



This weekly update provides a snapshot of the United Nations inter-agency response to the influx of Syrians into Jordan. The response is led by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and is undertaken in full coordination with the Government of Jordan.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The number of Syrian individuals registered with UNHCR Jordan since March 1st 2011 has continued to steadily increase with 4,205 individuals registered with the Agency up to end of February, 2012. Notably, 1,260 Syrian individuals have appointments to register with UNHCR in Amman.
- During the reporting period, Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator visited Jordan as part of a regional tour regarding the Syrian situation.
- The Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation has been appointed by the GoJ to be the umbrella organisation for coordinating the national aid community.

II. Situation Overview

Ramtha Transit Facility

The facility, which is a temporary guesthouse for illegal entrants, is currently being equipped to host an increase in arrivals, as the situation in Syria remains unstable. UNHCR is looking at floor plans to maximise capacity for those in need of temporary shelter and protection before being bailed out. UNHCR is monitoring the situation closely through its permanent, informal presence at the facility. UNHCR staff are also utilising the opportunity to carry out preliminary interviews of new arrivals and disseminating information on the importance of registration, and an effort to ascertain any protection challenges they face.

Government of Jordan Camp, Sarhan

The Government of Jordan camp at Sarhan in Al Mafraq has been prepared as part of GOJ contingency measures, but remains un-operational. Sarhan is the only site that is in a state of preparedness. At this time, Syrian arrivals continue to be absorbed into host communities across Jordan, with main concentrations in villages and towns in the North of the country, including; Irbid, Mafraq, Ramtha and Zarqa.

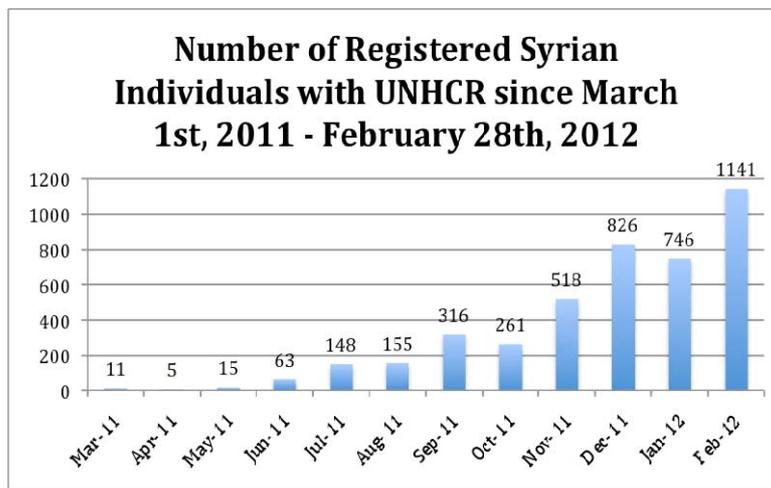
Registration

In response to growing numbers of Syrians of concern wishing to register with the Agency, but who are unable to travel to Amman, UNHCR is continuing to open its doors on Saturday's to carry out registration. By providing transport for pockets of vulnerable Syrians to travel to Amman, UNHCR is lowering the barriers to registration. Registration staff report that Syrians continue to express fear for their safety and for the safety of their families who remain in Syria.

As insecurity in Syria prevails, Syrians continue to cross the border both legally and illegally into Jordan. The total number of Syrians registered with UNHCR Jordan since March 2011 is **4205**. This figure does not include the Syrians that have been in Jordan prior to this time and registered with UNHCR earlier. Below is a table showing the registration trends per month from the period of March 2011 up to end of February 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching the Agency to register. Indeed, UNHCR also has 1,260 Syrians with appointments to register in Amman.

The high number of registrations in February can be attributable to a number of factors, including; UNHCR outreach efforts and active transport to Amman for those who were unable to previously make the trip to the capital, and growing confidence in the registration process as NFI and food distributions work to build trust with the community who have been in Jordan for a number of months, in addition to new arrivals.

Throughout the country, local NGOs are playing an important role in referring those of concern to UNHCR for registration, in addition to sustained and consistent outreach efforts carried out by UNHCR community services, field, health and protection staff.



Education and Psychosocial Support

UNHCR has begun its distribution of school kits, which include stationary, writing materials, a number of books along with a school bag as an effort to encourage children to attend school and reduce the burden on families to purchase the necessary items. The Community Services team have used text messaging to inform UNHCR registered families of the school kits, and to encourage parents to register their children in Jordanian public schools where they can obtain the kits. Distribution has taken place in areas with a high concentration of Syrians, including Amman, Mafrqa, Zarqa, Irbid, Ramtha in coordination with partners JHAS and Caritas.



School kit distributed to children registered with UNHCR upon registration with a public school

UNICEF continues to assist vulnerable Syrian children with psychosocial and remedial education in the Ramtha Facility and in Ma'an. To date, UNICEF has supported 120 vulnerable Syrian children in the Ramtha Facility while 180 Syrian children are receiving similar assistance in Ma'an.

As of 27 February, the number of vulnerable Syrians in the Ramtha facility continues to rise and stands at 386 individuals, of which 108 are children. UNICEF is looking into boosting the capacity and presence of its local partner in the Facility and setting up an outdoor play area to complement existing child friendly space.

UNICEF, together with the Help Desk team from the Save the Children Jordan, visited two Directorates of Education in Mafraq. During the visit, UNICEF and Save the Children supported the school registration process of vulnerable Syrian children. The Directorates in Mafraq are facilitating the registration of vulnerable Syrian children on a daily basis and children are provided with necessary textbooks.

Coordination

The GoJ has tasked the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) with coordination of relief efforts by the national aid community. UNICEF and UNHCR are currently working with JHCO to facilitate effective outreach and provision of services to displaced Syrians at the community level. JHCO is also represented at the UN Task Force weekly meeting in an effort to build closer coordination and information sharing.

UNICEF amongst other UN agencies and donors participated in a briefing on displaced Syrians hosted by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) on 22 February 2012.

The Representatives of UNHCR, UNICEF, together with the UN Resident Coordinator met with the Governor of Ramtha, where they discussed the situation and needs of the vulnerable Syrians hosted in the Governorate. They also visited together the Ramtha facility and took note of improvements required in the center.

Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator visited Amman where she met with the relevant Government officials and UN Representatives to stay abreast of the unfolding events in Syria and their effect on neighbouring countries like Jordan.

Contact

To be added to the Situation Report please contact, Aoife McDonnell at; mcdonnel@unhcr.org