

# SYRIA REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

## Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey

18 November 2012



This 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 26 October to 18 November 2012.

### Highlights

- Refugee numbers are continuing to rise significantly with 65,000 additional Syrian refugees in October and another 50,000 in the first two weeks of November alone. Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan have all three surpassed the 120,000 refugee mark, while Iraq's refugee population continues to grow steadily by over 500 a day. There are now more than 430,000 Syrian refugees in the region, including in North Africa, who are registered and/or are receiving assistance from host governments and the agencies involved in the Regional Refugee Response.
- A regional meeting was organised in Amman on 14 November to validate the latest review of Syrian refugee hosting countries' contingency plans. UN agencies and NGO partners in the region came together to endorse the scenarios which might arise in the coming months and agreed on the necessary planning, coordination and stockpiling to ensure maximum preparedness.
- Work on the next Regional Response Plan is underway in the countries hosting Syrian refugees. The Plan which will cover the period from January to June 2013, will be presented in December together with the next Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan.



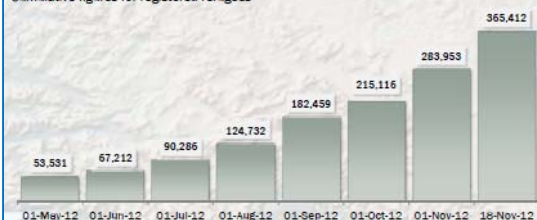
Refugees in the camp of Al Qa'im (Iraq) prepare for the winter by putting up new tents ©N.Ramazonov UNHCR/2012

## Syrian refugees registered and/or receiving assistance as of 18 November 2012

### Syrian Refugees

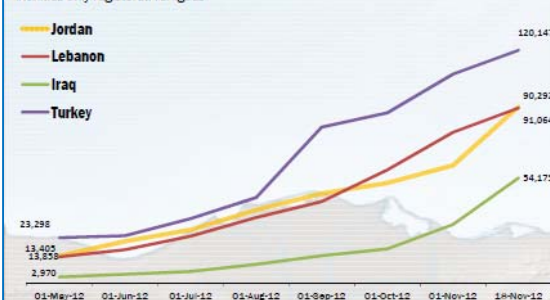
#### Registered Syrian Refugees in the Region

Cumulative figures for registered refugees



#### Cumulative Registration Trends by Country of Asylum

Includes only registered refugees

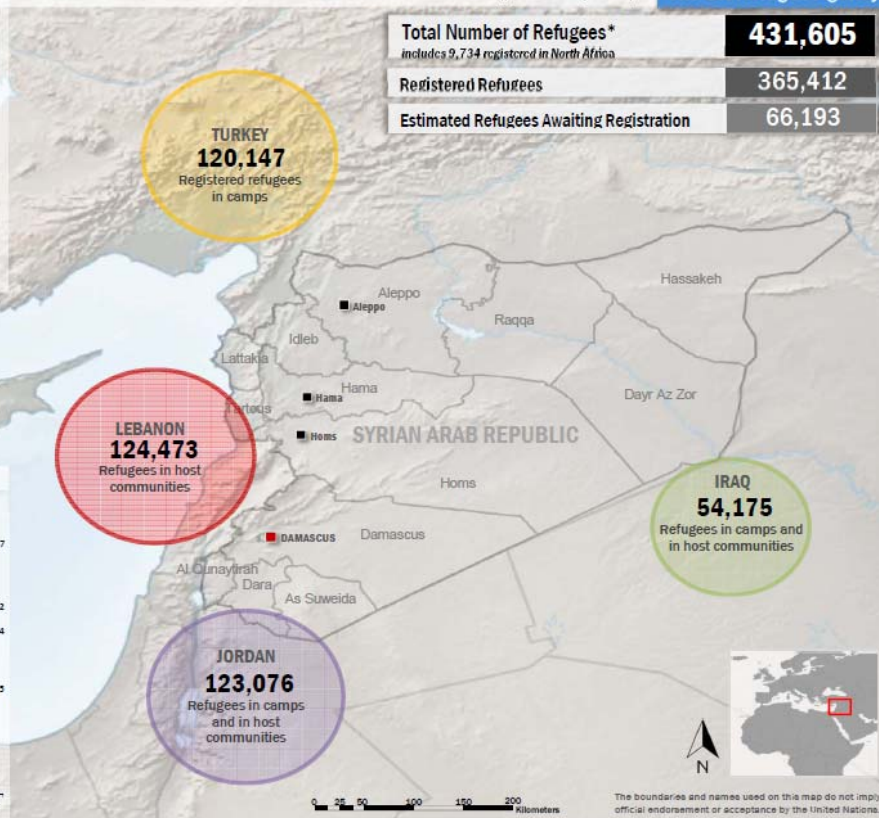


Sources: UNHCR Regional Data Warehouse, Common Operational Dataset (COD), UNGIWG, Natural Earth, UNCS

18-Nov-12  
UNHCR Regional Data Analysis Group

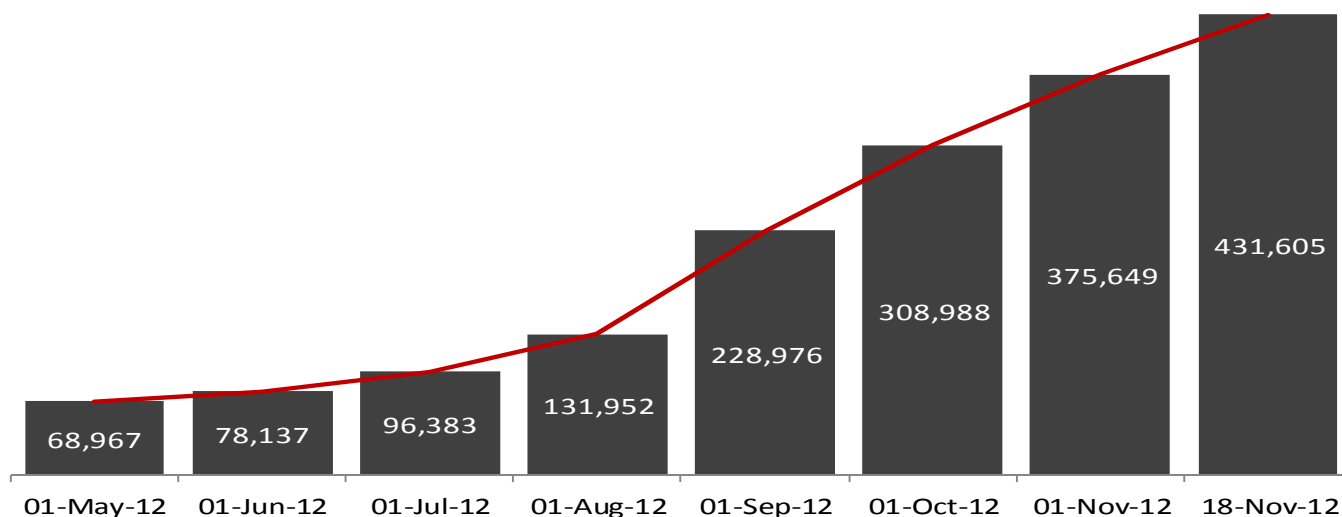
UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency

Total Number of Refugees* <small>includes 9,734 registered in North Africa</small>	431,605
Registered Refugees	365,412
Estimated Refugees Awaiting Registration	66,193



\* The Government of Jordan estimates there are currently more than 230,000 Syrians in Jordan and the Government Turkey estimates over 70,000 Syrian refugees are living in its cities in addition to those hosted and assisted in its camp along the border with Syria.

## Regional registered and/or assisted Syrians refugees since May 2012



### Monthly increase in the number of Syrian refugees in the region since May 2012

Month	May	June	July	August	September	October	May-October
New refugees	+9,170	+18,246	+35,569	+97,024	+80,012	+66,661	+306,682



## Jordan - 123,076 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR

Jordan continues to see several hundred Syrians crossing the border every day and night. New arrivals mainly consist of families with several children, including toddlers. The Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children and UNHCR have teams working each night to ensure Syrian refugees are assisted as soon as they cross the border. Since July, IOM has provided transportation to over 50,000 Syrian refugees from various border points to the camp of Za'atri where refugees are initially welcomed.

In October, UNHCR registered over 20,000 Syrian refugees across Jordan.

### Protection

UNHCR is strengthening its protection and registration staff as well as its outreach and cash assistance programme to better assist Syrians in host communities who represent the majority of Syrian refugees in Jordan. To date, 4,650 Syrian families (23,000 individuals) benefit from monthly cash assistance. This number should increase to 6,000 families by the end of the year.

Reach Initiative/International Relief & Development (IRD) have started a comprehensive mapping of urban populations in Mafraq, Irbid, Ramtha, Zarqa, and Amman on behalf of UNHCR in order to gain more information on the needs of urban refugees and the impact of their stay in various hosting communities. At the same time, a participatory assessment will look at the legal and social issues affecting refugees in the current environment. CARE Jordan recently carried out an assessment of Syrian refugees living in Amman.

### Winterization

UNHCR consignments of 4,000 tent linings for Za'atri camp have arrived for the start of the implementation of agencies' winter plans. Several hundred prefabs are also in place and the Lutheran World Federation will be providing 2,200 winterization kits.

Due to heavy rains in Za'atri early November, UNHCR provided 25,270 blankets for an urgent distribution in the camp. A desludging truck was also brought in to pump excess water from around tents, the WASH blocks and the kitchens. In order to prevent further damage due to worsening weather conditions, tents in low-lying areas will be moved and new tents provided if necessary.

### Education

Over 3,300 Syrian children are now registered in school in Za'atri camp, including a majority of girls. To date, 2,700 boys and girls have received school bags and stationary and around 2,000 children have received textbooks. In collaboration with JHCO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education (MoE) have transferred schooling in Za'atri from the temporary learning spaces to a new school complex funded by Bahrain. A total of 100 Jordanian teachers and 88 Syrian teachers are now deployed in Za'atri camp. Moreover 800 to 900 refugee children attend activities in Za'atri's Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) each day.

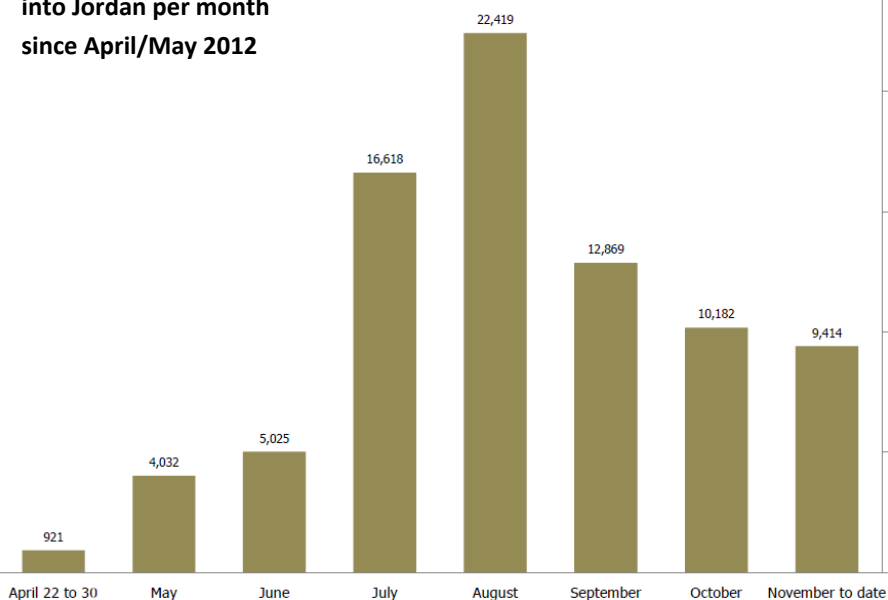
UNICEF and Save the Children International have completed the renovation of two schools in Irbid. The MoE, UNICEF and Save the Children Jordan have identified overcrowded schools which will move to a double-shift system in order to accommodate more students. UNICEF and Save the Children Jordan have also distributed school bags to 5,800 Syrian and Jordanian school children.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Around 200 hundred Za'atri camp residents have been deployed for camp cleaning under a cash-for-work scheme and 13 hygiene promoters from ACTED are organizing regular awareness-raising sessions for refugees. The construction of kitchens in the camp has resulted in a significant decrease in the amount of garbage removed from the camp therefore requiring fewer cleaners.

More than 1,000,000 liters of water are delivered to Za'atri on a daily basis by UNICEF and the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and chlorine tests conducted from the water trucks and from drinking water points in the camp.

Number of Syrian refugees crossing into Jordan per month since April/May 2012



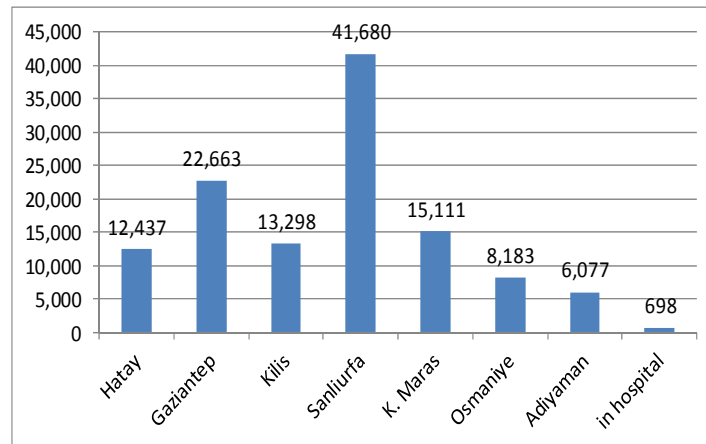
Prefabs being installed in Za'atri camp ahead of winter©UNHCR/2012

## Food

In Za'atri, a third cycle of dry/complementary food distribution began early November at WFP's Food Distribution Point (FDP). At the same time, WFP also began the distribution of bread through a "coupon system" providing four pieces of bread per refugee. WFP also distributes Welcome Meals and bread to new arrivals in Za'atri camp after which refugees receive WFP dry rations, UNHCR complementary food, and bread coupons from the FDP.

WFP's Voucher Programme reached 37,352 individuals across Jordan in October. The Voucher Programme provides the equivalent of USD 31 per individual per month. A supermarket is under construction in King Abdullah Park (KAP) in Ramtha which will allow beneficiaries in the area to purchase their own food.

### October WFP Voucher Programme: beneficiaries per governorate:



## Lebanon 124,473 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR

UNHCR registered over 20,000 Syrian refugees in the month of October at its centres in Tripoli and Beirut and the new centre of Ghaziye in South Lebanon as well as through mobile registration in Aarsal and Al Qaa. An average of 1,000 refugees are registered across Lebanon every day.

### Registration

Even with its expanding capacity, registration continues to be a challenge given that refugees are spread across 400 municipalities. Moreover, security incidents can disrupt the registration process leading to delays. UNHCR is working with community and religious leaders to encourage registration to facilitate protection and assistance.

Registration in South Lebanon also continued through the Caritas center and mobile efforts which registered 2,432 Syrians and were approached by more than 2,000 Syrians having for appointments as of 16 November.

### Location of registered Syrian refugees as of 1 November

Governorate	Persons	Households	% Total
Beirut	936	357	1.2%
Mount Lebanon	1,506	525	1.96%
North	41,601	9,015	54.02%
Bekaa	32,253	7,118	41.88%
South	718	174	0.93%
<b>Total Lebanon</b>	<b>77,014</b>	<b>17,189</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Protection

The Prime Minister of Lebanon has established an Inter-Ministerial Committee tasked with co-leading the response to the Syrian refugee influx with the support of humanitarian agencies. The Committee includes the Ministers of Social Affairs, Education, Health, Interior and Defence in addition to the High Relief Commission (HRC). The Lebanese government has moreover decided to permit Syrian refugees to renew their residency legally inside Lebanon, waiving the renewal fee, and to permit those who entered unofficially to regularize their status also inside Lebanon.

UNHCR and its partner agencies are working on strengthening protection monitoring and improving outreach to people with specific needs and referring individuals to appropriate specialized partners for assistance. Among those most in need are single parents heading large families, pregnant women, separated children accompanied by their siblings or relatives, survivors of violence and torture and disabled persons. There is a clear need to enhance the provision of psychosocial support which is why UNHCR and UNICEF have deployed additional social workers, psychologists and child protection and emergency focal points to 25 Social Development Centers (SDCs) of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) in areas with high concentrations of refugees.

UNICEF and Arc-en-Ciel are set to provide psychosocial support to 2,390 children from the refugee and host communities in the Bekaa, Wadi Khaled and Akkar. UNICEF, Mercy Corps, Al Jana, and the Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts (ARCPA) will also use creative therapeutic techniques to help over 2,000 Syrian and Lebanese children and adolescents cope with displacement. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) also convened a psychosocial workshop at the Dari recreational and counseling centre for families in Baalbek, to promote integration and tolerance through group games and trust building exercises.

## Non-Food Items (NFIs)

As part of efforts to prepare for winter, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), World Vision (WV), the World Food Programme (WFP), Makhzoumi Foundation, and UNFPA distributed mattresses, blankets, sanitary napkins, hygiene kits, food vouchers and kits to 32,000 people in Beirut and the North and East of the country. Refugees in south Lebanon received assistance through Caritas throughout the month of October. Towards the end of the month, UNHCR, Makhzoumi Foundation, and Caritas also began distributions in this area with 250 people receiving cash for shelter and 1,000 receiving food vouchers.

The World Food Programme (WFP) began the mapping and assessment of local grocery shops in South Lebanon in preparation for the implementation of the food voucher system in the South

## Education

Currently 30% (close to 8,500 students) of the overall school-aged Syrian refugee population is enrolled and supported by UNHCR and UNICEF. So far, Lebanese public schools have been able to absorb students in the North and parts of the Bekaa, however in Aarsal, where there are over 1,800 school-aged children, UNHCR, UNICEF and partners are exploring options to increase school capacity. Some families have agreed to let their children attend school in neighboring villages, thanks to free transportation and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) is considering organizing afternoon shifts in schools.

UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and partners continued to support children struggling with the transition to the Lebanese curriculum through after-school classes. War Child Holland has seven child friendly spaces across north Lebanon (two in Tripoli, five in Akkar) which offer remedial classes and psychosocial support to children.

UNESCO is supporting four schools in the Bekaa through the implementation of a school library, teacher trainings as well as psychosocial and after-school support to refugees and vulnerable Lebanese students.

## Health

UNHCR and International Medical Corps (IMC) are providing and covering the costs of primary healthcare, which includes everything from diagnostic testing to basic treatment and provision of medication. Over 21,000 Syrian refugees have so far received primary healthcare services including consultations, diagnostic tests, and medication including chronic (e.g. for those with blood pressure problems, diabetes). Health actors including IMC, Médecins Sans Frontières, Amel Association and MOSA have intensified health awareness sessions in order to prevent problems such as gastroenteritis. Communication on available health services to refugees also remains a priority which is why the health services brochure was updated and distributed through local community NGOs, community centers and upon registration.

UNHCR and IMC continue to cover 85% secondary health assistance to registered refugees. The most common problems include gastroenteritis, dehydration, and cardiac diseases. IMC is organizing a training of trainers to health professionals in the North and Bekaa. Some refugees have difficulties covering even the remaining 15% of the fees, however, limited funding makes full coverage by UNHCR and IMC not possible at the present time.

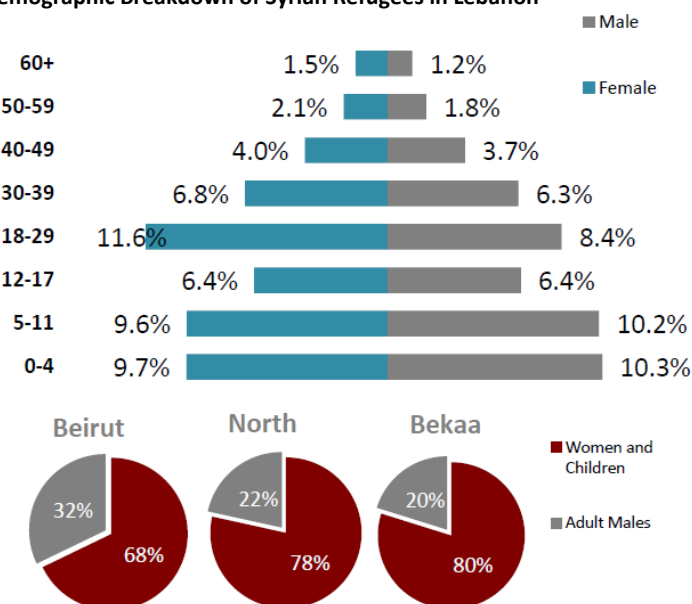
## Shelter

Shelter remains a critical priority, especially with winter fast approaching. UNHCR is coordinating with Medair and CLMC in an effort to profile the numbers of families and tents, assess the current living situation and organize a response.

In October, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) assisted 54 households with 'cash for rent'. DRC outreach workers identify families who are renting and assess those who are most vulnerable, such as single female-headed households, injured breadwinners, those who are at risk of eviction and families with a high level of debt. Once families are pre-selected, home visits are conducted to verify their needs and then up to a 70% contribution of the total rent is provided. Ensuring Water and Sanitation (WASH) standards, including in collective shelters, is also part of the overall shelter response. In the Mounseh collective shelter in north Lebanon, two toilets and two washing machines were installed as part of the renovation work. Solar panels will be added to ensure a constant supply of hot water is available to refugees living in the dwelling. UNICEF and Action Contre la Faim (ACF) continue to provide water vouchers to refugees in the Bekaa, with some 4,500 people having received water so far.

Support continues as well to Lebanese hosting families who have opened their homes to refugees. Close to 50% of refugee families live in host homes, adding to the urgency in finding alternative shelter solutions.

**Demographic Breakdown of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon**



## **Iraq 54,175 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR**

**In October, UNHCR registered close to 11,000 Syrian refugees, the majority in the Kurdistan Region (KR). Since then another 8,000 have arrived, notably in the camp of Domiz which registers several hundred individuals a day. Approximately half of the registered Syrian refugee population in Iraq lives in the camps of Al Qa'im (hosting 7,500 individuals) in the Governorate of Anbar and Domiz (hosting 18,500 individuals) in the Governorate of Duhok. The rest are scattered among host communities, including in the Governorates of Duhok, Erbil, Sulimaniyeh and Al Qa'im.**

**Al-Waleed and Rabia'a border crossing points are open, while the border of Al-Qa'im remains closed due to the neighbouring camp's currently limited capacity. Iraqi border guards are nonetheless allowing the entry of Syrian refugees in case of emergency.**

### **Protection**

The issuance of temporary residence permits has not yet commenced in Al Qa'im camp, however, UNHCR continues to register new refugees and is working on strengthening coordination and monitoring mechanisms on the ground. In Kurdistan, the issuance of residency permits to Syrian new arrivals has continued except for a short break during the Eid holidays and the Residency Directorate is reinforcing its presence in both Erbil and Suleimaniyeh to accelerate the process of issuing permits.

UNHCR is increasing its protection monitoring visits to Syrians living in host communities in the Kurdistan Region to inform refugees of services available to them, including legal assistance, residency permits issuance, free access to education and health and winterization assistance. It was noted that, in addition to the daily arrivals from the border, some refugees moving to Domiz camp were in fact previously living in cities in KR but were finding it too difficult to make ends meet there. A vast majority of those urban refugees seen in Erbil, Duhok and Sulimaniyeh appear to be in debt and to have serious difficulties finding employment.

### **Shelter and Infrastructure**

Crowd control remains a challenge in Domiz camp which is why the police is increasing the staff on site to defuse tension. UNHCR and the authorities are exploring ways to improve the overall management of the camp while families are gradually relocated to new areas of the camp. UNICEF and the NGO KURDS are working to improve access to potable water. Meanwhile the new transit area of Domiz has seen the installation of 300 tents out of the planned 500, the majority connected to sanitation units. Further works are underway to complete the installation of the tents which will allow 500 vulnerable families already identified to move in.

Work has started on the new camp of Al Obaidi (Al Qa'im). The leveling of the land and its demarcation is being undertaken by the Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organization (ISHO). UNHCR and UNICEF have been providing support, notably to ensure the camp has sufficient communal space, including space for child protection activities.

### **Food and Nutrition**

In Al Qa'im, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) has distributed baby milk powder and potable water in close coordination with Islamic Relief Worldwide. And UNICEF plans to train health workers on the management of severe malnutrition. Since the beginning of the food distribution in Domiz on 22 October, 9,468 persons have received their food rations. Depending on available funding, the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) will distribute food rations to another 5,000 refugees. UNHCR has prepared the list of new arrivals and will issue food tokens while WFP will check the lists to avoid double counting.

### **Non-Food Items (NFIs)**

The distribution of the NFI kits including carpets for improved insulation was completed in one of the two camps in Al Qa'im under the supervision of IOM. Child protection partners are shortly planning to distribute children's clothes and kits for newborns.

A total of 63 families (252 individuals), all living in Domiz camp have received NFIs. UNHCR continues the registration of new arrivals to receive NFIs. Meanwhile DDM has distributed cash assistance to 141 families (603 persons), and 330 blankets also provided by the local host community. DDM plans to provide cash (equivalent to at least USD 22) to camp residents and families.

### **Health**

To date, 5,170 people have been vaccinated against seasonal influenza in Al Qa'im. A joint UNICEF/Ministry of Health (MoH) mission has assessed the health situation and service delivery on site and expanded healthcare services are planned for the second camp in Al Qa'im. A new primary healthcare centre will be established by the MoH including mental health services and an immunization unit. Save the Children conducted the distribution of hygiene kits distribution in the camps.

Current medical facilities in Domiz camp include: a Health Centre open all day and jointly run by the Department of Health and Médecins sans Frontières (MSF); the ASB primary healthcare clinic which opened on 6 November; a temporary dental support unit operated by the South Korean government; as well as a 24-hour ambulance service. Urgent cases are referred to Duhok Hospital where medical treatment is provided free of charge.

### **Education**

Children in Camp 1 in Al Qa'im have moved from the tent-school into new prefabricated classrooms which operate on a double shift for 957 students with eight Syrian refugee teachers and four Iraqi teachers. During each shift four social workers from Save the Children and 10 volunteers from the camps (Syrian women) are available to support students.

According to a UNICEF survey, 2,000 school-aged children (5-17 years) are residing in Domiz camp. With up to 1,000 children arriving in the last week alone, plans are underway to build two additional schools (one built thanks to local donations and another funded by UNHCR) which will accommodate 1,200 children each.



## Turkey 120,147 Syrian refugees registered by the Government and assisted in camps

Turkey registered around 20,000 Syrian refugees in camps in the month of October and over 12,000 in the first two weeks of November alone. The refugees continue to be hosted in 14 camps across seven provinces.

While the camp populations continue to grow, the Turkish authorities have also noted an increase in the number of Syrians previously in camps who are choosing to settle in urban areas but who may still be in need assistance. The Government of Turkey estimates there are currently 70,000 Syrian refugees living in Turkey outside the refugee camps in privately rented accommodation.

In the night of 8-9 November, violent clashes around the Syrian area of Ras Al Ayn just across the border from Ceylanpinar drove 9,000 Syrians to cross into Turkey seeking safety and assistance. Due to the security risk, Turkish schools on the other side of the border in Ceylanpinar were closed and those towns and houses closest to the border were evacuated. According to the Regional Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the local authorities, the majority of those new arrivals are hosted by relatives in various towns, including Ceylanpinar, Akcakale, Viranshehir, Kiziltepe, while some several thousand have been registered and accommodated in the camp of Ceylanpinar.

On 2 November, a fire which broke out in Hatay's Yayladagi camp caused the death of a five-year-old child. According to camp officials, the fire broke out because of an electricity problem. Following the incident, all tents were renewed temporarily while the authorities build shelters from fire-proof material.

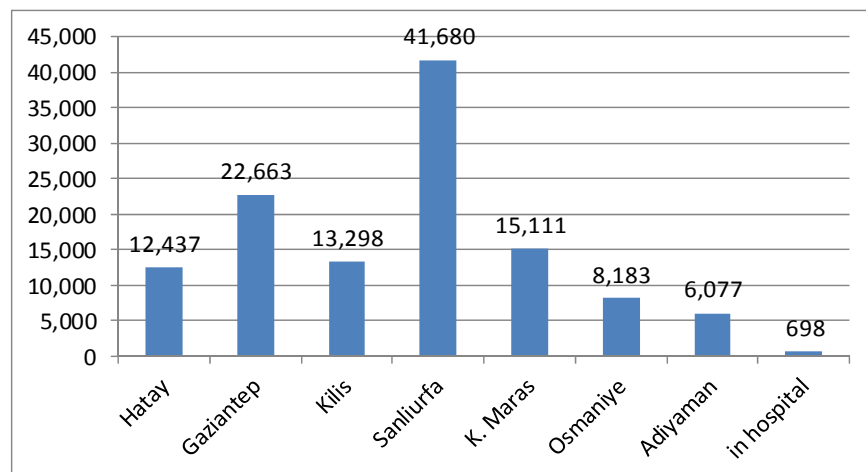
According to the local authorities, there may be over 20,000 people across the borders of Hatay and Kilis, not all necessarily wishing to cross into Turkey but needing assistance. The Government of Turkey continues to maintain the borders to its territory open, those admitting Syrians in groups of several hundreds to two thousand. Processing can be slow, owing to family unity considerations and the space available in camps. Basic humanitarian assistance is provided by the Turkish Red Crescent Society at the "zero point" of the border.

UNHCR continues to provide technical expertise on protection and camp management in support of the Turkish authorities. In the past few weeks, all camps have been undergoing winterization preparations. Electrical radiator heaters have been distributed and the various camp managements have started to distribute the metal framed wooden platform pieces which will be used to raise refugees' tents off the ground this winter. UNHCR's contribution to the winterization process will be arriving in Turkey shortly and be delivered to the Turkish Red Crescent. Meanwhile WFP has started the distribution of food cards to Syrian refugees in the camps of Hatay.

During its visits to the camps, UNHCR observed that a growing number of Syrians claiming to have crossed the border on their own are making their way to camps hosting relatives. Such spontaneous arrivals can be problematic when the camps approached no longer have the capacity to absorb additional refugees.

Unless refugees have immediate family members in other camps, new arrivals are currently referred to the camps of Adiyaman, Gaziantep (Nizip-1) and Sanliurfa (Akcakale), the latter having recently expanded. There are two container sites under construction in the province of Gaziantep (Nizip-2) which has a capacity for 5,000 individuals and in Sanliurfa Harran with a capacity for 10,000. The government continues to look for additional sites which may be suitable for the construction of new refugee camps.

Syrian refugees hosted in camps in Turkey by province



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