

JORDAN

HUDA WINTER STORM UPDATE

10 January 2015

KEY FIGURES

217,530

Total number of blankets for the 2014/2015 winter plan, incl. Huda response

109,130

Blankets dispatched since Huda winter storm started on 08 Jan.

31,000

Refugee households (all nationalities) who have received UNHCR winterization cash assistance

10,000

Plastic sheeting dispatched in Zaatari camp

2,892

T-shelters floors cemented in Azraq camp

Four months

Duration of the winterization response (Nov. 14/ Feb. 15)

USD 16.5 m

Winterization response budget



Elderly woman taking blankets back to her shelter in Azraq refugee camp. ©UNHCR/ M. Hawari

URBAN AREAS

- Temperatures across the country dramatically dropped over the weekend, including in Amman where it continued to snow. Low temperatures continued to block movements in Jerash and Ajloun due to ice and snow.
- By Saturday evening, 25,055 blankets have been distributed in urban areas. Blankets benefit refugees of all nationalities and vulnerable Jordanians. Over Friday and Saturday, distribution took place in ten governorates, including in the following areas: Ma'an, Madaba, Salt, Zarqa, Jordan Valley, Sahab, Mafrq, Ras Al Ein and Irbid. No blankets have yet been delivered to Jerash and Ajloun as the roads are still closed. However, gas cylinders were delivered to 12 families in Jerash governorate where they were trapped without any gas supplies.
- In Mafrq, although contacts between UNHCR and refugees indicate that the situation for refugees had improved on Saturday, some refugee families are still in need of urgent assistance. In close consultation with refugee leaders and the Head of Zaatari Municipality, UNHCR assessed the situation of refugees in Zaatari village, where approximately 100 families living in tents were found in need of urgent support. 400 blankets and five heaters were distributed. Distribution of blankets is ongoing in Beni Hashim, where a total of 4,528 items benefited 444 Syrian households and 63 vulnerable Jordanian families. A balance of 700 blankets remains with the Community Based Organization (CBO) for case by case distribution. In Ruwashed four gas cylinders and food were provided to six families.

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URBAN AREAS (continued)

- In Zaatari village, UNHCR staff including the health coordinator have been following up on the situation of the family transferred to Mafraq Government Hospital in an emergency condition on Thursday night. According to the hospital, cause of death was suffocation due to inhalation of gas. Unfortunately, two family members (an elderly and a child) passed away on Friday afternoon, while the remaining three family members are still at the hospital. Two adults are in stable condition but the child is still in critical state.
- In Cyber City, UNHCR distributed gas cylinders to residents who ran out of gas. A water pipe exploded in KAP because of freezing weather, and the main water pump stopped working in Cyber City. Both were repaired by ACTED and are now functioning. Additionally, UNHCR stocked 500 foam mattresses, 1,000 blankets and other core relief items there for emergency cases to urban refugees in Irbid governorate.
- No refugees were brought to Raba Al Sarhan throughout the weekend.
- UNHCR and Legal Aid emergency telephone lines remain operational 24 hours a day to answer urgent requests, for snow-related assistance emergencies and for protection.

AZRAQ REFUGEE CAMP

- Non-stop heavy rain continued throughout Friday night resulting in an increase in the number of water leakages in shelters. On Saturday, temperatures were close to zero and wind speed was low. No floods were observed and the water drainage system continues to function well despite heavy rains in the past couple of days. It is however muddy within the plots. Most repairs were done on roof flashing and sealing of the doors. Since Wednesday, NRC quick-fix teams fixed some 125 shelters.
- By Saturday 10 January, UNHCR distributed, with the support of NRC, 14,522 blankets donated by the Ruler of Dubai. The distribution is expected to be completed by Monday.
- No major complains were received from refugees except the difficulty of moving around due to the mud. Throughout the weekend refugees expressed their general satisfaction about the services provided including the gas refills, shelter repairs and the continuous presence of humanitarian staff. Refugees have reported that they would like their gas cylinders to be refilled more often than the usual two weeks so that they can keep the heater on all day.
- Movements within the camp were limited on Friday because of the puddles between shelters and the rain, but to some extent, refugees were performing their regular daily activities as usual on Saturday.
- Water supply to the camp has not been affected since the beginning of the storm. Few cases of broken WASH Unit doors in populated villages were reported.
- NRC, IMC, UNHCR, IFRC and ACTED staff were present in the camp on Saturday.

ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP

- The weather has been stable throughout the weekend but with low temperatures at night. No snow remains on the ground. Main roads were accessible while muddy patches, culverts and drains continue to be cleared to ensure run off of water.
- Essential services continue but schools and most activities remain suspended.
- All 12 Save the Children emergency shelters remain open with four receiving refugees. Numbers of individuals in emergency shelters fluctuate over the day with people leaving to check on tents and belongings. According to Save the Children, the number of refugees present at the emergency shelters was 69 individuals on Saturday afternoon.
- Medical services operated normally. Numbers of cases being attended by medical services are within the normal average with no marked increase in the number or type of cases reported. JHAS and Civil Defence reported that there were three electric shocks on Friday, however no serious injuries reported in the camp from fire or gas

incidents. UNFPA birth delivery services were operational as per normal with a contingency site in District 6 in place. JHAS and UNFPA are providing additional transportation, staffing and emergency services 24 hours a day.

- UNHCR Jordan Operation centre received many calls regarding electricity concerns. One transformer (District 8) was disconnected on Friday until further notice to ensure the safety of the community. Several outages continue into Saturday in the camp due to excessive loads, and IDECO, the electricity supplier, has been changing fuses continuously. Over the past 3 days there have been 146 fuses expended, in comparison to normal winter conditions where 150 fuses are used over a 1 month period. All attempts are being made to keep electricity on and limit further damage to transformers or community members. IDECO maintenance crews are in the camp 24 hours a day assessing and repairing, in coordination with UNHCR Electrical Engineer and Authorities.

UNHCR is grateful to donors for their financial support to its refugee response in Jordan as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds:

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