



This 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

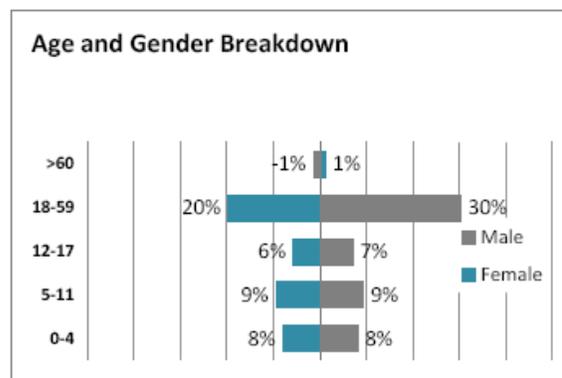
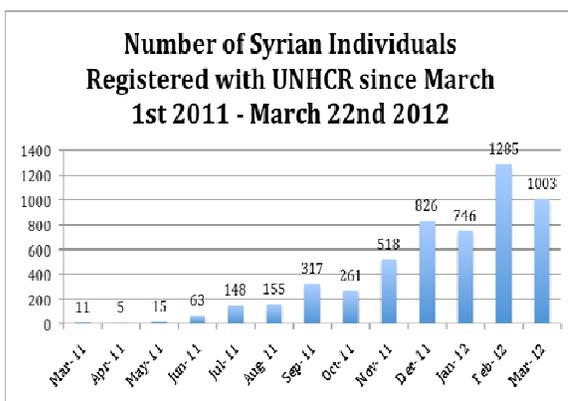
- The number of Syrian individuals registered with UNHCR Jordan since March 1st 2011 has continued to steadily increase with 5,886 individuals registered with the Agency up to 22 March, 2012. Notably, over 2,500 Syrian individuals have appointments to register with UNHCR.
- During the reporting period, the Regional Response Plan for Syria was launched in Geneva. The appeal document requests US\$84 million to help Syrians in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq.
- UNHCR Jordan welcomed the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Syrian Situation, Mr. Panos Moutziz, on mission to Jordan. The mission centred on coordinating the response, and meeting with key stakeholders in Jordan ahead of launch of RRP including the Government, the Inter Agency Task Force, implementing partners, the donor community, and indeed with Syrian persons of concern.
- Ramtha facility has witnessed a significant rise in numbers, with 720 individuals at the facility by March 22th, 2012.

II. Situation Overview

Registration and Numbers

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 up to 15th of March 2012 is **5,886**. 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 22 March 2012, and shows the steadily increasing numbers approaching the Agency to register. Indeed, UNHCR also has 2,500 Syrians with appointments to register in Amman.

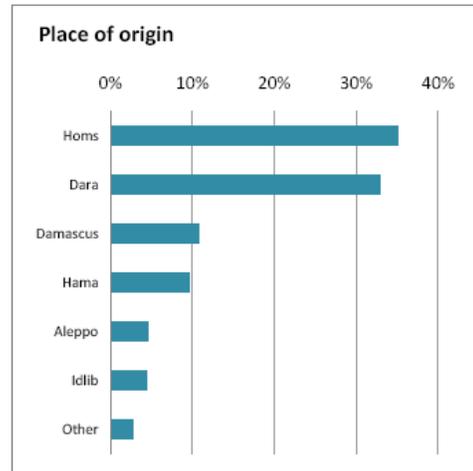


The majority of registered Syrians have fled the unrest with their families, and with registration and protection staff noticing increased reports of families leaving Syria without the Head of Household (HoH), with expectation that HoH will follow at later stage. Reasons for leaving Syria among families are most often related to the security situation.

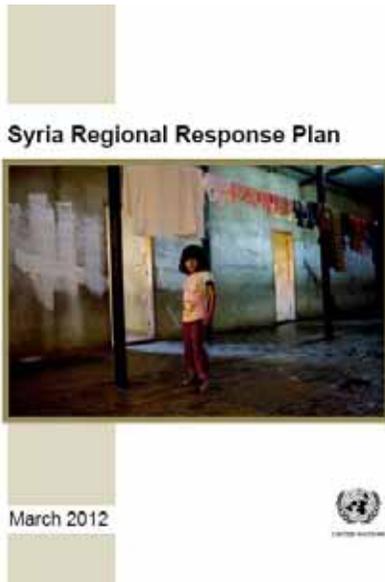
There is also a significant number of single males in Jordan, who report draft evasion and political opinion as the main reason for their flight.

Registration Highlights

- ❖ 88% of those registered come from Homs, Daraa, Damascus and Hama
- ❖ 50% of the population is between 18 – 59 yrs
- ❖ 45% of those registered in 2012 arrived in Jordan this year
- ❖ 85% of Syrian are in Amman, Irbid and Mafraq



Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP)



Bearing in mind the critical importance of a common strategy and coordination mechanisms for effective planning of a humanitarian response, the RRP for Syria has been finalised and launched. The plan is an inter-agency framework led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the result of a coordinated effort between 7 UN agencies, 27 national and international NGOs and partners, and host governments.

The plan outlines how agencies (including IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and WFP), host governments and local and international NGOs are uniting to provide a coordinated response to the needs of refugees and third country nationals.

The Syria RRP forms a part of the Syria Humanitarian Response Framework, together with the “Rolling 90-Day Response Plan for Syria”, covering needs inside Syria under the lead of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

RRP is available on UNHCR global website at: <http://www.unhcr.org/4f6c80a49.html>

The document is an appeal for US\$84 million to help Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq, and outlines the response to the needs for the tens of thousands of vulnerable Syrians who have fled the country since March 2011, as well as anticipating the needs of future arrivals. The plan is based on an estimate that in the next six months assistance will be needed to support some 100,000 people. This will mainly comprise Syrian persons of concern, as well as some third-country nationals. The plan does not cover humanitarian needs inside Syria. For that, a separate appeal, led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), is expected in the near future.

The plan is based on three objectives. The first is to ensure that Syrians and other refugees have access to neighbouring countries and international protection. The second is to provide for the basic needs of the refugees, with special attention to the most vulnerable. The third is to ensure that contingency measures are undertaken in the event of a larger-scale outflow.

In Jordan, there is growing expectations that the numbers of those registered will increase significantly as UNHCR and its partners expand its outreach efforts and level of assistance to Syrians. Concentrated in villages, towns and cities, many refugees have arrived with limited means to cover basic needs, and those who could at first rely on savings or support from host families are now increasingly in need of assistance. Cash assistance, distribution of aid items and quick impact projects for local communities are prioritised in the response.

UNICEF has participated in developing the Regional Response Plan for Syrian Refugees as the lead agency for both Children and Women's Protection and Education Sectors. UNICEF is calling for US\$4.2 million to provide education and child protection / psychosocial services to displaced Syrian children and their caregivers in targeted areas of Jordan over the next six months.

Ramtha Transit Facility

The Ramtha facility has witnessed a significant increase in numbers in recent weeks, and at time of reporting the number of individuals there stood at over 720. The facility is a Government of Jordan temporary guesthouse for those who have crossed the border into Jordan illegally, with the aim of providing temporary shelter and protection on arrival in Jordan. There is a bailing system in place, which allows Syrians to leave the facility.



Bunk beds for single males in basement of Ramtha Facility which is now overcrowded/UNHCR/2012

UNHCR is supporting the facility through significant renovation and refurbishment work, along with the provision of food on a weekly basis, and non-food items on arrival.

The compound includes 4 buildings to accommodate families, one building to accommodate single males, and one basement complex which is also hosting singles. In response to the growing numbers, four containers are also now in use to give shelter to increased numbers.

Since March 2011, over 700 brief interviews were conducted by UNHCR staff for new arrivals at the facility for the identification of special needs and/or vulnerabilities, leading to counselling services and more in-depth protection interviews where appropriate. The informal, permanent presence of UNHCR at Ramtha has allowed staff to monitor the situation closely, in particular in relation to eh numbers.

In coordination with UNHCR, UNICEF has begun work to improve sanitation and hygiene at Ramtha Facility. As part of this effort, a UNICEF Water, Sanitation and Hygiene expert will assess the facility to improve conditions.

Health



Mobile Health care provision in Ma'an/UNHCR 2012

Health services for Syrians have been rolled out across Jordan for Syrians through UNHCR Implementing Partners on a primary and secondary level. Since unrest started, 922 registered and 957 non registered Syrians have been assisted through the UNHCR health program. Furthermore, a number of cases have been assisted with high cost, life saving, tertiary care.

With the support of UNICEF, a midwife at the clinic in the Ramtha Facility is providing key messages on health, nutrition and hygiene to Syrian mothers and adolescent girls.

Food and Non-food Items Assistance

The cornerstone of UNHCR Jordan's response has been the provision of food and NFI assistance to vulnerable Syrians through its implementing partners, JHAS and Caritas. Distributions include much needed household items including; mattresses, blankets, bed linen sets, pillows, towels, heaters, mats, underwear, kitchen sets, jerry cans along with female hygiene products.

In addition, family hygiene kits, baby kits, school kits and winter clothing vouchers have been distributed as UNHCR works to alleviate the pressure and burden on families in these difficult circumstances.

During the reporting period, UNHCR implementing partner, Caritas, carried out a distribution in Mafraq in the north of Jordan. The distribution package included blankets, mattresses, school kits, hygiene kits and sanitation kits along with other much needed household items. The number of beneficiaries for this distribution was 45 families, and was part of a three day process reaching out to families, single males, and single females with targeted assistance.

Education and Psychosocial Support

With the growing number of children in the Ramtha facility, UNICEF is upscaling its partnership with Noor Al-Hussein Foundation and increasing the presence of staff to meet the heightened demand for education and psychosocial activities for Syrian children.

UNICEF together with Save the Children Jordan is working to follow-up on individual cases to facilitate registration of vulnerable Syrian children in public schools. Some 700 children have been supported so far in Amman and Ramtha.

UNHCR is distributing school kits to registered Syrian children in an effort to encourage their attendance at school, along with reducing the burden on parents. This follows increasingly worrying reports of child labour among the most vulnerable Syrian community. UNHCR, along with partners, will intensify efforts to identify such practices and address the root causes of child labour, through assistance to impoverished communities and continued provision of remedial classes.

Field Visits

UNHCR staff are conducting sustained missions to the field along with home visits aimed at the Syrian population in Jordan. Teams are comprised of field, community services and protection staff, in order to holistically assess the challenges faced by persons of concern in Jordan in the urban and village setting. UNHCR has established *Information Desks* in areas with large concentrations of Syrians. The so-called *info desks* have been instrumental in communicating UNHCR and partner

information, along with setting up registration appointments in order to limit the need to travel to Amman.

The UNHCR health team is also frequently conducting field missions in an effort to identify gaps and vulnerabilities in providing primary and secondary health care to Syrians.

UNICEF continues to carry out regular field visits to Ramtha and Ma'an to better provide technical guidance on programme activities as well as to closely monitor the situation of vulnerable Syrian children.

Following reports of vulnerable Syrian families in the Jordan Valley, UNICEF carried out a joint field visit with Save the Children Jordan and JHAS. The visit aimed to assess the education and psychosocial needs of displaced Syrian children. UNHCR has also conducted missions to the Jordan Valley area for persons of concern to the Agency, and it was found to be predominantly seasonal workers. The migration-asylum nexus is very much present in Jordan, and will raise challenges in terms of status in future, as more and more are reporting difficulties in returning to Syria. Therefore, UNHCR Jordan will endeavour to assist Syrians based on vulnerability.

UNCHR Strategy for 2013

UNHCR Jordan held an internal strategy meeting on Monday, March 19, as operation enters a new phase in response to Syrian unrest. The meeting presented an opportunity for broad-based discussion on the transition between an Iraqi refugee led operation to management of two distinct operations. An overarching theme was leveraging BO Amman's expertise in delivering assistance and protection in an urban context to Syrian persons of concern.

Discussed centered on providing cash assistance to vulnerable Syrians in response to rising rent prices, the rapid and systematic distribution of aid items, and quick impact projects (QIPs) to support local communities who are absorbing and hosting Syrians across Jordan.

Donors and Contributions

UNHCR is very pleased to announce that it has received a number of donations for vulnerable Syrians in Jordan.

The Government of Japan has made a significant contribution of USD 1,000,000 to UNHCR for "Emergency Grant Aid to refugees and IDPs affected by the political instability in the Syrian Arab Republic". The donation has been earmarked, with Jordan receiving \$139,384.00 to be used toward non-food items, and \$110,616.00 to be used toward shelter projects over a three month period.

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department has also made a generous donation toward the Syria situation, releasing EUR800,000 to UNHCR, for a 6-month intervention in support of displaced Syrians in Jordan and in Lebanon.

Ahead of the launch of the RRP for Syria Situation, Mr. Panos Moutziz, recently appointed Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC), addressed a gathering of donors at BO Amman. Mr. Moutziz used the opportunity to brief the gathering on both his role as RRC, and the current situation across the region.



Contact

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