

# INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

20 - 26 June 2013



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 126 partners across the region. Published weekly on Thursday, the next update will be available on 4 July 2013.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Response partners are prioritizing interventions to provide **safe water and sanitation** to combat the risk of disease as temperatures continue to rise. Children are particularly susceptible as refugees face overcrowding in camps as well as inadequate shelter facilities in host communities.
- The **tense security situation** in Lebanon continues to hinder agencies' access, particularly in northern Bekaa, Tripoli and Saida.
- The **protection space** available to Syrian refugees is severely constrained in Iraq. The Peshkapor border crossing between Syria and the Kurdistan Region, which is hosting 95 per cent of Iraq's Syrian refugees, has been closed since 19 May. The Al Qa'im border has been closed since 29 March. Borders are open for refugees wishing to return to Syria.
- Turkey is currently hosting some 200,000 Syrian refugees in 15 tent cities and five container (prefabricated caravan) sites and this figure is likely to increase. The 20 camps in provinces include **three new locations** that are receiving refugees. Refugees receive a health screening and children are vaccinated upon admission.

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## REGIONAL FIGURES

**870,358** refugee children affected

**77%** of refugees live outside camps in host communities

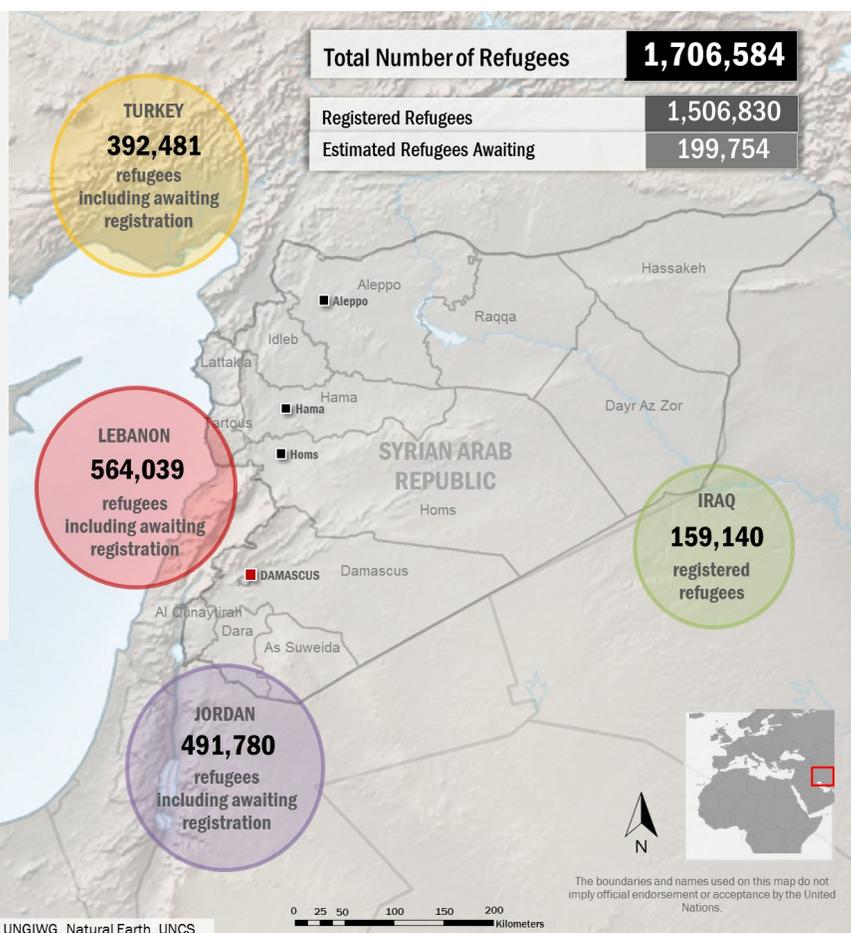
**1,400** localities across Lebanon are hosting Syrian refugees

**20** camps in **10** provinces in Turkey are accommodating **200,036** Syrian refugees

**62,000** Palestine refugees from Syria have fled to Lebanon

**72%** funding gap in the Regional Response Plan\*

As at 7 June 2013



Refugee population as of 26 June 2013, based on available data. For updated figures, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

## Jordan: UN Women highlights gender-based protection needs, increases interventions

- UN Women launched a new programme to increase survivors' access to comprehensive, life-saving protection and released the findings of a new report on gender-based violence (GBV) among Syrian refugees in Jordan. The report finds that rates of early marriage are strikingly high (one-third are married as children), that restrictions on the mobility of women and girls limit their access to work and aid supplies, and that 83 per cent of Syrian refugees are unaware of services for survivors of violence, which are currently limited.
- The assessment focuses on non-camp communities, where two-thirds of Syrian refugees are currently residing, targeting urban refugees living in 11 out of Jordan's 12 governorates.
- The report finds widespread child marriage – more than 33 per cent of participants were married when they were still children, and half of all respondents believed that the normal age of marriage for girls is under 18.
- Findings also indicate that Syrian refugee women face major challenges in accessing basic resources and specialized services due to their restricted ability to leave home without a male family member. This makes it harder for women to engage in economic activities, receive education, participate in social activities, or receive aid supplies.
- Prevention and response services for child protection and GBV in areas such as legal, shelter and health care are available in camps, transit sites and host communities across Jordan, and are regularly accessed by Syrian refugees. Nonetheless, the report reaffirms the need to increase information on available services and outreach to the Syrian community by highlighting a lack of knowledge in refugee communities, with an overwhelming 83 per cent of Syrian refugees unaware of any services for GBV survivors in their community.
- In response, a new joint programme aims to increase survivors' access to comprehensive, life-saving protection including health, psychosocial and legal services in Mafraq, Irbid and Zarqa. It will include access to shelters, legal aid and case management, as well as to quality health services, including reproductive health services adapted to age and gender.

## Egypt: protection challenges

- Syrian families and individuals seeking asylum in Egypt are spread out across Egypt in urban settings. Each urban setting presents some common challenges, and some that are particular to that area. Therefore, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and IOM along with NGO partners such as Catholic Relief Services and Resala are conducting a series of joint assessments across Egypt.
- Two assessments have been finalized in Alexandria - Egypt's second largest urban center - and New Damietta.
- Main protection challenges include access to accurate information about registration and services available; trauma and psycho-social support; livelihood and access to housing.
- Recommendations include ensuring sufficient access to, and information on, registration and services available. Increased shelter support and livelihood interventions are recommended amongst other findings to increase the level of income, which will have a positive impact on housing and food security.
- UNHCR carries out mobile registration for Syrians residing in Alexandria and New Damietta to identify, protect and assist refugees. Vulnerable new arrivals with specific needs, including people with disabilities, female-headed households, the elderly, unaccompanied minors and separated children continue to be prioritized for assistance. WFP is implementing its food voucher programme and response partners provide financial support for housing and other basic non-food needs.



*Syrian refugees registering for protection and other social services at UNHCR offices in the Zamalek neighbourhood in Cairo. UNHCR | S. Baldwin*

## UNICEF: addressing WASH needs to mitigate the risk of disease

- Soaring summer temperatures, overcrowding and worsening hygiene are likely to increase the risk of diarrhea and other diseases, particularly amongst children.
- UNICEF has accelerated efforts to provide sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services in response to heightened risk factors.
- Jordan - UNICEF and partners truck in more than four million litres of water a day to Za'atri camp while rehabilitating water infrastructure and networks in nearby towns. Water infrastructure is also being installed in a new refugee camp in Azraq.



Za'atari camp, Jordan. UNICEF | S. Malkawi

- UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and all WASH and health partners completed a ten-day mass health and hygiene awareness and environmental cleaning campaign in Za'atri on 10 June. As part of the campaign, 86 out of 177 WASH blocks and 99 out of 102 streets in the concerned camp modules were cleaned, while 67 WASH committees were formed and 266 food stalls were visited.
- Lebanon - Refugees are scattered in host communities and informal tented settlements, placing increased pressure on existing water and sanitation services. Multiple families often share small apartments or live in makeshift settlements that lack access to safe water, basic toilets and waste collection. Women and children often have to walk long distances to collect water that in many cases may be unfit for drinking. So far this year, UNICEF and partners have distributed nearly 100,000 hygiene kits, including shampoo, soap and detergent – benefiting more than 430,000 people.
- Iraq - Hygiene promotion activities for the whole of Domiz camp started on 26 May. Sixty hygiene promoters, managed by Islamic Relief Worldwide will reach out to over 35,000 people in the camp.
- UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) are currently working to improve WASH and have installed 150 toilets and 25 water tanks as at 12 June. NRC has also distributed 220 sets of sanitation tools (shovel, wheelbarrow, rake and hand hoe), benefiting around 2,500 families.

## Spontaneous returns continue despite likely unsafe conditions

- Syrian refugees continue to spontaneously return to Syria from Jordan, Iraq and Turkey despite deteriorating security and living conditions. UNHCR does not promote or facilitate these returns but monitors the return process, when possible, with the support of host Governments, to ensure that refugees are making free and informed decisions to return, and in the case of some countries, ensure that all refugees have access to their documentation should they make the decision to return to Syria.
- Returnees are advised that 1) it is not safe to return to Syria; 2) if they return refugees should ensure they have their documents, 3) their return should be voluntary, and 4) that they may face obstacles crossing back to a country of asylum.
- Key reasons refugees are giving for wanting to return, include reports of improved security in their place of origin, the desire to see family members who remained in Syria and to protect their property. Some are also returning temporarily to reunite with family members or accompany left-behind relatives to a country of asylum.
- Jordan - Over the past month, 500 Syrians on average would enter Jordan each day as 250 returned home. Government records show that some 9,000 Syrian refugees voluntarily returned to their country in June, mostly from Za'atri camp, bringing the total number of those who returned in the past two years to 68,373 people.
- Turkey - AFAD reports that 45,389 Syrians have departed in 2013 as at 8 June. UNHCR has observed voluntary repatriation interviews for 14,243 people. The main reasons cited for returning include temporary returns and a changed situation in their place of origin.

## Access to Iraq from Syria restricted, returns permitted

- With the Al Qa'im border closed to Syrians crossing into Iraq since 29 March 2013, but open to Syrians attempting to cross back to their home country, the number of refugees returning is now on par with the refugee population in Anbar province, both numbering around 5,500 people.
- The increased number of returns result from both push and pull factors, including frustration over living conditions with no freedom of movement, no access to the labour market or sources of income, and the inability to visit relatives in the Al Qa'im area. The main pull-factor continues to be a perceived improvement of the security situation in their place of origin.
- The unofficial border point of Peshkapor, used by more than 90 per cent of the Syrian refugees to cross into Iraq, has been closed for entry since 19 May but open to Syrian returnees. Over 9,000 refugees have gone back to Syria from the Kurdistan Region

## Turkey: scaling up support to both camp and urban refugees

- Turkey is currently hosting some 200,000 Syrian refugees in 15 tent cities and five container (prefabricated caravan) sites, a figure that is likely to increase. The 20 camps in provinces include three sites that are newly receiving refugees. Refugees receive a health screening and children are vaccinated upon admission.
- The Disaster and Emergency Management Agency of Government of Turkey (AFAD) is leading efforts to provide accommodation, food, health services, security, social activities, education, religious services, banking, translation services and communications to refugees residing in camps. Some 29,401 Syrian children and youth are receiving educational support while 3,664 births were assisted in the camps, AFAD reports.
- In addition, around 190,000 Syrians are living in cities and are facing challenges in meeting their basic needs. UNHCR is supporting AFAD to expand its registration capacity. The Government is currently conducting a profiling exercise to understand the living conditions and problems faced by non camp refugees.



*UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council, Save the Children and other partners hosted a series of activities at the Halba community centre in Akkar. Events brought together local and regional authorities, and children from the Wadi Khaled tented settlement. DRC*

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 126 participating organizations, including 84 appealing:

ActionAid | [Action Contre la Faim](#) | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | [Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development](#) | The Lebanese Association for Development | [Lebanese Association for Human Promotion & Literacy](#) | Amel Association | [ARRD – Legal Aid](#) | Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale | [CARE International](#) | Caritas | [Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre](#) | Catholic Relief Services | [Centre for Victims of Torture](#) | Cooperative Housing Foundation International | [Children without Borders](#) | Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | Finn Church Aid/Act Alliance | [FAO](#) | Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura | [GVC/Muslim Aid](#) | Handicap International | [Heartland Alliance International](#) | Institute for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation | [International Catholic Migration Commission](#) | International Medical Corps | [IOM](#) | International Orthodox Christian Charities | [International Relief and Development](#) | International Rescue Committee | [INTERSOS](#) | Islamic Relief Worldwide | [JEN](#) | Jesuit Refugee Service | [Jordan Health Aid Society](#) | LDS Charities | [Lebanese Red Cross](#) | Lutheran World Federation | [Madrasati Initiative](#) | Medair | [Médecins du Monde](#) | Mercy Corps | [Movement for Peace](#) | Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | Operation Mercy | [Oxfam GB](#) | Première Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale | [Qatar Red Crescent](#) | Questscope | [Refugee Education Trust](#) | Relief International | [Restart](#) | Rene Mouawad Foundation | [Royal Health Awareness Society](#) | Safadi Foundation | [Save the Children International](#) | Save the Children Jordan | [Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development](#) | Solidarités International | [Terre des Hommes](#) | Terre des Hommes Italia | [Terre des Hommes Lausanne](#) | German Federal Agency for Technical Relief | [Un ponte per](#) | UNDP | [UNESCO](#) | UNFPA | [UN-Habitat](#) | UNHCR | [UNICEF](#) | UNODC | [UNOPS](#) | UNRWA | [UN Women](#) | War Child Holland | [WFP](#) | WHO | [World Rehabilitation Fund](#) | World Vision | [YMCA](#) |

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