

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

19 December 2013 - 16 January 2014



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 155 partners across the region.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- International donors on 15 January pledged over US\$ 2.4 billion to support the humanitarian response to the situation in Syria and neighbouring countries, surpassing the pledges made at the first International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria in January 2013 by more than \$850 million. The conference was hosted by the Emir of Kuwait, who pledged \$500 million.
- The Peshkabout crossing point between the Kurdistan region of Iraq and Syria re-opened on 5 January for the first time since its closure in mid-September. Some 5,000 Syrians have crossed as of 14 January and several hundred now arrive every afternoon. Of these, only around 900 have registered with UNHCR.
- Raba Al Sarhan, the joint Government of Jordan/UNHCR registration centre, opened on 29 December 2013. The Government of Jordan is now registering Syrian refugees using iris scan technology. The Ministry of the Interior and UNHCR are now issuing Joint Service Cards to all Syrians and the validity of the UNHCR Registration certificate has been extended from six to 12 months.

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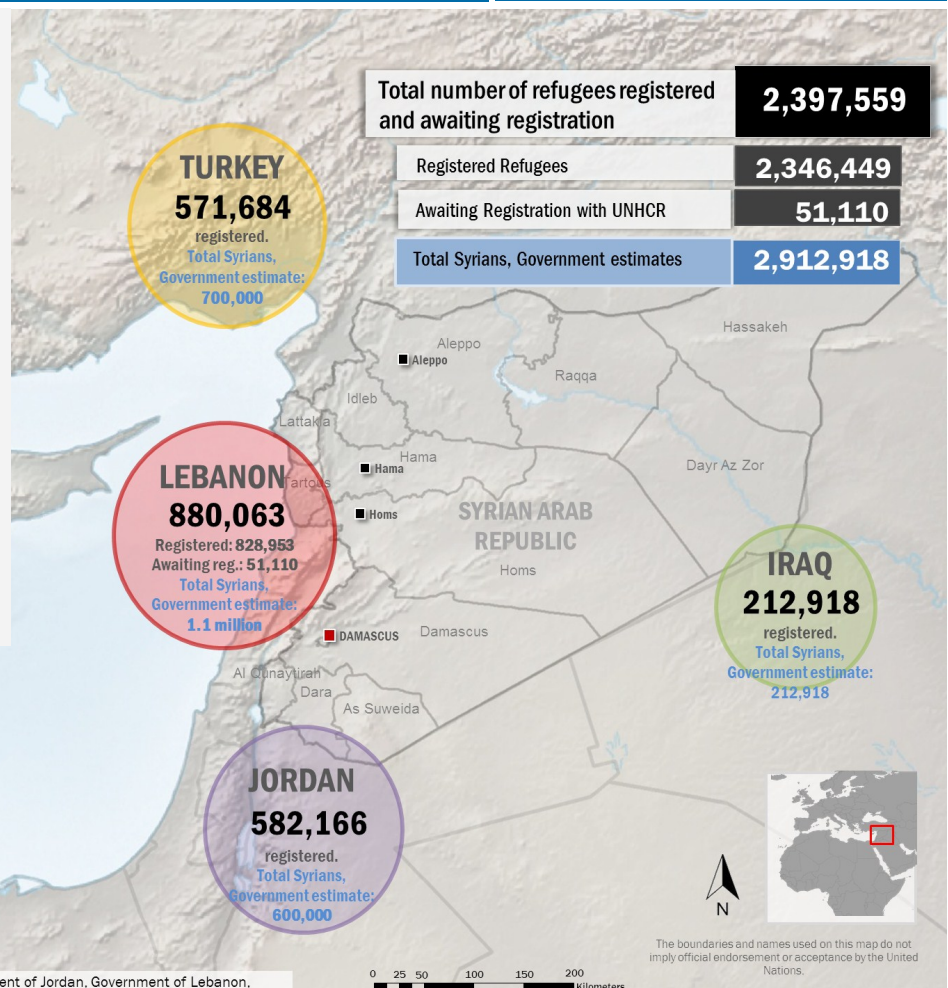
REGIONAL FIGURES

2.3 million refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

1.1 million Syrian refugees will benefit from additional support in winter through a **\$138 million** regional programme

105 agencies appealing for **\$4.2 billion** for the 2014 Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP6) to benefit

4.1 million refugees and **2.7 million people** in host communities



Kuwait II Conference results in over \$2.4 billion pledged towards Syria crisis

- International donors (39) pledged more than US\$ 2.4 billion at the second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria in Kuwait on 15 January, to support aid organizations' response to the massive humanitarian needs generated inside Syria and in neighbouring countries by the ongoing crisis.
- In addition to international donors, the conference was attended by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos, and the High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres.
- The conference was hosted by the Emir of Kuwait, who also made the generous contribution of \$500 million.
- More than 100 humanitarian actors are appealing for \$4.2 billion to assist a forecasted 4.1 million refugees and 2.7 million people in host communities as part of the 2014 Regional Response Plan for Syrian refugees.

Thousands of Syrians cross into Turkey as fighting intensifies across the border

- On 10 January, local government officials informed UNHCR that over 5,000 Syrians have crossed into Turkey via the Akcakale border gate. Some 1,500 new arrivals were also reportedly admitted at the border on 9 January and around 600 new arrivals were admitted on the weekend of 11 January 2014. Officials stated that because of the intensified fighting in Telabyad, more arrivals are expected.
- UNHCR is in close contact with local officials in Sanliurfa to follow up on the new influx of refugees. While many of these new arrivals are being accommodated in host communities or with relatives in Akcakale and Sanliurfa, officials from AFAD - the Disaster and Emergency Management Agency of the Government of Turkey - and the local governorate are also preparing alternative accommodation options such as sports halls, communal facilities and guesthouses. Officials have also established tents at the border for the pre-registration of new-arrivals.
- In order to respond to the basic needs of new arrivals, provincial authorities met with local NGOs and UNHCR to identify the resources required for the distribution of core relief items. These include blankets, mattresses, heaters, winter clothes, hygiene packages, as well as ready-to-eat meals for up to 30,000 persons. UNHCR will continue to work in close contact with local officials to monitor the trend of new arrivals and follow up with the authorities as needed.
- On 15 January, local officials in Kilis reported and increased number of arrivals at both official and unofficial border crossings due to the fighting near Azaz and surrounding areas.

Egypt: Improving services in deprived host communities to promote peaceful co-existence

- UNHCR is prioritizing some 40 small-scale, low cost "quick impact" projects designed to assist refugee and host communities for 2014. The projects are aimed at addressing the existing lack of services in deprived host communities and promoting coexistence between the refugee and host communities.
- Through the FARD Foundation, UNHCR has begun implementation of a shuttle service for Masaken Othman (Greater Cairo) to connect the Syrian refugee and host population with the local transportation network. UNHCR has facilitated the development of operating practices of the mini-buses with the city administration, in conducting follow up meetings with the community, and will be purchasing the mini-buses in coordination with the city administration.
- Upcoming projects under consideration include the creation of safe public spaces and child-friendly spaces, as well as upgrading of some services in refugee populated urban areas.



The Masaken Osman neighbourhood of Sixth of October City outside Cairo. The district contains a mix of lower income Egyptian families and hundreds of newly arrived Syrian refugees. UNHCR | S. Baldwin

WFP transitioning to electronic card system across the region

- Since the beginning of 2013, WFP has injected over US\$265 million into the economies of host countries. Voucher assistance to non-camp refugees in Lebanon and Jordan has been growing by more than five times since the beginning of 2013 and now represents over 90 per cent of WFP's regional support to Syrian refugees.
- Across the region, WFP plans to transition all of its voucher assistance to e-cards in the coming year, aiming to reach over 2.7 million refugees with e-cards. These allow for greater flexibility over food purchases, as families can spend the balance of their voucher in multiple visits and avoid the need to travel to distribution sites.
- In addition to transitioning to e-cards across the region, WFP will explore the use of the OneCard system in all five regional operations, with the aim of enabling beneficiaries to cover their food, non-food and cash needs through one single electronic card. In 2014, WFP plans to help strengthen the capacity of host governments and support vulnerable host communities while continuing its assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees across the region.
- **Turkey** - the current Syrian refugee caseload is already assisted through an e-card programme.
- **Lebanon** - the transition from voucher assistance to e-cards is planned to be completed by the end of 2013. In the coming year, WFP will collaborate with the Ministry of Social Affairs to supplement its targeted social assistance package, with plans to assist approximately 326,000 vulnerable Lebanese host communities, reduce inter-community tension and help build national capacity.
- **Iraq** - WFP will carry out a pilot OneCard system, to be implemented jointly with UNHCR, for non-camp assistance in Suleimaniyah and Dohuk initially. Further expansion of this activity will be subject to authorization from the Kurdistan Regional Government.
- **Jordan** - an e-card pilot is currently underway, with plans to commence a transition in January 2014.
- **Egypt** - WFP hopes to commence assistance through the OneCard system in early 2014. In collaboration with UNHCR and the Government of Egypt, WFP will also provide assistance through community-driven, quick impact projects in the poorest communities hosting a high concentration of Syrian refugees.



The WFP and Turkish Red Crescent e-food card programme allows refugees to choose from a variety of fresh produce and packaged foodstuffs in to prepare their family's daily meals. WFP | K. Inglis

Lebanon: Preserving protection space for refugees through community support projects

- The presence of over 880,000 Syrian refugees in some 1,600 locations in Lebanon is placing an immense strain on host communities, many of which were already among the poorest in the country. UNHCR is implementing a suite of projects as part of its community support programme to address the urgent needs of host communities in 232 prioritized locations hosting refugees. Initiatives include infrastructural interventions at the community level and enhancing livelihood opportunities of host communities and refugees through skills training, capacity building and enhancement of production capacities.
- The Government of Lebanon, as well as host communities, refugees, civil society and local leaders, are involved in the identification of needs and conflict risks, as well as in the planning and implementation of the broad range of interventions benefitting host communities and refugees.
- In November 2013, over 5,500 Lebanese and 18,900 Syrian refugees benefitted from completed community support projects. Efforts to enhance livelihoods and self-reliance engaged 3,500 persons (including 40 per cent Lebanese) in life-skills activities in November. Two livelihood centers offering job matching, targeted trainings and referral to micro-finance were established and another one is underway.
- Efforts to strengthen community capacity for dispute resolution and conflict management in affected host communities.

Save the Children: providing assistance and stability to over 640,000 people cross the region

- Through a multi-sector response, Save the Children International (SCI) plans to have reached 1.3 million beneficiaries in **Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq** and **Egypt** by the end of 2015. As of 9 January 2014, 646,633 beneficiaries have been reached in the region and of these, nearly 62 per cent are children.
- Children fleeing Syria are urgently in need of the safety, stability and structure a positive learning environment can bring. To address this, SCI runs child-friendly and youth-friendly spaces across the region, reaching thousands of children. A massive “back to school” operation is being carried out in Lebanon and Jordan, targeting Syrian refugee children and youth in camps and host communities. These child and youth friendly spaces are also a platform to conduct a range of child protection activities aimed at helping them recover from the extreme psychological and emotional distress they have been through. SCI has also established, trained and supported community child protection committees.
- As part of SCI’s winterization efforts, winter clothes and blankets have been distributed in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq. Families in Lebanon and Jordan also receive vouchers enabling them to purchase children’s clothing, mattresses, blankets, heating fuel and stoves.
- **Jordan** - SCI has been providing adolescents and youth with informal education in Zaatari refugee camp and host communities. In partnership with WFP, 130,000 people in Zaatari camp have been reached with food assistance and an additional 169,000 food vouchers have been distributed by SCI to host communities in Jordan. Families living in Zaatari whose tents had been flooded were also assisted and evacuated into SCI-run Child Friendly Spaces.
- **Lebanon** - SCI provides reproductive health and pediatric services to pregnant, new mothers and children. Cash for Work programmes run by SCI in Lebanon give families the opportunity to put their own skills to work in projects benefitting their communities. Families in Lebanon have also received vouchers for tools and materials needed for basic repairs and insulation for their homes.
- **Iraq** - SCI has conducted hygiene promotion awareness-raising sessions in the Al Obeidy refugee camp in Anbar province. SCI also led a clean-up campaign in Domiz camp and distributed over 4,000 hygiene kits in Dohuk province.

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 155 participating organizations, including 105 appealing:

ABAAAD | [ACTED](#) | ActionAid | [Action contre la faim](#) | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | [Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance](#) | Al Majmoua | [AMAN](#) | AMEL | [Arab Medical Union](#) | Arc en Ciel | [ARDD-Legal Aid](#) | Association de Charité Humanitaire | [Association Justice et Miséricorde](#) | Association of Volunteers in International Service | [BBC Media Action](#) | Beyond Association | [British Council](#) | CARE International | [Caritas](#) | Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center | [Catholic Relief Services](#) | Central Association for Kindergarten Supervisors League | [Centre for Victims of Torture](#) | Civil Development Organization | [Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli](#) | CONCERN | [Cooperazione Internazionale](#) | Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services | [DRC](#) | Family Guidance and Awareness Center | [FAO](#) | Finn Church Aid | [Finnish Red Cross/Iraqi Red Crescent Society](#) | Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura | [GIZ](#) | Global Communities Partners for Good | [Gruppo di Volontariato Civile](#) | Handicap International | [Heartland Alliance International](#) | High Relief Commission | [Hilfswerk Austria International](#) | Human Relief Foundation | [Humedica](#) | ILO | [Institution for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation](#) | International Alert | [International Catholic Migration Commission](#) | International Children's Continence Society | [International Medical Corps](#) | International Orthodox Christian Charities | [International Relief and Development](#) | International Rescue Committee | [Internews](#) | INTERSOS | [IOM](#) | Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project | [Iraqi Youth League](#) | Islamic Relief Worldwide | [JBA](#) | JEN | [Jesuit Refugee Service](#) | Jordan Health Aid Society | [Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization](#) | Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development | [Jordan Red Crescent](#) | Jordan River Foundation | [Jordanian Women's Union](#) | KAFA | [KG](#) | KnK | [KURDS](#) | Lutheran Word Federation | [MADA](#) | Madrasati Initiative | [Mines Advisory Group](#) | Mahmoud Mosque Society | [Makassed](#) | Makhzoumi Foundation | [Medair](#) | Medical Aid for Palestinians | [Médecins du Monde](#) | Mercy Corps | [Mercy USA](#) | Ministry of Public Health | [Ministry of Water and Irrigation](#) | Movement for Peace | [Muslim Aid](#) | NAJMAH | [National Center for Culture and Arts](#) | NICCOD | [NRC](#) | Operation Mercy | [Organization for the Development of Women and Children](#) | Oxfam | [PEOPLE IN NEED](#) | Plan International | Polish Center for International Aid | [Psycho Social Training and Services Institute in Cairo](#) | PU-AMI | [Public Aid Organization](#) | QANDIL | [Questscope](#) | Rassemblement Democratique des Femmes du Liban | [Relief International](#) | Refugee Education Trust | [Refugee Egypt](#) | Resala | [RESCATE](#) | RESTART | [Royal Health Awareness Society](#) | Safadi Foundation | [SAWA](#) | SCI KR-I | [SCI](#) | SCJ | [Search for Common Ground](#) | Secours Islamique France | [Seraphim GLOBAL](#) | SHEILD | [Solidar Suisse](#) | Solidarités International | [Soins infirmiers et développement communautaire](#) | St. Andrew's Refugee Education Service | [STEP](#) | TADAMON | [Taghyeer](#) | TDH | [TDHI](#) | THW | [TRIANGLE GH](#) | UAE Red Crescent | [UNAMI](#) | UN Women | [UNDP](#) | UNESCO | [UNFPA](#) | UN-Habitat | [UNHCR](#) | UNICEF | [UNOPS](#) | Un Ponte Per | [UNRWA](#) | WAAJC | [War Child UK](#) | War Child Holland | [WARVIN](#) | WFP | [WHO](#) | World Rehabilitation Fund | [World Vision International](#) | Young Man's Christian Association | [Y-PEER](#)

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