

External update on influx of Syrian refugees Nr. 1

UNHCR Representation in Turkey

22 September 2014

Operational context



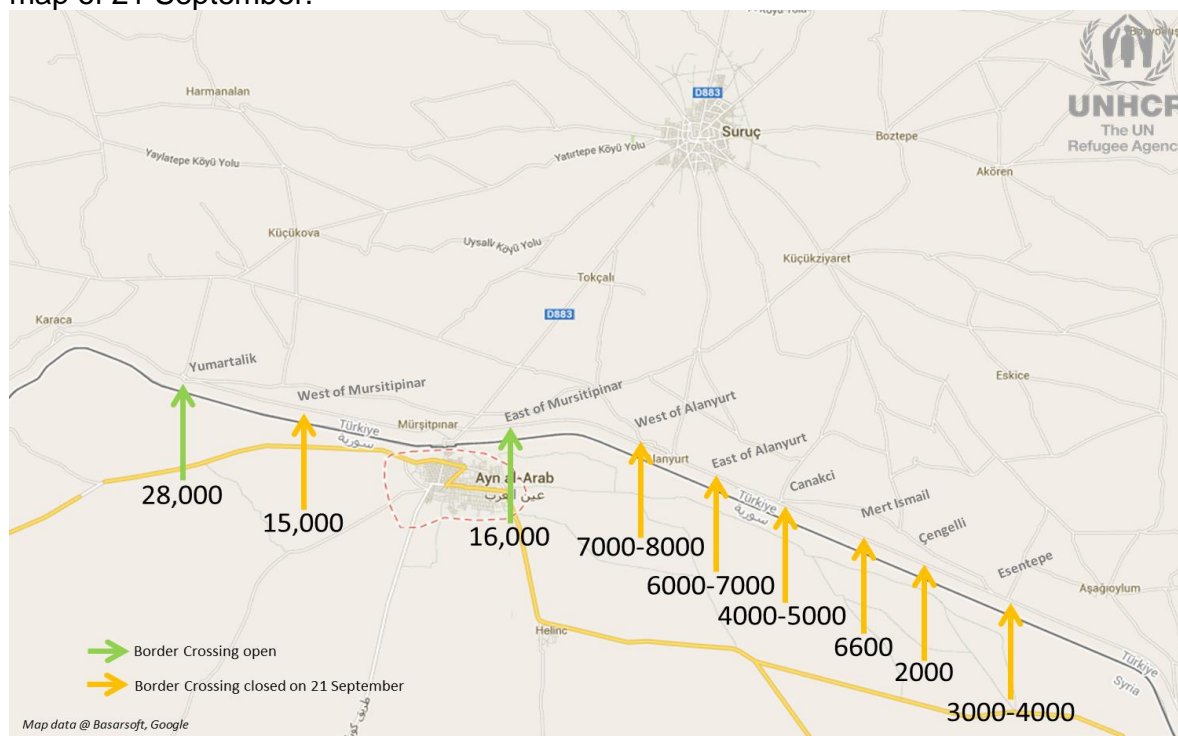
Over the past several days some 60 northern Syrian villages fell under ISIS control, making large numbers of Syrians seek safety in Turkey. Since people started to flee on Friday 19 September, the authorities report that up to 130,000 Syrians have crossed into Turkey.

UNHCR is continuing to support the response by the Turkish authorities, as it has already provided 20,000 blankets; 10,000 sleeping mats; 5,000 Jerry cans and 2,000 plastic sheeting in the


first days of the response. Turkish government authorities and UNHCR are preparing for the possibility thousands more refugees arriving over the coming days, as the battle for the northern Syrian city of Kobani (or Ayn al-Arab) forces more people to flee.


Crossings

During the weekend Syrians crossed through 9 border crossings as indicated on the map of 21 September.



As reported by the Turkish authorities on 21 September, the original nine crossing points were reduced to only two. During the night (21/ 22 September) the following

	<p>number of refugees arrived through the two border crossings as there were no people waiting on the other side: 1) Crossing east of Mursitpinar: 300-400 refugees and 2) Yumurtalık: 4,000 refugees.</p>
<p>Reception and transit shelter</p>	<p>The authorities are managing the entry of refugees in three phases: Security check (disarmament); health checks and vaccinations of children; and then transfer for registration.</p> <p>At the border the Turkish Red Crescent has established a medical observation tent for the injured among new arrivals and ambulances are available on the spot. Over 290 Syrians were brought to Suruc Hospital since Friday, 19 September 2014 until the morning of Sunday, 21 September 2014. 110 of these were brought to the Hospital by ambulance. The rest of them were treated as outpatients.</p> <p>Food and water, milk and baby formulas are provided on arrival. Several small towns on the border served as the first stop for the Syrians who just arrived in Turkey, and in some occasions the local authorities provided water and bread and referred them to towns for registration and shelter. The municipality of Suruc town has been distributing food, diapers, and milk and Diyarbakır Municipality has provided hot meals to 1,500 persons.</p> <p>AFAD reported that it is setting up rub hall tents in YIBO boarding school in Onbirsan as the capacity of the dormitory of the school is for 200 persons only, while rub halls are being set up in the school grounds (photo). So far 36 small size rub halls have been set up. Hot meals are being distributed. IHH, a Turkish NGO, is providing hot meal two times a day at YIBO (capacity for 5,000 people). Staff of the Provincial Directorate of Public Health stated they are vaccinating children at the boarding school and at the registration centre in Suruc town centre: 0-59 months against measles and 0-5 years old against polio.</p>  <p>AFAD setting up rub hall tents in YIBO boarding school in Onbirsan photo:UNHCR</p> <p>AFAD has set up a transit shelter for 5,000 persons in Suleymansah Park in Mursitpinar, with WASH facilities and Core Relief Items provided by UNHCR.</p> <p>Many Syrians chose not to go to the shelters. UNHCR was informed by a local bus</p>

	<p>company that there are around 300 minibuses continuously working day and night transporting Syrians from the border and into Turkey, among others to Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Nizip, Birecik, Diyarbakir, and Mersin. The estimation of Subgovernor regarding Syrians in Suruc including town centre and villages is 50,000.</p>
Registration	<p>Registration is being conducted by DGMM, however, it is reported that some Syrians are afraid to get registered as they want to remain outside of the camps. The Turkish authorities informed UNHCR that initially most of the Syrians were transferred from Dikmetaş city to a boarding school in Onbirnisan in Suruc district, to be registered. Registration is still being conducted in the boarding school and 1,300 Syrians were registered there by Saturday afternoon.</p>  <p>A registration desk was opened on Saturday in Suruc town centre and two mobile registration centres (donated by UNHCR) are now stationed at at Yumurtalik crossing point and in the yard of the Namik Kemal primary school and one mobile registration center is not being used for registration, but for the coordination of accommodation and core relief items.</p> <p>Mobile registration center at Yumurtalik crossing point- photo: UNHCR/ E. Argunhan</p>
Shelter	<p>AFAD is accelerating the preparatory works for the 2 camps under construction, Derik Camp in Mardin and Islahiye camp for which UNHCR has already committed support for WASH and NFIs for an estimated value of \$ 12.5 million.</p>
UNHCR Response	<p>From the beginning of the influx UNHCR has been present monitoring all locations/border gates, coordinating with authorities and meeting with refugees in multiple locations. As the lead and coordinating UN Agency, UNHCR is also organizing coordination meetings with all UN agencies and NGOs to discuss the needs and coordinate the support to Turkey's refugee response.</p> <p>On 19 September, following the urgent request from AFAD for support in view of the arrival of some 6 to 10,000 people, UNHCR has immediately provided assistance to contribute to the emergency response handled by the Government of Turkey. UNHCR provided 10,000 blankets; 10,000 sleeping mats; 5,000 Jerry cans and 2,000 plastic sheeting. All items were immediately loaded on 10 (15 ton) AFAD trucks that left for Urfa at night on 19 September. On 20 September another 10,000 blankets were provided at the request of AFAD for distribution.</p> <p>Following the further influx of refugees during the night between the 19 and 20 September 2014, the estimated number of Syrians seeking protection and safety in Turkey had reached 65,000 individuals, according to AFAD estimates on 20 September</p>

	<p>2014.</p> <p>UNHCR is currently undertaking additional Core relief items for 65,000 Syrians as requested by the Turkish authorities. UNHCR is ready to dispatch to AFAD the following items: 130,000 - Medium Thermal blankets (2 x person); 65,000 mats; 26,000 Jerry cans and 8000 Plastic Sheeting for a total estimated value of nearly \$ 830,000 (while other assistance is ongoing for other new camps).</p> <p>Following consultations with the GoT to identify the most urgent unmet needs for up to 200,000 new arrivals, already factoring in the needs for the upcoming winterization, UNHCR has launched a major procurement for the following items: High Thermal blankets: 400,000, Sleeping Mats: 200,000, Kitchen Sets: 40,000, Plastic sheetings: 10,000 and Rub Halls. All for an estimated value of \$ 6.1 million.</p> <p>UNHCR is organizing an airlift of key core relief items from its Global Management Stockpiles in Dubai and Copenhagen to support the Turkish authorities in this emergency response. The 1st flight out of 5 is expected on Tuesday in Adana Airport.</p>
AFAD needs assessment	<p>According to AFAD Sanliurfa among the urgently needed items are: Food packages (dry food for the families who reside with their relatives), hygiene kits including sanitary napkins and baby diapers; baby formulas and milk; and winter clothing.</p>
UNHCR needs assessment	<p>UNHCR Turkey has already stretched its capacity diverting some assistance available for the Syrian refugees in Turkey to support the internally displaced people in Northern Iraq (through AFAD and UNHCR), for cross-border Syria and now to face the new influx of Syrian refugees for an estimated value of \$ 1.2 million.</p> <p>The overall unmet needs are much more substantial as the RRP 6 for Turkey is currently only 21 % funded, not even taking into account the latest mass influx. The needs will likely rise should the Government of Turkey decide to open new camps in the days and weeks ahead and given the increased needs for more registration facilities along the scope of the border.</p>

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