

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

19 - 25 April 2014



This situation update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 157 partners across the region.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- A [joint statement](#) by the heads of UN humanitarian agencies calls upon all parties to the Syria conflict to take urgent action to enable unconditional humanitarian access to all people in need using all available routes; lift the sieges on civilians currently being imposed by all sides; and end the indiscriminate bombing and shelling of civilians and stop all other violations of international humanitarian law. The statement by the principals of UNOCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and WHO highlighted the deteriorating humanitarian situation inside Syria and the plight of some 3.5 million people living in areas under siege or unable to be reached with humanitarian assistance.
- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated on 22 April that the number of Syrian refugees in [Turkey](#) has reached "almost one million". Government authorities have registered over 722,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey to date.
- A [WFP report](#) on the economic impact of its voucher assistance programme in [Jordan](#) highlights the many direct and indirect benefits of the voucher assistance modality. It is estimated that in 2014 WFP's voucher assistance will amount to an equivalent of 0.7 per cent of the GDP in Jordan, injecting US\$ 250 million into the local economy.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Strengthening child protection interventions across the region, p.2
- Enhancing protection through community engagement and outreach, p.2
- Lebanon: Shelter challenges persist as significant numbers of refugees live in sub-standard dwellings, p.3
- Egypt: boat departures increase as refugees attempt to reach Europe, p.3
- Mahmoud's Journey: A young Syrian's new life in Sweden p.4

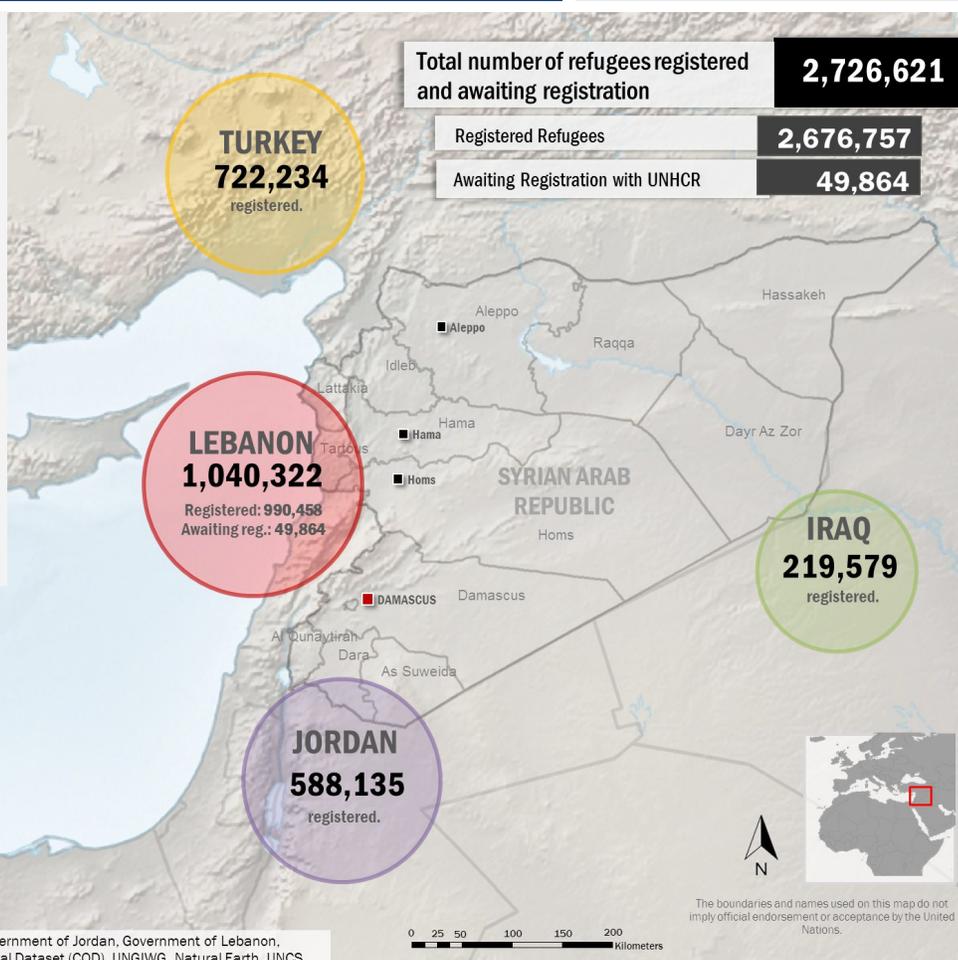
REGIONAL FIGURES

2.7 million Syrian refugees have fled to neighbouring countries and North Africa

51% of the Syrian refugee population are under 18 years old

There are more than **220** Syrian refugees for every **1,000** Lebanese residents

76% funding gap in the 2014 Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP6)



N. AFRICA*
19,697
registered

* Morocco, Algeria and Libya

Sources: AFAD, Government of Egypt, Government of Iraq, Government of Jordan, Government of Lebanon, UNHCR Regional Datawarehouse, Common Operational Dataset (COD), UNGIWG, Natural Earth, UNCS

0 25 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Refugee population as of 29 April 2014, based on available data. For updated figures, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS ACROSS THE REGION

- Jordan - The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has formed a youth committee “Lajna Shababiyya” in Zaatari Camp. The committee is tasked to liaise closely with youth and community members to ensure that their voices are heard and that youth can play a meaningful role in communities. This action-oriented body is in addition to the Youth Task Force that has been operational since late 2012 in Zaatari, with the view to create a safe and enabling environment for youth in the camp and offer informed youth programming. Targeting youth aged 15 - 24 years, the Task Force is currently co-chaired by NRC and UNFPA, meets weekly and reports to the Child Protection/Education Working Group.



A family of 25 refugees from Homs live in an underground garage in the Lebanese capital, Beirut. They gather garbage day and night to sell to recycling companies. Two of their 13 children under 11 go to school; three work full time. The rest spend their day in the garage.
UNHCR | Lynsey Addario

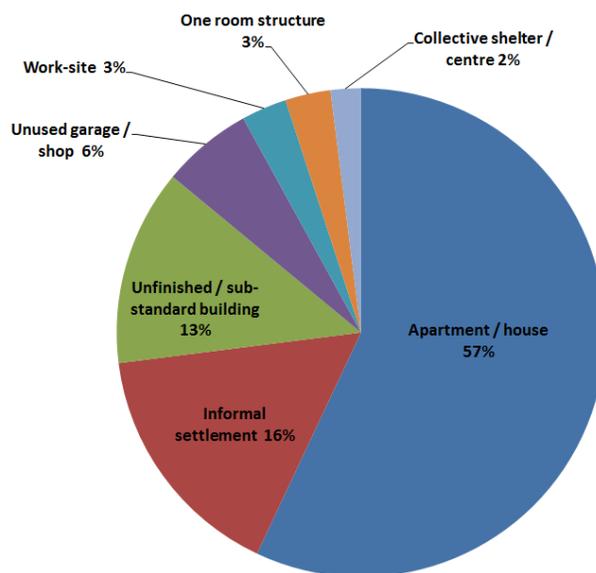
- Egypt - Save the Children has identified new child friendly spaces (CFS) in the 10th of Ramadan city, in greater Cairo. These new CFSs will add to the five spaces Save the Children is currently running across Greater Cairo, where refugee and Egyptian children can receive psychosocial support and enjoy a safe space to play and learn.
- Lebanon - More than 3,300 Lebanese and Syrians benefited from recreational and psychosocial support activities in the week ending 25 April at the various child friendly spaces and community centres run by Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in partnership with UNICEF and UNHCR nationwide.

ENHANCING PROTECTION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

- Egypt - UNHCR partner Arab Organization for Human Rights opened the “Souriyat Association Community Centre” in 10th Ramadan city in Greater Cairo, where large concentrations of vulnerable Syrians reside. The centre will organize cultural, recreational and sports events; livelihood and vocational activities; psycho-social support services; health and legal aid awareness; and fundraising and resources mobilization events. The centre will be managed by the Syrian Women Association, which was formed in 2013 by Syrian women in Egypt. Another centre is scheduled to open soon in the Heliopolis district in Cairo.
- Jordan - In April, UNHCR created a Community-Based Protection Network (CBPN) in District 10 of Zaatari Camp, bringing the total number of CBPNs in the camp to five (districts 6, 7, 8, 9 and now 10). CBPNs are a protection tool that gives refugees the opportunity to participate in identifying and addressing protection needs. A CBPN is formed with a group of 12-15 refugees of different ages, gender and origins per district. Refugees are selected based on specific criteria and perform their duties on a voluntary basis. When a district network is formed, UNHCR trains refugees for two days on Human Rights, Refugee Rights, International Protection, Children’s Rights, and Women’s Rights, as well as overall objectives and tasks of the CBPN. So far, about 60 refugees have received the CBPN training.
- Lebanon - Twenty Internal Security Force officers from different police stations across Koura and Batroun, north Lebanon, were provided with awareness sessions on prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and human rights. Similarly in Koura, north Lebanon, twenty Lebanese Armed Forces officers attended training on international refugee protection, the legal context of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, SGBV, and child protection.

LEBANON: SHELTER CHALLENGES PERSIST AS SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF REFUGEES LIVE IN SUB-STANDARD DWELLINGS

- As the shelter absorption capacity in Lebanon continues to wane, affordable shelter options have diminished and refugees are increasingly turning to improvised shelters. In March of 2014, UNHCR through research and polling company Statistics Lebanon Ltd. conducted a phone survey with some 6,000 randomly selected Syrian refugees to assess their shelter situation.
- Survey findings showed that 81 per cent of refugees pay some sort of rent for their accommodation. Fifty-seven per cent of all refugees rent apartments, often sharing small basic lodgings with other refugee families in overcrowded conditions. Forty per cent live in fragile environments such as tents in informal settlements, garages, worksites and unfinished buildings.
- In parallel, the proportion of refugees living in informal settlements increased from 12 to 15 per cent and the number of informal settlements more than doubled from over 400 in August to almost 1,000 currently, with an average occupancy of 21 families each.
- Given the increasingly number of refugees in fragile accommodation, the need for shelter assistance is expected to rise further.
- UNHCR continues to discuss with the Government the possibility of formal settlement options with a capacity for 10,000- 20,000 persons in secure locations. To date approval has been limited to three small settlements accommodating some 550 refugees.



EGYPT: BOAT DEPARTURES INCREASE AS REFUGEES ATTEMPT TO REACH EUROPE

- A recent increase in the number of Syrians who are attempting to leave Egypt illegally to Europe by boat has been observed. As of 22 April, some 287 Syrians refugees are detained in eight different police detention facilities in Alexandria and surrounding governorates for attempting to depart irregularly or illegally. UNHCR is following up with the authorities regarding the Syrian detainees, and Caritas and Resala are providing food, blankets and medical care to the detainees.
- On 10 April UNHCR conducted an awareness session on the consequences of the irregular departure from Egypt by sea for 20 Syrian refugees residing in Nasr City district in Cairo. UNHCR also highlighted the importance of respecting Egyptian laws and



A Syrian mother sits on a deck of the Italian vessel, Verga, with her young children. They were rescued from a fishing boat carrying 219 people while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Libya. UNHCR | A. D'Amato

regulations and discussed the requirements and process for obtaining residency permits on UNHCR asylum seeker cards, as well as the services that UNHCR and its partners provide to Syrian refugees in Egypt and how to access them.

MAHMOUD'S JOURNEY: A YOUNG SYRIAN SURVIVES BEING SHOT AT, DETAINED AND BULLIED TO FIND A NEW LIFE IN SWEDEN

- A photograph of Syrian refugee Mahmoud, taken late last year, shows the nine-year-old looking wistfully out of the window of an apartment block in Cairo, Egypt. Perhaps he was thinking of happier days at school in his home town of Aleppo or maybe he was wondering what life will be like when he and his family are resettled in Sweden. Mahmoud had not been able to attend school for two years. His family had fled Syria in October 2012 and sought shelter in Egypt, where life was tough – and became tougher in 2013 when public opinion began to turn against Syrians as Egypt struggled with its own political unrest. Mahmoud became the target of bullies, even at one point being physically attacked. Afterwards, he refused to leave the rented family apartment in 6th of October City, a drab, sand-swept satellite suburb of Cairo.
- Mahmoud's father tried to send him to Italy on a smuggler's boat, but the vessel was fired on and the traumatized boy ended up spending five days in a local detention centre. When he returned to his family in Cairo, he fell target to the bullying once more. But his case came to the attention of UNHCR and the refugee agency recommended Mahmoud and his family for resettlement. In January 2014, Mahmoud and his family flew to Sweden to begin a new life in the small town of Torsby, where he runs and plays outside without fear – he even had his first snowball fight. And now he is back at school.



Mahmoud sits outside of his new school in Torsby. UNHCR | J. Bävman

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 157 participating organizations, including 105 appealing agencies:

ABAAD | [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 Centre | [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 Centre | [FAO](#) | Finn Church Aid | [Finnish Red Cross/Iraqi Red Crescent Society](#) | French Red Cross | [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 Centre for Culture and Arts | [NICCOD](#) | NRC | [Operation Mercy](#) | Organization for the Development of Women and Children | [Oxfam](#) | PEOPLE IN NEED | [Plan International](#) | Polish Centre for International Aid | [Psycho Social Training and Services Institute in Cairo](#) | PU-AMI | [Public Aid Organization](#) | QANDIL | [Qatar Red Crescent](#) | 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 developpement comunautaire | [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

Humanitarian response partners are invited to contribute to this report. For more information or to be added to the distribution list, please contact [Anna King](#), UNHCR Regional Reporting Officer | kinga@unhcr.org