



UN Weekly Inter-agency Situational Report - JORDAN

Syrian Refugee Response update

13 - 19 December 2012



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

- Mission of UNHCR High Commissioner and EC Humanitarian Commissioner.
- The UN has declared a Level 3 Emergency situation in the region, including Jordan, in regards to the Syrian refugee crisis.
- This week's number of new arrivals is 4,695 (average number of new arrivals daily at 671 persons)
 - o It appears that in the last 3 days border crossings have eased as refugees have started arriving throughout all hours of a day (as compared to night crossings) which could lead to an increase in refugee arrivals.
 - o UNHCR maintains registration presence 24/hours/day for all new arrivals.
- Contingency planning meeting took a place at Za'atri camp level and in Amman between UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and other humanitarian organization with the aim to finalize the plan of action for anticipation of an influx up to 100,000 Syrian refugees arriving in 7 days (as per recommended planning estimate by GoJ).
- Joint mission (UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF/IOM) assessed the new camp site in Zarqa (MAF) which is under construction by Jordanian Armed Forces to determine its preparedness and capacity to absorb new arrivals.
- Joint HQ evaluation WASH mission (UNICEF/UNHCR) assessed the water and sanitation situation within the emergency response context in Jordan; recommendations provided, and the full report soon to follow.
- Relocation of 211 refugee families (844 individuals) in Za'atri from the old temporary area to prefabs started on Sunday, 16 December in collaboration with agencies/organizations in the camp.
- RRP 4 was launched on 19 December for Syria Regional Response Plan covering 1 Jan - 30 Jun 2013. The RRP4 is appealing for USD 1.04 billion, including a budget of \$495,030,847 USD for the response in Jordan covering the financial requirements of some 38 organizations responding to the needs of 300,000 Syrian refugees by end of June 2013.

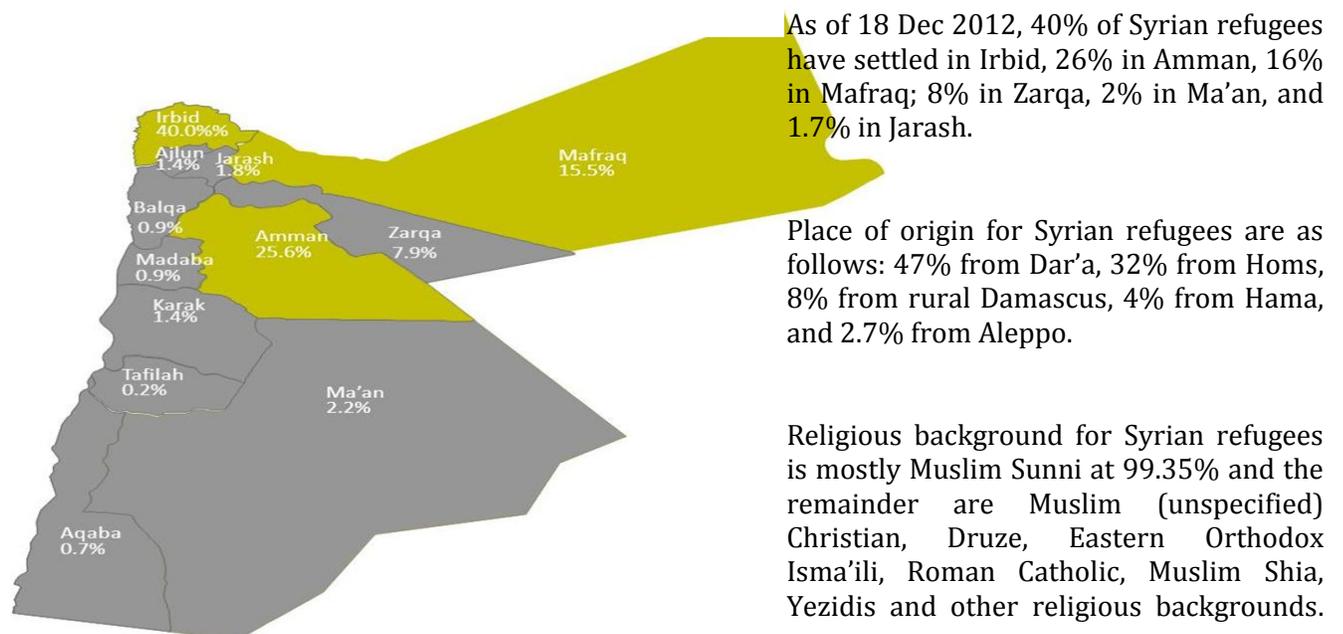


II. Situation Overview:

UNHCR recorded the arrival of 4,694 Syrians over the past week, average daily arrival of 671 individuals. The total population of Syrians registered or awaiting registration appointments as of 18 December 2012 is 152,638 (70,158 active individuals and 42,419 pending registration appointments). The Government of Jordan estimates that 250,000 Syrians have entered the kingdom, the vast majority residing in host communities. As the situation in Syria persists, large numbers of Syrians continue to cross the Jordanian border seeking asylum.

Those aged between 18 and 35 represents the highest percentage at 28.7% of the total population, followed by ages 5-11 at 21% and ages 0-4 at 18.8%. Females represent 49.6% of total population.

**Figure 1: Distribution of Syrians in Jordan,
As of 18 Dec 2012.**



Protection

UNHCR met with MoI regarding government's issuance of IDs cards to all Syrians who arrived after March 2011 (GoJ started issuing ID cards on 12 December). The MoI informed that Syrians will have to obtain the ID cards in addition to UNHCR's registration to receive education and health services. ID cards will not be issued to camp residents. UNHCR is following up on this development.

Construction work has continued in Irbid for the registration centre, and staff has already been recruited for registration and is undergoing training. Pending the opening of Irbid registration centre, UNHCR Amman has resumed transporting refugees from Irbid to Amman, and back, on weekends for registration purposes (an average of 600 persons per weekend).

In one week to 10 days, biometrics testing will start in the office in Amman, and by 15 January it will be rolled out in Za'atri Camp.

Community mobilization

UNHCR completed Participatory Assessment in the urban area, mainly Amman, Irbid, Ramtha, Zarqa, Mafraq, Karak and Ma'an. This exercise included discussions with key informants and focus group discussions with male and female groups of different ages and profile (including children, youth and adolescents, adults, elderly, persons with specific needs and/or disabilities). The results of the assessment will be made public and shared on the UNHCR portal.

UNHCR met with community and tribal leaders in Za'atri district to discuss the perceived negative impact of the camp on the local community, economically, environmentally and socially. The meeting included the presence of Head of Za'atri Municipality, and the Governor of North Badia District. A follow up meeting was scheduled for early January to identify realistic solutions to challenges highlighted by the community.

UNHCR in coordination with JHCO organized a meeting with community leaders in Za'atri with the aim to improve distribution mechanism of all donations received by JHCO. It was agreed that distribution will be conducted tent by tent in coordination with the community.

At help desks in Mafraq, Ramtha, Irbid and Zarqa, a total of 657 cases (2,017 individuals) received registration appointment slips in the last week; while 157 Syrian cases (346 individuals) approached the desk for renewal appointment slips.

During this week, the UNHCR information phone-line received 785 calls.

Child protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV)

UNICEF currently operates 21 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in the camp, including three for youth. UNICEF has 9 functional CP Committees in Za'atri, consisting of 76 female members and 51 male members. Over 4,000 children participated in psychosocial activities in CFS in Za'atri this week. Of these, over 900 participated in resiliency activities aimed at providing children with effective coping mechanisms to manage their distress levels and build their resiliency.

In host communities, UNICEF partner Family Guidance and Awareness Centre has reached over 2,800 parents and 270 children through child protection awareness-raising activities. In addition to information on topics such as early marriage, violence and child labor, parents also received guidance on how to better support their children's psychosocial needs.

During the last two weeks, four thematic consultation meetings were organized by UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA: Health; Psychosocial Support; Protection, Security and Justice; and Prevention and other sectors, were held the first two weeks of December. Representatives from different Ministries and members of the child protection and gender-based violence sector group participated in the meetings. The primary aim of the meetings was to agree on what to include in the National CP/GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The first draft of the SOP will be circulated by end of December.

As part of the Inter-Agency CP and GBV Assessment in camps and host communities, 27 key informants (including 12 women) from Za'atri camp were interviewed, 15 community members (Syrian assistant teachers, CFS volunteers, religious leaders, CBOs and Cash-for-Work cleaners), and 12 service providers (security, camp management, CP and GBV, WASH, education, etc.). Six focus groups with male and female adolescents and adults were also conducted. In addition, Safety Audits have been carried out with the participation from community members.

In preparation for the host community assessment, 35 data collectors received two-day training on child protection (including communication with children), GBV, data collection, questionnaire use and ethical principles. The first phase of the assessment will start on 23 December.

Shelter, Site Coordination and Management

UNHCR/NRC pitched 176 new tents in stage 1 area for new arrivals. 58 families were moved on 19 December to prefabs in module 2, which brings to total number of families moved to Saudi prefabs to 211

(844 individuals). 60 new prefabs have been placed in module 5, which brings the total number of prefabs in module 2, 3, and 5 to 2,138 (Saudi prefabs). THW equipped 24 kitchens with gas stoves, while IRD added the gas cylinders in the new module 2 which opened up recently in Za'atri; 36 new kitchen blocks are under construction and 18 foundations completed.

Food

WFP is advancing the procurement of food stocks for 50,000 beneficiaries, as originally planned, to cover 10,000 new arrivals per month from January to June as a contingency planning measure. WFP started the procurement process immediately in order to timely respond to possible increase in the refugee influx.

WFP began voucher distributions in the host communities for a two week cycle on 15 December so that 2013 distributions will be aligned with the monthly calendar. WFP plans to reach 65,285 beneficiaries in this cycle. The second cycle December dry ration distribution in Al Za'atri camp is on-going from 16-22 December, and plans to reach 36,230 Syrians residing in the camp.

WFP chaired the Food Sector Meeting (FSM) on 13 December, reviewing the sector inputs for Regional Response Plan 4 (RRP4) and planning for 2013 – especially focusing on support to refugees not registered with UNHCR. It was noticed that a range of NGOs indeed are addressing this vulnerable group through a series of interventions in consultation with JHCO, and WFP and JHCO are working to enhance coordination within the sector. In addition, the FSM looked at contingency planning for 2013 and the recent nutrition survey. As a preparedness measure, WFP asked for an expression of interest from interested NGOs for emergency operations to cover food and voucher distribution.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

To respond to the recent increase in refugees arriving in Za'atri camp, UNICEF has provided 55 mobile latrines and 68 showers in the provisional area reserved for new arrivals. UNICEF/THW are progressing with the construction of the 192 fully-winterized WASH units for modules two and three of the new camp areas. Every male unit has three latrines and three showers. Every female unit has four latrines and three showers. Thus, 192 WASH units amount to 672 latrines and 576 showers, which can serve up to 33,600 beneficiaries. The first 32 units (112 latrines and 96 showers) were completed this week, to benefit up to 5,600 beneficiaries. The remaining units will be operational by the end of the month. With the addition of the 32 new WASH units in modules two and three, UNICEF/THW currently provide a total of 562 fixed latrines and 546 showers in the camp, in addition to 151 mobile latrines and 68 showers. Vandalism of WASH facilities remains an issue in Za'atri camp.

UNICEF has selected a contractor for the design and supervision of a drinking water supply system and sanitation network designs in Za'atri, for implementation in early 2013. UNICEF/Mercy Corps have completed the drilling of a second borehole in Za'atri, to provide refugees with up to 50,000 liters of water per hour. UNICEF/Mercy Corps will be equipping the boreholes in the coming weeks. A new pumping station for the first borehole will be put in place by 31 December.

UNICEF/ACTED/THW continue daily water quality monitoring and waste water and solid waste removal in Za'atri, delivering some 1,000,000 liters of water per day and evacuating some 400m³ of solid waste per day to the municipal site in Alqueider. UNICEF/ACTED currently employ 262 refugees for camp cleaning through a Cash-for-Work scheme in Za'atri, divided into 234 cleaners (including 35 women) and 28 supervisors (five women). UNICEF is finalizing a technical proposal on waste water treatment to identify suitable alternatives in Za'atri camp.

UNICEF has signed agreements with Japan Emergency NGO (JEN) and Relief International (RI) to conduct and expand hygiene promotion activities in camps and host communities respectively.

The WASH sector coordination meeting will take place on Thursday, 20 December in Mafraq. The sector is launching a new monitoring system for assistance to Syrian refugees in Jordan, tailored to meet the needs of the RRP4 and provide weekly monitoring against standards and indicator.

Education

UNICEF and the Ministry of Education (MoE) are providing formal education for 3,450 students (56 per cent girls) registered in the Bahrain funded school complex in Za'atri camp. The school can accommodate some 4,200 children in double-shifts and is managed by UNICEF, in partnership with MoE and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The school is staffed by some 200 Jordanian and Syrian teachers. MoE is recruiting additional administrative and teaching staff to cope with the increasing number of students. Two nurses have also been assigned to monitor and follow up on the health of school children. Last week, UNICEF led a one-day workshop in Za'atri camp for all education stakeholders, to further strengthen school management and establish stakeholders' specific roles and responsibilities.

UNICEF/SCJ have established one help desk in the Za'atri school and five more in host communities, in order to refer school-aged children for registration with the MoE. The Help Desk project also aims to raise awareness among parents/caregivers, as well as provide follow up and referrals for child protection cases identified in school. Over 12,500 parents and children across Jordan have been reached through the project, of which 7,500 Syrian children have been referred to appropriate education and child protection services.

In host communities, 18,245 Syrian children have registered to attend school in 42 education directorates. UNICEF and partners continue to provide informal and non-formal education and awareness raising activities for vulnerable Syrians and Jordanians in communities with a high concentration of Syrian refugees (Amman, Ramtha, Mafraq and Irbid). 1,472 Syrian and Jordanian children and parents are currently enrolled in these activities, which focus on literacy classes as well as life skills training, recreational activities, sports, arts and music. 164 additional students are receiving remedial catch-up classes in East Amman. Thus far, Yarmouk Baqa'a Club and Questscope have provided 89 educators and parents with training to improve the children's educational support.

UNICEF and SCI have completed small-scale renovations in 50 public schools in Amman, Mafraq, Ramtha, Irbid, Karak, Ma'an, and Aqaba, to improve the learning environment and promote the psychosocial well-being and integration of refugee children in host communities. 11 schools in Amman, Ramtha, Mafraq, and Irbid are now being double-shifted, allowing students previously on waiting lists to attend school. To further address the needs of vulnerable Syrian children and youth, UNICEF and the MoE have activated a core team of psychosocial trainers. This team was trained by UNICEF last week and will now train 100 teachers in Za'atari, 44 in Ramtha and 50 in Mafraq. The 6-day training aims to equip teachers with the skills needed to provide psychosocial support for children dealing with profound stress and with alternative frameworks for managing children's behavior.

Save the Children International has now launched its first kindergarten in Za'atri, with funds provided by Save the Children Norway. The playground has been funded by the Czech Embassy, while the League of Arab States has funded the winterized tents and Save the Children Jordan has purchased the required stationary.

To date, the IOCC has distributed training suits to 3,470 boys and school uniforms to 4,420 girls in Za'atri camp, in coordination with JHCO.

Health and Nutrition

From 12-18 December, IOM medical team screened 5,487 PoCs for TB (2,658 males and 2,829 females) bringing the total number of PoCs screened for TB to 50,737. Total number of detected TB cases is 17 which are followed up by IOM and MoH. IOM medical team delivered TB awareness sessions to 1,675 PoCs bringing the total number of PoCs to receive TB awareness sessions to 40,954.

IOM medical team provided health checks for 4,984 individuals, and 26 medical consultations requiring immediate referral or treatment to camp's health clinic.

UNHCR met with the Ministry of Health Amman to discuss health sector contingency plan. The draft plan outlines support to the MoH in terms of medical supplies, vaccines and hospital tents and preparedness.

Cash Assistance

Congratulations to our field/urban team as they broke the 2012 cash assistance target of 6,000 with 6,258 families (23,735 individuals) identified to receive payments this month which means another 1,676 families/beneficiaries are being added to UNHCR's programme for December. The financial assistance provided in November and December to refugees also includes the winterization supplement; 250 individuals have received one-off cash assistance for winterization. Urgent cash assistance, in the amount of 100 JOD, was provided to 3 families/20 individuals last week.

Winterization

In Za'atri camp, WFP dry rations combined with UNHCR complementary goods provide 2,400 kilocalories per person on a daily basis meaning that winterization measure for food sector is not necessary. However, a recent price monitoring survey concluded that the voucher value in urban areas should increase by 2 JDs per person/per month in order to account for food price increases and winterization of the food basket. WFP plans to increase the monthly value per person to 24 JDs, starting with the January cycle.

NRC completed the distribution of thermal blankets for Za'atri camp (West and East side) and now focusing distribution to new arrivals; in the last two days NRC distributed 1,356 thermal blankets, as well as the distribution and implementation of 32 winter packs, 573 heaters, and 334 gas bottles. Additionally, NRC distributed 137 winterized tents in Za'atri camp, as well as 7,922 winterized blankets.

UNICEF will start winterisation of the existing 90 WASH units. The work includes the addition of five toilets per unit and the installation of 90 prefabricated shower blocks, out of which 30 have arrived in the camp. Winterization also includes the installation of gas boilers to provide hot water in the units.

CARE served 1,800 Syrians and 200 Jordanians in Amman, Mafraq and Zarqa with one-off winterization cash support. The plan is to provide assistance to 3,000 Syrians and 1,000 Jordanians by the end of the year.

JHAS distributed kerosene for heating to refugees in Cyber City and King Abdullah Park.

ICMC distributed 220 winterization assistance packages (funded by ECHO) to extremely vulnerable Syrian refugees and host community members in Sarih, Irbid (in coordination with the Sarih Orphans Centre) and Ramtha (in coordination with Kitab Wa Sunna). Each beneficiary received a good quality gas heater, a gas cylinder and vouchers for three gas re-fills, allowing them to keep warm throughout the coldest period of the winter. In the coming days, ICMC will distribute a further 130 winterization assistance packages in Al-Mafraq.