



## OVERVIEW

As the conflict in Syria has continued for over four years, nearly four million people have fled into the neighbouring countries in search of refuge. In response to the increasing numbers of Syrians in the north of Jordan, UNHCR established a registration centre in Irbid in February 2013. In January 2014, UNHCR established Field Office-Irbid (FOI), and throughout early 2014 Branch Office-Amman handed over authority to FOI. FOI now manages UNHCR's activities and coordinates assistance in Irbid, Ajloun and Jerash governorates.

UNHCR has an active registered caseload in Jordan of 628,427 persons of concern, of whom 161,786 (26%) have found refuge in Irbid, Jerash, or Ajloun. (Numbers as of 8 April 2015.) The vast majority of Syrian refugees in FO-Irbid's area of responsibility are scattered in towns and villages, living outside of camp settings. In these host communities, they rent and share accommodation and access essential services, including education and health care. FOI conducts registration of new cases and renewals of Asylum Seeker Certificates, provides counselling, manages Help Desks, and works with partners to provide protection services, shelter assistance, and community support projects. UNHCR also manages, in cooperation with Jordan's Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate (SRAD), two camps that were established at the beginning of the crisis: King Abdallah Park and Cyber City.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**120,532**

Total active caseload registered since 2013 at Field Office-Irbid

**3,115**

Appeals of WFP cuts collected in March at Irbid, Jerash, and Ajloun help desks

**4,058**

Requests recorded in March for return of ID documents for urban verification

**15**

Community Support Projects completed in Irbid, Jerash, and Ajloun

### Population of concern

(As of 8 April 2015)

**Irbid: 141,724**

**Jerash: 10,590**

**Ajloun: 9,472**

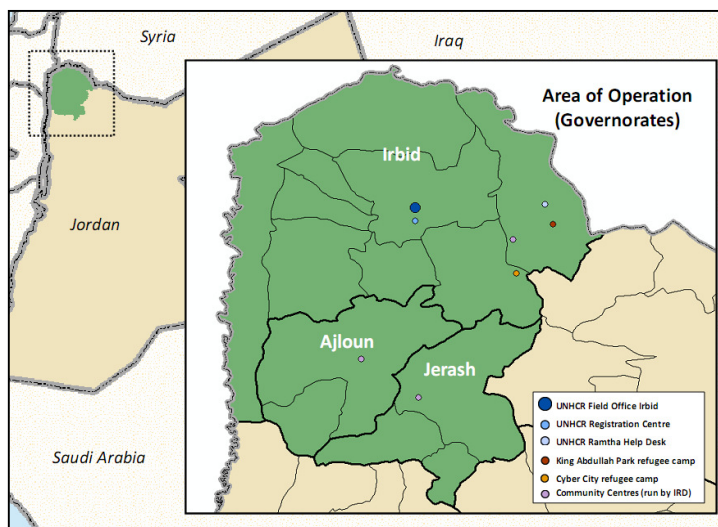
*Camp populations*

**King Abdallah Park: 669**

**Cyber City: 336**

### UNHCR Presence at FO-Irbid

**Staff: 23** UNHCR (3 international, 20 national), **31** UNOPS



#### For further information:

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Jordan Regional Refugee Response Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal:

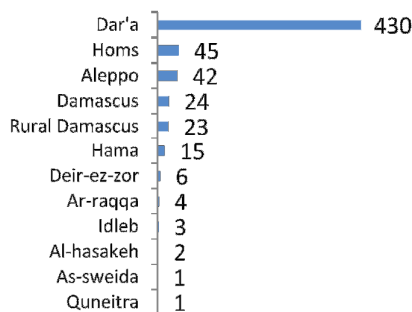
<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

# MONTHLY REGISTRATION STATISTICS

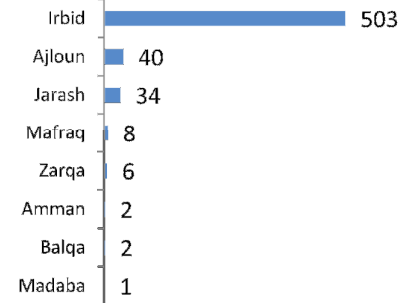
Age/Gender Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	241	273	514
5 - 11	6	2	8
12 - 17	1	4	5
18 - 39	14	34	48
40 - 59	4	14	18
60+	1	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>596</b>

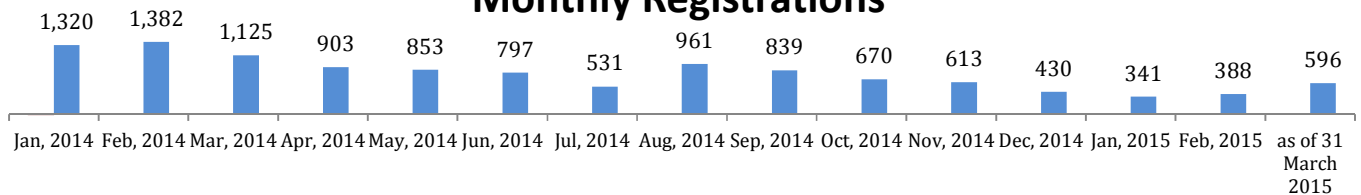
Place of Origin



Place of Residence



## Monthly Registrations



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR's implementing partners in Irbid, Jerash, and Ajloun include:

[Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development \(ACTED\)](#) | [Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development-Legal Aid \(ARDD-LA\)](#) | [International Medical Corps \(IMC\)](#) | [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) | [International Relief and Development \(IRD\)](#) | [Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development \(JOHUD\)](#) | [Jordan Health Aid Society \(JHAS\)](#) | [Mercy Corps](#) | [Noor Al Hussein Foundation \(NHF\)](#)

In addition, UNHCR works with and coordinates the activities of several other operating partners on the ground. In the urban setting, Field Office-Irbid holds monthly Operational Coordination Meetings for all partners operating in Irbid, Jerash, and Ajloun, as well as biweekly Referral Coordination Meetings for field-level caseworkers. For King Abdallah Park and Cyber City Camps, Field Office-Irbid holds biweekly protection coordination meetings as well as biweekly general coordination meetings. Together with coordination from Amman and the use of online tools, these efforts increase cooperation and awareness among partners, minimize duplication in projects, improve knowledge sharing, and help actors to address gaps more efficiently.

## MARCH NEWS

Emergency Non-Food Items:

FO-Irbid distributes thermal blankets to Syrian refugees in North

- UNHCR FO-Irbid distributed a total of 2905 blankets in March, including 2420 high-thermal blankets donated by HRH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid of Dubai and the International Humanitarian City, and 485 from its emergency stock. This includes 800 blankets in Jerash, 1305 in Irbid, and 800 in Ajloun. The blankets were distributed in cooperation with UNHCR's community support committees (CSCs) in each location. The CSCs are made up of Jordanian and Syrian youth volunteers; in addition to hosting awareness sessions and recreational activities, they help to identify the most vulnerable families in their areas and to reach them with assistance.



## MARCH NEWS, *continued*

### Water and Sanitation: UNHCR Improves Solid Waste Management Facilities in Four Locations



- The increase in population communities in the north of Jordan has placed stress on public services and basic infrastructure. In the interest of preserving community health and social cohesion among the Jordanian and Syrian populations, UNHCR has implemented 15 community support projects, ranging from rehabilitations of charity centers and construction of public parks, to improvements in solid-waste management and street lighting. These 15 projects total 700,000 JOD (about 1m USD) and are funded by the State of Kuwait and implemented by ACTED. Throughout March, UNHCR marked the handover of solid waste management equipment to four municipalities in the north of Jordan. In Soof and Sakeb (Jerash governorate), as well as Hatem and Sahel Horan (near Ramtha), UNHCR provided much-needed trash compactors, as well as solid-waste bins and street lighting, in order to improve community cleanliness and safety. These projects also included community awareness components and training of sanitation workers in order to ensure the proper care and maintenance of equipment. These four projects totaled approximately 270,000 JD.

### Community Support: UNHCR Opens Community Football Field for Youth in Ajloun Governorate

- On 10 March, UNHCR celebrated the handover and opening of a football field in Kofranjeh, Ajloun governorate. Like 14 other community support projects in Irbid, Jerash, and Ajloun, this project was implemented by partner NGO ACTED and funded by the State of Kuwait. The field provides a space for Syrian and Jordanian youth to come together in healthy competition and recreational activity. The land for the football field, donated by the municipality, is perched on a hillside looking out towards the Ajloun castle. Despite challenging weather conditions, including snow and rain, the contractors succeeded in grading the land and completed the project. An estimated 12,000 youth (80% Jordanian, 20% Syrian) will benefit from this project, which was completed on a budget of 49,000 JD.



### Food Security and Nutrition: UNHCR Assists in Collecting Appeals of Cuts in WFP Voucher Assistance

- As the Syrian crisis continues, the World Food Programme, a UN agency and partner of UNHCR, has faced increasing difficulty in maintaining the original levels of assistance to Syrian refugees. WFP has maintained food assistance to refugees living in camps; in the urban areas, meanwhile, it has strived to make the best use of funds by targeting the most vulnerable families for assistance. After extensive study of refugees' situations, WFP reduced assistance to those it deemed least food-insecure in October 2014. A second announcement of cuts came in March 2015. Each cut has included an appeals process. Because refugees often approach UNHCR to seek remedies for a cut in WFP assistance, UNHCR has cooperated with WFP and its implementing partner Islamic Relief to collect 3,115 appeals in March: 2783 at the Registration Center and 332 at mobile help desks.



### Health: UNHCR-Irbid Promotes Coordination among Health Actors

- On 16 March, FOI hosted the first Irbid health referral coordination meeting at UNHCR-Irbid. The purpose of this meeting was to promote information sharing and to establish and coordinate referrals between agencies. Seven agencies providing health services in Irbid, Ajloun, and Jerash attended, including Handicap International, Jordan Health Aid Society, MSF-Holland, MSF-France, Action Contre la Faim, Médecins du Monde, and IOM.

### Camp Coordination: UNHCR Celebrates Mother's Day and World Water Day

- UNHCR coordinated the celebration of Mother's Day and World Water Day at King Abdallah Park and Cyber City camps, on March 22 and 24 respectively. The celebrations included several elements, including music, dramatic sketches, games, poems, coloring, and distribution of gifts and balloons. 110 mothers and children attended in Cyber City and 240 in King Abdallah Park.