

This report is produced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on its humanitarian response for the crisis in Syria. The summary covers events and activities up to 16th August.



NFI distribution at a school housing displaced families, Damascus.

Highlights

- ➔ Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, IOM has assisted **800** Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) to return home and continues processing requests for repatriation assistance.
- ➔ On 14 August, IOM delivered Non-Food Items (NFIs) to **371** displaced persons in 2 collective centres in Damascus.
- ➔ In Jordan, IOM has transported **6,480** persons to Za'atri camp since the beginning of the operations.
- ➔ To date **6,561** Syrians (40% females and 31% children under 15 years of age) were provided health care and referral services through IOM's Primary Health Clinic at King Abdullah Park (KAP), **Jordan**, since the end of June 2012.
- ➔ IOM reached a total number of **32,257** Syrians with Tuberculosis (TB) awareness-raising and screening activities in Jordan since March 2012.
- ➔ IOM will distribute NFIs to Syrian refugees in Turkey thanks to the support from the United States (US) Department of State.
- ➔ Following an assessment, IOM in Lebanon is preparing to deliver shelter assistance for **138** Lebanese returnees.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

SYRIA

According to current UN estimates, approximately **2 million** people in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance, and around **1 million** people are internally displaced persons (IDPs) – a number that has tripled between March and mid-July. A recent SARG Ministry of Education survey revealed that hundreds of displaced Syrians are residing in 330 public schools in 12 of the country's 14 governorates. Other displaced populations are residing with host families or struggle to survive in open spaces.

Migrant workers in Syria are finding it increasingly difficult to evacuate the country at a time of escalating armed conflict. One of the biggest obstacles faced by TCNs who are wishing to leave Syria is the lack of travel documents, sometimes held by recruitment agencies or employers, thereby increasing requests to IOM for assistance for documentation and repatriation.

IOM is currently collaborating with embassies of countries of origin, ministry officials, employers, and other authorities to ensure that vulnerable migrant workers in Syria have the necessary travel documents and debt payout to return to the safety of their home country.

Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) – The Journey Back Home

“Syria Conflict: Filipinos caught up in violence”

[<http://m.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-19210127>]

“Ukrainian Returnees Escape Violence in Syria”

[<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/media/feature-stories/featureArticleEU/cache/offonce/lang/en?entryId=32033>]

LEBANON

IOM conducted a needs assessment for shelter enhancement or construction support for Lebanese returnees and Syrian refugees. A list of 138 Lebanese returnee families were identified living in barracks; another 196 Syrian refugee families were identified, who are living in barracks in overcrowded and often precarious shelters.

This week, IOM will be distributing household shelter support kits to **138** Lebanese returnee households, in coordination with WFP and UNHCR.

UNHCR reports that **36,927** Syrian refugees have been registered.² While most Syrians are staying with host families or renting apartments, an increasing number are seeking shelter in schools in the North and the East of the country, a sign that local communities are no longer able to absorb the continual flow of refugees. In the Bekaa valley area, 94 families are now staying in schools, most of them in schools expected to reopen for the new school term in

¹ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

² Ibid.

IOM Shelter Restoration. Lebanon 2012.



September. In the North, 51 families are currently staying in operational schools.³ IOM is working concertedly with international partners to address increasing shelter needs amongst the displaced, while looking to free up schooling space for the start of the school year.

IRAQ

There are currently **14,129** Syrian refugees registered in Iraq.⁴ A total of **9,773** persons are in the northern region of Kurdistan. However, according to local authorities at Al Qaim, refugees will have to evacuate the schools they are currently staying in since they will need to be used when the school year begins at the end of September. Syrian arrivals will have either to choose to go to one of two camps in central Anbar or in Al Qaim, or alternatively to find an Iraqi sponsor to rent a house.

Approximately **25,906** Iraqis have returned to Iraq since 18 July,⁵ an increase of **3,606** Iraqi returnees in the past week.

TURKEY

During a visit to Turkey, US Secretary of State Mrs. Clinton highlighted the need to discuss the issue of massive displacement and migration of affected Syrians.⁶ It was announced that the States Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) would contribute US\$ 500,000 to IOM's work with the Turkish government in the provision of NFIs to Syrian refugees, in coordination with the humanitarian community.

As of 13 August, **59,710** Syrian nationals are sheltered in 9 camps and one temporary reception centre established by Prime Ministry's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).⁷ This illustrates a dramatic increase of **13,416** in the number of refugees entering Turkey since 6 August. 50% of these refugees are children.⁸

COUNTRY OPERATIONS

1. Syria Operations

IOM Damascus distributed hygiene kits to **371 IDPs** affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria, at Fariz Daboos school, run by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), and at Somaya Al Makhzomyia school, run by Trust for Development Organization in cooperation with the Syrian Scouts, in Damascus. Third-Country Nationals are also among the beneficiaries.

Table 1. IOM NFI Distribution. Damascus. 14 August 2012.

Location	Number of Kits:	Number of Beneficiaries:	Male	Female	Adult (Over 12 years old)	Child (2- 12 years old)	Infant (less than 2 years)

³ <http://www.unhcr.org/502a40ac9.html>

⁴ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

⁵ <http://www.unhcr.org/502a40ac9.html>

⁶ <http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2012/08/11/syrian-crisis-clinton-talks-contingency-plans-with-turkey/>

⁷ http://www.afetacil.gov.tr/ingilizce_Site/index.html

⁸ <http://www.unhcr.org/502a40ac9.html>

Fariz Daboos school, run by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)	25	109	56	53	66	37	6
Somaya Al Makhzomyia school run by Trust for Development Organization in cooperation with the Syrian Scouts	56 kits	262	133	129	165	80	17

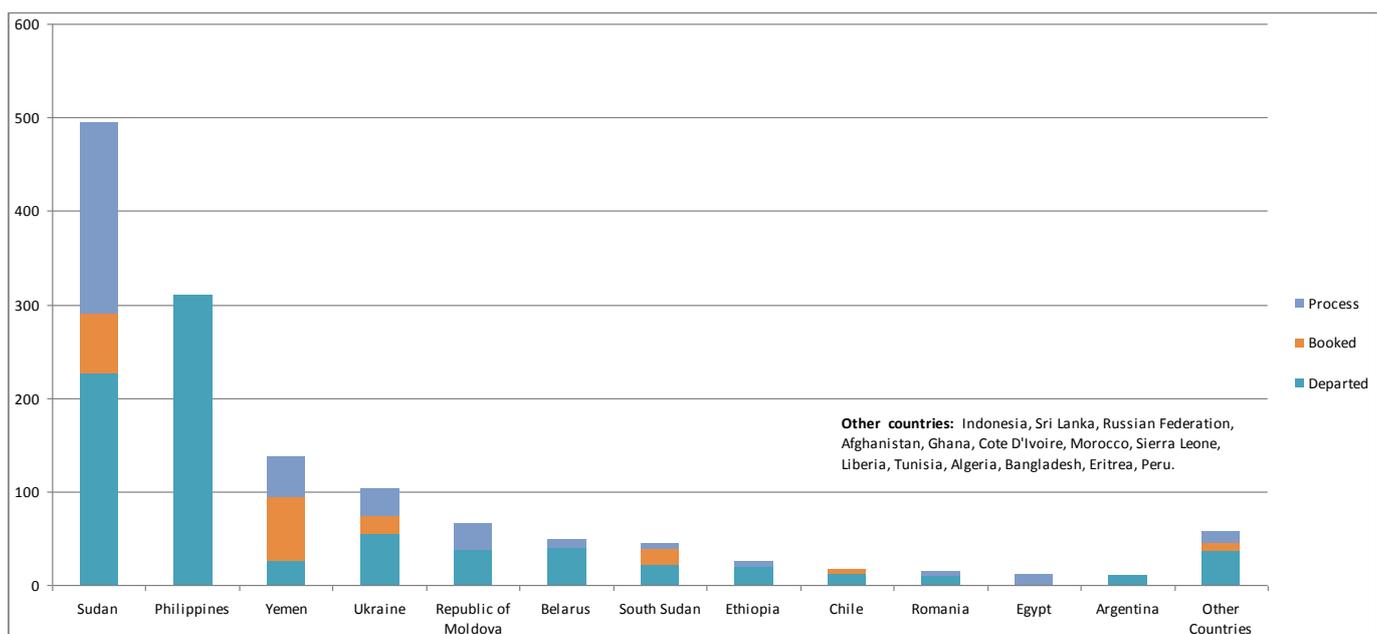
IOM reports that most families receiving NFI assistance in Syria had fled their homes during the third week of July (coming from various districts of Damascus and its suburbs). The distribution of kits ran smoothly. The hygiene kits included bathing and laundry soap, sanitary pads, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, razors, underwear, shaving cream, combs, diapers and lofas. In collaboration with concerned UN agencies and local NGOs, namely, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), Syria Trust for Development Organization, Lamsit Shifa Organization, SOS Children's Village, Labbaina Alnidaa Initiative, Sham People Initiative, Orthodox Youth Association, Basmet Shabab Souria and Asdikaa Alehsan, IOM plans to distribute **1,800** hygiene kits benefiting up to **9,000** IDPs during the month of August.

As of 14 August, IOM has provided repatriation assistance to **800** TCNs to return home (73% female and 27% male). **182** persons have flight bookings, whilst **357** persons are in the registration process. (Table 2)

IOM has continued to receive requests from several embassies to assist another **3,690** individuals. As the conflict subsides, more governments and embassies have approached IOM requesting assistance in the evacuation of their citizens stranded in Syria, including among others, Indonesia, Sudan, Yemen, Ukraine, Belarusian, Chili and Egypt.

IOM continues resettlement assistance for refugees who have been hosted in Syria, and who have been approved for resettlement in a third country. Since January, IOM provided transport to **2,696** refugees approved for resettlement to various countries including the US, and an additional **362** are currently booked for departure.

Table 2. Third Country National (TCN) Returns



**For August, numbers include departed, booked, and in the pipeline*

2. Jordan Operations

From 8-14 August, IOM has assisted in the transportation of **1,660** Syrian nationals from the border areas to Za'atri camp, Jordan. As a frontline agency, IOM provides all assisted individuals with pre-embarkation health check. IOM has already referred **65** cases for immediate health assistance.

During 8-14 August, IOM screened **921** Syrians (**38%** female and **50%** children under the age of 15) through IOM's Primary Health Clinic at King Abdullah Park (KAP), Jordan. The most common diseases are Upper Respiratory Tract Infection and Gastroenteritis disorder.

To date **6,561** Syrians (40% females and 31% children under 15 years of age) were provided health care and referral services through IOM's Primary Health Clinic at King Abdullah Park (KAP), Jordan, since the end of June 2012. The most common medical conditions noted were respiratory infections (35%), gastrointestinal infections (22%), musculo-skeletal (14%) and eye/ear –related conditions (10%).

IOM reached a total number of 32,257 Syrians with Tuberculosis (TB) awareness-raising and screening activities in Jordan since March 2012.

3. Iraq Operations

Since 7 August IOM in Iraq has been carrying out a comprehensive rapid countrywide assessment of Syrian refugees, Iraqi returnees, Third Country Nationals, and recent Iraqi IDPs. Field teams are interviewing key informants such as border authorities, Camp and Transit Receiving Centers (TRC) managers, MoMD officials, and local councils.

To date, IOM has distributed **991** NFI packages to over **3,000** Syrian refugees in Iraq. The NFI packages included, among other things, mattresses, blankets, pillows, jerry cans, fan, plastic cabinet, plastic mat, rechargeable light, soap and cleaning powder.

4. Lebanon Operations

IOM conducted the needs assessment for shelter construction support for Lebanese returnees and Syrian refugees. A list of 138 Lebanese returnee families were identified living in barracks, moreover, 196 Syrian refugee families were identified, living in barracks in precarious conditions.

Since April, IOM has provided on-going assistance to Syrian refugees and Lebanese returnees in the North of Lebanon. A total of **810** hygiene kits, **245** house cleaning kits, **1,755** rechargeable lamps and **130** sanitary kits were delivered through a centralized methodology.

5. Turkey Operations

IOM received US\$ 500,000 from the US Department of State for humanitarian support in Turkey to assist Syrian refugees.

The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is revising the NFI needs list including needed quantities to facilitate its response to Syrian refugees through partnerships with UNHCR and IOM.

Funding and Expenditures

In July 2012, IOM launched its Response Appeal for Syria Crisis requesting **US\$ 22,220,000** for the evacuation of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) and border transit, primary health care and psychosocial support, and NFIs distribution as top priorities.

Funding requirements are being revised in the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan and the Regional Response Plan, in coordination with the humanitarian community.

Americares has generously donated **US\$ 87,395** of in-kind goods, including medicines and medical supplies. An additional **US\$ 863,000** worth of in-kind goods has been committed to IOM Jordan for IOM's Primary Health Clinic in King Abdullah Park.

With support from the Slovakian Government worth of **US\$ 12,500**, IOM has installed a 21,000-liter water storage tank to provide clean drinking water for the Domiz refugee camp, in the north of Iraq.

Consultations with IOM Member States and international partners will continue to prioritize beneficiary needs, and to seek the necessary financial support to continue IOM's emergency operations in Syria and all bordering countries.