

External update on influx of Syrian refugees

UNHCR Representation in Turkey

24 September 2014

Highlights

The total number of arrivals is 140,000. UNHCR is supporting the Turkish Government to respond to the crisis since its onset on 19 September. Overall, with the items being procured in emergency procedure, Thus far, UNHCR provided 140,000 blankets; 75,000 sleeping mats; 31,000 Jerry cans and 10,000 plastic sheeting.

During a coordination meeting on 23 September called by the Sub-governor of Suruç and AFAD, the refugees' needs and the coordination of the response were discussed with all actors. Amongst the most urgent needs are clothes, underwear, hygiene kits, baby formulas, baby diapers, cradles. AFAD also is in need of tents, WASH facilities, mattresses, kitchen sets, food packages.

Arrivals

The only crossing currently in use, Yumurtalık, has been open for the last 24 hours; 800 persons crossed on 24 September (over 60,800 cumulative). The crossing point east of Mursitipinar remains manned by border guards, but the personnel stationed there are referring new arrivals to Yumurtalık. The atmosphere on the border remains tense and according to the authorities this sometimes is preventing services to be provided at some points of the border.



All refugees UNHCR spoke to in short profiling interviews, stated they either witnessed fighting and fled because they heard the sounds of fighting further away. Some refugees gave accounts of gross human rights abuses committed by IS, including violence against children. One woman said she fled because she was afraid of rape. Refugees with no family support in

Turkey are on stand-by and hope to return to Syria as soon as possible.

Reception and referrals

Turkish authorities continue their three phase process to admit refugees: Security check (disarmament); health checks and vaccinations of children; and then transfer for registration. UNHCR has suggested to the authorities that the new arrivals can be informed with a portable loudspeaker upon their arrival on the procedures which will help for them to understand the process.

Registration

Since 23 September 100 GDMM staff are present to pre-register the Syrians. As of end of

24 September 7,250 individuals had been pre-registered.

The pre-registration is now done at the border by GDMM Staff and persons are provided with an appointment date for 15-30 days later to get fully registered at Suruç Registration Centre. The Staff Member stated that some locals come to the Park to pick up their relatives staying there. The contact-details of the locals are registered. UNHCR has advised the authorities to start detailed registration with fingerprints in order to prevent duplications of assistance as well as identification of vulnerabilities, and to have a better understanding of the total number staying in the region.

Shelter

Most Syrians prefer to stay with their relatives in the town centre and villages, but there is still a significant number sheltered at the sites set up by AFAD. It is estimated that 60,000 refugees are in Suruç and its surroundings.



AFAD set up 2 (transit) shelters to host 10,000 people each. At YIBO boarding school in Onbirnisan, there are around 2,300 persons in buildings and in 36 rub hall tents. Hot meals are provided by IHH to 2,500 persons. UNHCR mats and blankets are distributed to residents.

There is a transit shelter for 5,040 persons at Suleyman Shah Park in Mursitpinar with 126 rub hall tents (so far 268 refugees are being hosted). AFAD informed UNHCR that it has distributed 1,000 blankets and there are a further around 9,000 blankets in the warehouse, some of which will be brought to the Park on 24 September 2014. When locals who are hosting refugees stated their need for blankets, the Staff provide these. The Turkish Red Crescent has started distributing hot food three times per day. AFAD also stated that two transformers will be set up in the Park and the water drainage system will also be set up for the shower containers. Once the system has been set up hot water will be available 24 hours per day in the currently inactive two shower containers. There are toilets, separately for women and men.

A Wedding Hall provided by the Suruç Municipality, is used by an estimated 500- 1,000 persons every day. It is reported that toilet facilities are overcrowded. The Turkish Red Crescent provides soup and bread for breakfast and Diyarbakir Municipality provides hot meals for lunch and dinner for up to 1,000 persons. There is a refugee committee (3 men and 4 women) that is tasked with identifying the needs and communicate them to those in charge. Registration (names only) is done by the committee and then communicated to the person in charge, but it is separated from the one done by the government. There is also a Health Workers Union, which assesses health and vaccination needs and refers to hospital accordingly. IMPR, DRC, IMC came to the wedding hall on 23 September to conduct a needs assessment.

In all transit sites visited by UNHCR, it was witnessed that the hygiene conditions are deteriorating given the numbers using the toilet and shower facilities. Help is needed to support government efforts on health and sanitation. Help is also needed on mass

communication so refugees know how to register, the need for medical checks etc.

Coordination

A coordination meeting was held on 23 September co-chaired called by Sub-governor of Suruç and the Head of AFAD's Response Department. The meeting was attended by UNHCR, IOM, WFP, UNICEF, DRC, MSF, IMPR, IMC, ECHO, DFID, RI, TRC, and Iyilik Der and chaired by AFAD. At the meeting the needs and the coordination of response were discussed. UNHCR has started to gather information from NGOs and agencies on their initial assistance commitments. An excel matrix of commitments has been assembled. UNHCR also informed that the UNHCR is putting in place a field coordination mechanism between NGOs, UN agencies and the Turkish authorities to ensure a coherent approach to this fluid situation.

UNHCR Response

UNHCR organized coordination meetings in Gaziantep en Ankara with other UN Agencies (UNICEF, WFP, WHO, IOM, UNFPA and FAO) and NGOs as part of its role as lead and coordinating UN Agency for the refugee response. In the meetings the agencies and NGOs discussed identified needs and activities planned in response. UNICEF indicated it provided 35,000 boxes of high-energy biscuits to newcomers. Additionally, UNICEF stated it has 47000 blankets and 16,000 hygiene kits ready to be delivered. UNFPA would provide 10,000 hygiene kits; 5,000 kits are ready to be delivered immediately and the remaining 5,000 kits can be prepared for the coming week. IOM informed the partners that they are committing 10,000 blankets, 10,000 mats and 5,000 jerry cans.

UNHCR is also providing 6,328 sets of clothes for children it has in stock and planning is on-going of a major procurement for winter clothes for camp and off camp based refugees which will be extended to cover in part the needs of the new-comers. UNHCR is looking at the possibility of procuring baby and adult diapers and hygienic kits for 200,000 persons. In parallel, a new procurement for 200,000 foam mattresses has been launched.

UNHCR is developing ways to improve protection activities, profiling the refugees and discuss how best to facilitate refugees' access to information on services that can be provided to them, while also focusing on UAMs, family reunifications, female heads of households, and overall protection aspects. CARE, DRC and IRC are planning to conduct protection assessments and UNHCR is coordinating with them.

UNHCR needs assessment

Despite the confirmed additional donation by the US of 20.8 million USD (pledged before the new emergency) increasing the overall earmark under the RRP6 to 25% from 21%. The overall unmet needs are around 75% and even more substantial now in view of the newly arrived 140,000 Syrian refugees whose requirements goes beyond the RRP6.

Donor Countries of UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme for Turkey:



Other Donor Countries contributing to UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme in alphabetical order including un-earmarked funding:



Contacts:

Selin Unal, PI Officer, unal@unhcr.org, Cell: +90 530 282 78 62

Bernardo Santos, Reporting Officer, santosr@unhcr.org, Cell +90 539 585 4643