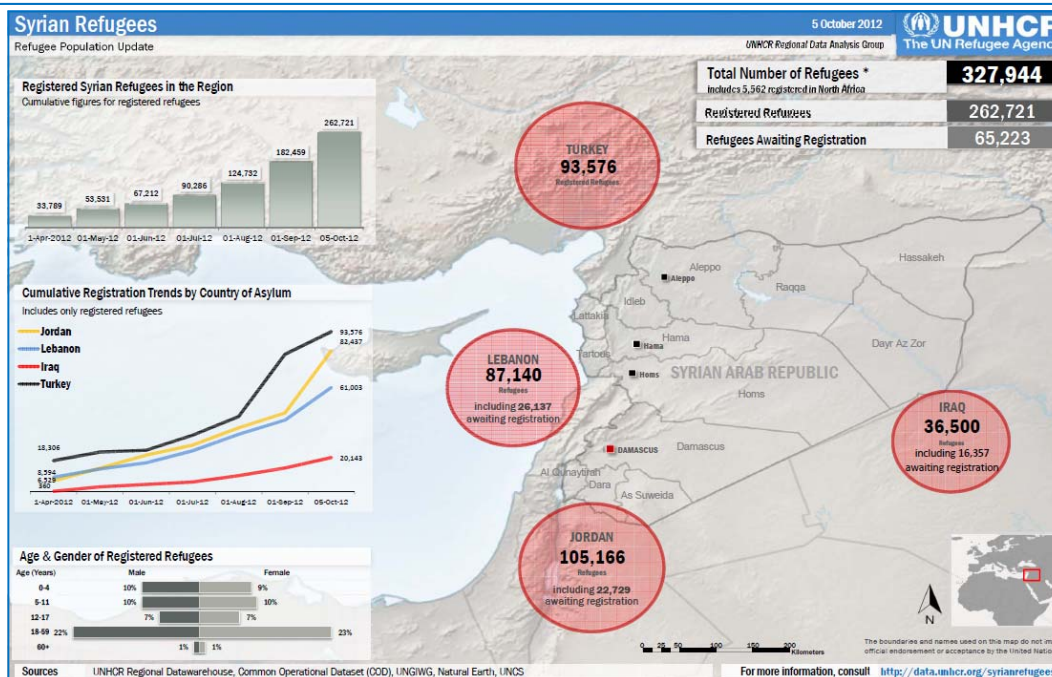
Friday 5 October 2012



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, Turkey and beyond. The response is led by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in full coordination with host Governments, UN agencies, and NGO partners. This report covers the period from 1 to 5 October 2012.

Highlights

- Frustration and worsening weather conditions in Mafraq (due to rain, sand storms and dropping temperatures) sparked unrest among refugees in Za'atri camp over the past week. As a result humanitarian agencies in the camp experienced difficulties in providing services and some damage was done to various installations, including a primary healthcare clinic and the Civil Defence container. When calm returned, UNHCR, the Governor, the Head of Police and the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) met with refugee representatives to find ways to jointly address issues of concern and improve conditions in Za'atri.
- This week during clashes in Syria close to the Turkish border, the Turkish town of Akcakale was hit by heavy artillery which claimed the lives of five Turkish civilians and wounded several others. The situation in this area which hosts one Syrian refugee camp is extremely tense. Local authorities have temporarily closed schools and noted a drop in the number of Syrian arrivals from the border crossing. Akcakale camp currently provides shelter to over 12,000 Syrians.
- In Lebanon, over 19,000 refugees received food vouchers and kits, hygiene and baby kits, and blankets and an additional 4,500 students enrolled in public schools this week, bringing the total number of Syrian refugee students registered in school to 7,852.



Refugees registered and/or receiving assistance as of 4 October 2012

Syrian refugees	Jordan*	Lebanon	Iraq	Turkey**	North Africa***	Total
Registered	82,437	61,003	20,143	93,576	5,562	262,721
Awaiting registration	22,729	26,137	16,357	-	-	65,223
Total	105,166	87,140	36,500	93,576	5,562	327,944

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

** These figures correspond to the number of Syrians currently registered and assisted in camps only.

Jordan

UNHCR recorded the arrival of over 1,000 Syrian refugees over the past week, however, the number of Syrians registering and requesting registration in Amman significantly increased as the number of Syrians approaching helpdesks in Mafraq and Irbid rose to over 2,000 individuals.

Thursday 4 October saw the official opening of Za'atri school by UNICEF. Work on the Bahraini school is also rapidly moving forward.

- UNHCR is currently planning implementation of a winterisation package in both urban and camp settings. For Syrian refugees in the urban context, this will include a bonus as part of the cash assistance program to cover heating costs and other cold weather necessities. Clothing vouchers and basic needs vouchers will also be distributed to the most vulnerable. In Za'atri, informed by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) winterisation assessment, an adapted non-food item (NFI) package will be distributed to provide warmth during winter months, including a high thermal blanket, plastic sheeting.
- This week also saw the first dry food rations (WFP) and complementary food (UNHCR) distributions by Save the Children International according to family size. The food distribution is being carried out through a bar coding system in order to avoid duplication and is recorded in the Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) to speed up processing time and currently takes only three minutes. WFP, UNHCR, JHCO and refugee representatives are assisting in providing oversight. Dry food rations included rice, lentils, bulgur wheat, pasta, oil, and sugar.
- The International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) Inter-Agency base camp has opened providing a 24-hour prefabricated office space for operational partners in Za'atri. IHP also constructed the UNHCR registration compound, with a team of seven volunteers.



With many refugee arrivals taking place at night, UNHCR has teams working in shifts to welcome and counsel Syrians crossing into Jordan at any time ©UNHCR 2012

- Camp site planning updates: progress includes the drilling of boreholes by Mercy Corps with the initial phase expected to be completed in one month.
- Access road: to address the congestion along the sole access road into Za'atri, construction on the second access road is expected to be completed shortly.
- Planning is underway for construction of a visitors area where families can visit relatives in the camp.
- Community mobilization continues to be a priority at Za'atri, with elections taking place for the Women's Committee, which has representation from Dara'a, Homs and Damascus. Elections also took place for the Men's Committee facilitated by UNHCR community services and Intersos.
- UNICEF has completed 87 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) units, amounting to 510 latrines and 510 showers. In addition, 57 chemical toilets are available in different areas of the camp (30 at the school, nine for persons with disabilities and four in the Moroccan hospital).
- The Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS) clinic saw 131 patients, along with 142 patients at the reception area (new arrivals). Six patients received mental health services through IMC and 34 women received reproductive health (RH) services, mainly antenatal care, family planning and gynaecology consultation thanks to UNFPA. 35 patients were referred to hospital for further medical examination and treatment (nine inside the camp and 26 to public hospitals).
- UNFPA in partnership with NHF/IFH provided the following services in the women and youth space: one recreational activity, attended by 25 women, two one-to-one counselling sessions on RH, one-to-one psychosocial support sessions and eight young women aged 15 participated in a interactive session on basic life skills for youth.

Lebanon

Over 87,000 refugees are currently receiving assistance through UNHCR and its partners, including 3,000 individuals registered in the past week. North Lebanon continues to host the largest share with 39% of the refugee population, followed by 29% in the Bekaa Valley and 2% in Beirut.

In preparation for winter, agencies are stockpiling blankets and other winterization items. UNHCR and its partners are also working to ensure the sustainability of such services throughout the winter months and all shelter initiatives integrate interventions designed to maximise insulation and protection from humidity and the cold.

Protection

- UNHCR registered over 3,000 refugees this week at its centres in Tripoli, Baalbek, and Beirut. A temporary UNHCR office was set-up in Aarsal where registration will start on 8 October. UNHCR will begin formal registration in south Lebanon on October 22 using Caritas' premises in Ghazieh, Sidon.
- UNHCR, UNICEF, and Save the Children International (SCI) are working together to improve protection referral mechanisms and are training front line health and social workers from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) working in Social Development Centres (SCDs) on how to detect protection risks and ensure proper referrals.
- Border towns in Wadi Khaled continue to be shelled occasionally from Syria and several shooting incidents were reported in Tripoli. While agencies are vigilant regarding security issues in the delivery of their programme, there has so far been no disruption of assistance due to security incidents.

Assistance

- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) concluded a round of distribution in Tripoli and the Bekaa with over 17,000 people receiving WFP food vouchers, WFP food kits (for those newly registered), UNICEF baby kits and UNHCR hygiene kits. UNHCR and DRC also distributed food kits to some 450 Lebanese who recently fled Syria. The Caritas Migrant Centre also distributed food kits, hygiene kits, and blankets to an additional 2,000 people in the Bekaa and Tripoli. Makhzoumi Foundation and Caritas Migrant Centre distributed food kits and hygiene kits to refugee families in Beirut and Sidon.

Education

- There are currently 7,852 children registered in schools and the deadline for enrolment has been extended until 10 October. UNHCR, UNICEF, Save the Children International (SCI) and Mouvement Social are supporting refugee families by covering tuition fees and providing educational supplies.
- Syrian children are already experiencing difficulties in adapting to the Lebanese curricula. The provision of remedial support is essential particularly for children in secondary school, which is why UNHCR and partners are expanding their educational support targeting children over the age of 14.

Health

- Many Syrians have been approaching UNHCR and International Medical Corps (IMC) for emergency medical assistance. In the North, 25 such cases were admitted to hospitals this week. The cost of secondary health care for these cases was covered by UNHCR, IMC, the Qatari Red Crescent (QRC), Arab Medical Doctors and the Islamic Coalition of NGOs.
- Regarding mental health assistance, IMC has begun providing services in two MoSA centres in Hermel.

Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- In North Lebanon, the Akroum mosque is undergoing renovations and three pre-fab houses where single families can reside are being installed. DRC is installing 16 additional prefabs in Akroum with the help of eight skilled workers from the refugee community. Refugees are also assisting DRC in renovating the septic tank of the Mounseh shelter and finalizing rehabilitations on the Ibra shelter.
- UNHCR and its partners are also working to relocate 14 families living in active public schools, in addition to some 70 refugees living in the Rama shelter who will mostly be relocated to the Tekrit shelter.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is rehabilitating 165 host community homes across Akkar that are offering shelter to over 1,000 refugees (214 families). This initiative is essential given that members of the host community, who are also in need of assistance, have been offering their homes to refugee families for many months. In the Bekaa, 85 host homes in Aarsal, Saadnayel and Al Fakeha are receiving similar assistance.
- Another shelter option in the Bekaa is identifying and completing works on unfinished homes. NRC is rehabilitating over 30 such houses in Aarsal and six in Saadnayel with plans to finish an additional 40

Shelter box being built in Wadi Khaled, North Lebanon ©UNHCR 2012/

Bathoul Ahmed



Iraq

Over the past week, a total of 2,796 Syrian refugees fled to Iraq, the majority (2,207) entering the Kurdistan Region, and the rest (769) via Al Qai'm where the authorities still maintain some restrictions on entry, limiting the number of new arrivals to around 100 persons a day (generally women, children under 12 years and men over 50). The border crossings of Al Waleed (Anbar Governorate) and Rabi'aa (Nineveh Governorate) remain open but saw no new Syrian arrivals.

As of 3 October, there were 30,101 Syrians hosted in the Kurdistan Region. Duhok in particular hosts 23,949 Syrians, followed by Erbil, with 4,921 and Suleimaniya with 1,231. UNHCR has accordingly expanded its registration capacity in the Kurdistan Region with an additional 11 staff, currently being trained, and ten new registration cabins.

Al-Qa'im

- In Al Qaim, the total number of Syrians accommodated in the camp currently stands at 5,412 (3,185 individuals in Camp 1, and 2,227 individuals in Camp 2). Official approval from the Government to establish a third camp at Al-Obaidi-Al Qa'im has been obtained. Once established, this camp will be able to accommodate up to 25,000 refugees.
- Work is underway to complete the road between the two existing (UNHCR and Ministry of Displacement and Migration) camps. UNICEF has supplied and erected eight large tents to be used to create a market place. Five generators were delivered and installed (three 250 KAV, one 50 KAV and one 35 KAV).
- WFP has installed a rub hall and will shortly start to distribute food baskets for refugees in coordination with UNHCR. Syrians will also start receiving kerosene for cooking and heating at a rate of 20 litres of kerosene per month per family. UNHCR and Islamic Relief Worldwide will additionally provide 30 litres per month per family starting mid-October.
- UNICEF supporting a Child Friendly Space where 100 children/ day benefit from recreational activities (including painting, drawing, reading, sports and singing and dancing) designed to also provide psychosocial support.
- So far, UNICEF has also set up 191 latrines, 190 showers, 78 septic tanks, 110 drinking water points (six taps each), six tanks (10,000 litres), three 45,000-liter tanks, 47 wash basins and 6,500 m of water networking.
- In order to improve medical services available to refugees in Al Qa'im camp, emergency cases will henceforth be referred to Al-Qaim Hospital and Islamic Relief Worldwide will identify the members of the camp medical team in coordination with the health directorates.



General view of Al Qa'im camp ©UNHCR 2012

Domiz Camp

- As of 3 October, around 19,000 individuals were residing in Domiz camp. Works are underway to expand and strengthen services, infrastructure and WASH facilities in Domiz which are currently under strain due to the number of new arrivals.
- One transit area has been extended and 220 new tents installed. The authorities have installed 16 emergency latrines out of a total of 55 planned to cope with the rising number of refugees in the camp.
- The Kurdistan Region's Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) continues to provide potable water to families and singles thanks to tankers. There is concern over the risk of water contamination due to way it is transported from the points of extraction (bore holes) to the households.
- On 1 October the Minister of Health announced a cholera outbreak in Suleimaniya with some cases also reported in Kirkuk. UNHCR and Department of Health (DoH) have made preparations for a potential cholera outbreak in the camp and three tents have been set aside to be used as a 'stabilization' cholera unit in case of need.
- On 1 October, DDM discontinued the provision of three hot meals a day to single men which system was replaced with UNHCR and IOM having distributed cooking sets/stoves.
- The enrolment of Syrian refugee children continues through the Department of Education which has extended the enrolment deadline until 15 October.

Turkey

A new tented camp has opened in Gaziantep Nizip and started welcoming new refugees. It was already hosting 500 Syrians as of 3 October. This brings the number of operational camps in Turkey for Syrian refugees to 14 across seven border provinces. An additional two camps are currently under construction: one in Gaziantep Nizip (container site) and another in Akcakale (tented site).

- According to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there are currently 12,000 Syrians (8,000 at the Kilis and 4,000 at the Hatay borders) waiting to cross into Turkey being gradually admitted.
- In addition to the influx of Syrians, Turkey has also seen an increase in the number of urban asylum applications over the past 15 months many of them related to the crisis in Syria. The new arrivals consist mostly of Iraqis, Iranians, Afghans and others who have come to Turkey seeking protection.



Turkish refugee camp of Kahramanmaraş ©UNHCR 2012

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