

JORDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

June 2015

KEY FIGURES

684,386

Persons of concern (all nationalities) registered by UNHCR

628,816

Syrians registered by UNHCR

55,570

Iraqis, Somalis, Sudanese, Yemenis and others registered by UNHCR

81,042

Syrians in Zaatari Camp

19,749

Syrians in Azraq Camp

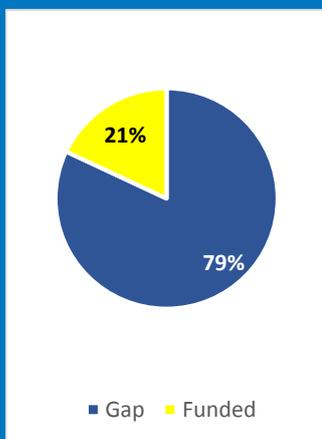
6,274

Syrians in Emirati-Jordanian Camp

FUNDING

USD 289 million

Requested for UNHCR Jordan's refugee response to the Syria crisis



BUILD-UP ON THE EASTERN BORDER



1,750 vulnerable Syrians, like these pictured entering Jordan in June 2014, are living in deplorable conditions on the eastern border. ©UNHCR/Jared Kohler

On 23 June, a team of UNHCR border, protection and public health staff visited the eastern border where an estimated 1,750 Syrians are living in deplorable conditions.

The vast majority are women, children, the sick and the elderly living in makeshift shelters with limited access to food, water, sanitation and medical support. UNHCR is extremely concerned for the welfare of this population given the high seasonal temperatures and their remote location.

While UNHCR recognizes the legitimate security concerns of the authorities, it is also concerned that they be provided with the necessary care and attention granted to them under international law, whilst also noting the excess capacity to accommodate new arrivals at Azraq Camp.

Throughout June, the majority of refugees arriving to Jordan originated from Aleppo, rural Damascus, Dara'a and Raqqa, with UNHCR further identifying an increase in flows from Sweida, reflecting the worsening security situation in southern Syria.

ZAATARI CAMP: NUMBER OF LEAVE PERMITS INCREASED



Zaatari Camp in northern Jordan more than 80,000 Syrian refugees seek safety 12km from the Syrian border. ©UNHCR/Andrew Harper

Syrian refugees in Zaatari Camp are being provided with an increased number of leave permits following the relocation of staff there to upgraded facilities.

Officials from the Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate (SRAD), the main government body charged with the coordination of refugee affairs in Jordan, are now able to ensure that 1,000 applications are processed daily, up from the previous figure of 700.

SRAD is also considering a request from refugee representatives to allow for the return of leave permits at the gate, rather than requiring them to be returned to the camp police station.

The existing procedure of returning permits to the police station is intended to ensure that SRAD alerts UNHCR should a refugee wish to remain outside of the camp beyond the time allowed to de-register from the camp.

REFUGEES LIVING OUT OF CAMPS: AN APPEAL FOR URGENT FUNDS

A UNHCR [appeal](#) launched on World Refugee Day to raise desperately-needed funds for some of Jordan's most vulnerable Syrian refugee families hit the US\$ 2.4 million mark by the end of June. This figure means that over 1,600 Syrian families have now been taken off the waiting list and provided with cash assistance for a year.

The "Lifeline" appeal, coinciding with the start of Ramadan, is running against the backdrop of falling international aid contributions to Jordan where Syrian refugees living outside of camps are experiencing deepening hardship five years into exile.

"The cash assistance is our most effective and efficient programme to help refugees survive," said UNHCR Representative to Jordan, Andrew Harper. "We have helped more than 22,000 families with monthly cash assistance, without which they would have been able to pay rent or bills. But there are nearly 12,000 families that are still on the waiting list, and we are raising funds for them."

UNHCR has waived any administrative and technical costs to maximize the impact of the donations. “This means that every dinar, dollar or riyal will go directly to the refugees and only the costs for the bank transfer will be deducted,” said Harper.

This fundraising drive was initiated by UNHCR teams based in the Gulf with the support of the UNHCR Representation in Jordan. MBC, a major Arab TV channel, and its flagship Ramadan programme “[Khawatir](#)”, helped kick-start the appeal with US\$ 1.6 million, 10 per cent of its funding target, reached within just 48 hours from private donations.

The banner features the UNHCR logo in the top left corner. In the top right, it says "SECURE DONATION MAKE A DONATION" with a padlock icon. The main image shows a young girl in a patterned sweater sitting in a simple room. To her right is a progress chart with three bars representing "FAMILIES HELPED": 2,000 (green), 6,000 (blue), and 12,000 (red). The current status is "9,918 FAMILIES STILL NEED SUPPORT". Below the chart, it says "\$3,123,615.00 RAISED SO FAR". The text "URGENT LIFELINE APPEAL" is in large blue letters, followed by "Help provide a lifeline to Syrian families in Jordan. Donate Now".

OUTREACH

Young Syrian refugee children celebrate their graduation

On 1 June, a class of young Syrian refugee children celebrated their graduation from the Princess Basma Centre nursery school in Tafilah. The Community Support Committee (CSC) there had successfully lobbied for the inclusion of Syrian children from vulnerable refugee families into nursery school education, and last September 50 Syrian refugee children were enrolled along with 15 Jordanian children with UNHCR covering the costs of enrolment, as well as uniforms, books and other school equipment.

One Syrian mother told UNHCR of the difference the classes had made to her child’s development, saying:

“Today for the first time since I arrived in Jordan I felt a sense of hope while watching my five-year-old son interact happily with his classmates. I remember when we left Syria a year ago my son was clinging to me all the time, refusing to leave my side or even play with the other children.

It was very difficult for him to start attending the classes. He kept crying asking for me, but with support, patience and guidance from his teacher, my child returned from school a happy little child.



A Syrian refugee child speaking at his graduation ceremony at the Princess Basma Centre in Tafilah. ©UNHCR

I'm really grateful for UNHCR and the CSC support. Without them my child would have had stayed at home as we can't afford the fees by ourselves, and he would have faced many challenges once enrolled in primary school. You have brightened his future."

The Tafilah CSC is continuing to advocate for the inclusion of more young Syrian children into nursery classes in Tafilah, including for the 2015-1016 school year.

Iraqi refugees engaging with the community



Iraqi refugees planting seedlings donated by the Greater Amman Municipality at a home gardening CSC event in Marka, East Amman. ©UNHCR

Throughout June, Iraqi refugees engaged in activities organized by CSCs that included volunteers from community-based organizations (CBOs) and members of the local community. In Zarqa, a sweet-making workshop aimed to introduce new cooking techniques to Iraqi refugees ahead of Eid celebrations, whilst in Marka in East Amman a gardening workshop went ahead with the generous donation of 80 houseplant seedlings from the Greater Amman Municipality.

CSCs are important community-based outreach mechanisms mandated to meet the needs and progress the aspirations of refugees in Jordan. At the end of June, 23 CSCs were operational across Jordan - fifteen for Syrians, six for Iraqis and one each for Sudanese and Somalis. Each CSC comprises female and male representatives of the host and refugee communities and works under the patronage of a Community-Based Organization (CBO).

Established in 2013 by UNHCR in partnership with the International Relief and Development (IRD), CSCs are important community-based outreach mechanisms mandated to meet the needs and progress the aspirations of refugees in Jordan.

All CSCs have established lines of communication with local authorities as well as local and international NGOs who may use CSCs to target operational activities or information to refugees. CSCs may also advocate for refugee protection to relevant authorities and organizations.

While CSC staff work on a voluntary basis, external support is provided for operating expenses including transportation, communication and project related costs. UNHCR provides capacity-building training and mentoring to CSC staff. Given the low costs of running CSCs and their effectiveness in addressing refugee needs and aspirations, CSCs are regarded as a best practice example of UNHCR outreach mechanisms.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2015

“Standing Together”: UNHCR and partners pay tribute to the resilience of refugees in Jordan



UNHCR offices in Amman ahead of World Refugee Day commemorations in June 2015 featuring a mural painted by [AptART](#) – “As One I Am Fragile, Together We Are Strong” - and a tapestry of 10,000 hand prints reflecting the message of “Standing Together”. ©UNHCR/Abdulrahman Raslan

UNHCR, and many others humanitarian actors involved in the refugee response in Jordan, marked World Refugee Day with a series of events ahead of the official commemoration on 20 June. The theme adopted by the UNHCR Representation in Jordan this year, “Standing Together”, was chosen to reflect the courage and resilience of refugees and their host communities at a challenging time; as well as highlighting the enduring partnership between UNHCR and the Government of Jordan in safeguarding the rights and well-being of refugees.

One of the activities chosen to convey this message was an art project collecting painted hands printed onto recycled UNHCR tent canvas from the Zaatari Camp, where 81,000 refugees now live in solid structures. UNHCR and 12 other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations were involved in this collaborative effort.

The public response to the project was extraordinary with some 15,000 hand prints collected on 91 canvasses from people across all walks of life at several locations across the country. These included bus stations, markets, refugee camps, schools, malls, companies, the Amman Roman amphitheatre, a clinic and a stadium.

One large tapestry of canvasses alone featured 10,000 hand prints. The work has since been displayed at UNHCR offices in Amman and at City Mall, one of Jordan’s largest shopping centres, and is expected to be displayed outside of Jordan in the near future.

The support of the Greater Amman Municipality, where the majority of refugees registered with UNHCR live, was crucial in helping to raise awareness about World Refugee Day and to emphasize the importance of “Standing Together” with refugees and host communities.

Other events to mark the day included a football tournament at the Zaatari Camp, a marathon in Azraq Camp, a kite-making session for non-Syrian refugees in Amman and the illumination in UNHCR blue of a prominent hotel in central Amman on the evening of 20 June.

“Champions for Change”: UNHCR attend World Refugee Day event at the White House



UNHCR Representative to Jordan, Andrew Harper (second left), with four of the “Champions for Change”, (left to right) Mariela Shaker, Micheal Ighodaro, Sasha Chanoff and Gatluak Ter Thach, at the World Refugee Day 2015 event at the White House.

On 25 June the UNHCR Representative to Jordan attended the “World Refugee Day Champions for Change” event at the White House in Washington where he moderated a panel on “Expanding Access to Protection and Increasing Humanitarian Assistance: An International Perspective”. In attendance were Ambassador Susan Rice, Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor; Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Cecilia Muñoz, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Syria response:

UNHCR Jordan’s funding needs: **USD 289 million**

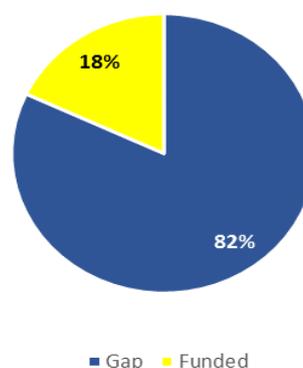
Total recorded contributions: **USD 60 million**

Iraq situation:

UNHCR Jordan’s funding needs: **USD 41 million**

Total recorded contributions: **USD 390 thousand**

UNHCR Jordan Total Funding Needs



UNHCR PARTNERS

Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD-Legal Aid), Care International (CARE), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), International Relief and Development (IRD), Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS), The Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), Jordan River Foundation (JRF), Ministry of Interior (MOI), Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) including the Civil Status Department, Family Protection Department & Ministry of Social Development, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate (SRAD).

DONORS

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have provided funds to UNHCR programmes worldwide and to the following donors for their support to UNHCR refugee response in Jordan in 2014 and 2015: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, CERF Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union including ECHO, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE, UK, USA and private donors.

Contacts:

Robert Sibson, Reporting Officer, sibson@unhcr.org

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A hotel in central Amman illuminated in UNHCR blue on 20 June, World Refugee Day. ©Le Royal Hotel & Resorts Amman.