

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 until 29 August. For activities implemented in Syria, please consult the full situation report.



IOM provides transport assistance to Syrians at the Jordanian border to Za'atri camp, Jordan.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

### JORDAN

As fighting intensified in Syria, the numbers of Syrian refugees fleeing to Jordan this week has more than doubled compared to the past week.<sup>1</sup> Movements used to occur at night only but are now also taking place during the day. IOM has instituted 24-hour shifts. The refugee population in Za'atri Camp has reached 22,951 individuals. Tensions remain high and violent protests have erupted in recent days at Za'atri camp. The substantial increase of Syrian refugees this week is straining services.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/29/world/middleeast/Syria.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/29/world/middleeast/Syria.html?_r=1)

The U.A.E. announced that it is moving ahead with the construction of a refugee camp for up to 20,000 people in Ribaa Sirhan, located on the Jordan-Syrian border, between Mafraq and Ramtha.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, the U.A.E. officially opened its field hospital on 28 August in Za'atri camp.

**LEBANON** Together with the Lebanese Higher Relief Commission (HRC) from the Council of Ministers, IOM is co-chairing the task force to coordinate relief activities for Lebanese returnees, as substantial flows of migrants are crossing the border to return home. Coordination activities are ongoing with HRC, UNHCR, WFP, World Vision, Caritas and other humanitarian actors.

Syrians who have found refuge in Masnaa are not sheltered in collective centres. Personal in situ assessments are therefore the best way to ensure optimal understanding of their needs. To this effect, on 29 August, IOM organized an exploratory visit to Masnaa (eastern Lebanon), including representatives from Embassies, Caritas and the General Security Office.

**IRAQ** The total of Syrian refugees residing in Iraq remains at **15,898**<sup>3</sup> out of which **11,626** have sought asylum in the Kurd regions, with the remaining residing in Central Iraq.

Al Qaim crossing point remains closed. The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoMD) is moving Syrians from the transit centers (mainly schools) in Al Qaim to the camp. These ongoing efforts will take time. Similarly, local governments in Ninewa are eager to move Syrian refugees from the school in Rabia'a so that it may be reopened in time for the fall session. Preparations of the camp at Al Kasek will require more time.

A total of **30,571** Iraqis returned to Iraq since 18 July. Registration of Iraqi returnees in MoMD branches and National Returnee Centers is ongoing.

**TURKEY** Due to a lack of space in the camps, refugees at the borders (approximately **9,100** persons) are provided with basic humanitarian assistance (food/water) during the admission process. According to officials, the groups will be accommodated in Karkamis camp which is expected to be operational this week. After admission, it is estimated that the number of Syrians accommodated in the camps and in schools will exceed 87,000. The estimated number of Syrian refugees living in rented accommodations currently amounts to 30,000 persons, according to Turkish officials.<sup>4</sup>

Turkey will open 4 new camps to accommodate refugees fleeing violence in Syria by next week, bringing its total capacity to 120,000 people, and is planning for a continued influx.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <http://jordantimes.com/jordan-racing-to-open-second-syrian-camp-amid-refugee-influx>

<sup>3</sup> <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-290584-local-authorities-not-concerned-about-syrian-refugees-dwelling-in-houses.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-290735-turkey-to-open-new-syria-refugee-camps-for-up-to-120000.html>

## COUNTRY OPERATIONS

### 1. Jordan Operations

#### Transport assistance

To date, IOM has provided transportation assistance for a total of **20,141** Syrian refugees. In the past four days, IOM assisted **6,944** Syrian nationals.

#### Health assistance

Since the end of June 2012, **8,436** Syrians (39% females and 37% children under 15 years of age) have received health care and referral services through **IOM's Primary Health Clinic** at King Abdullah Park (KAP).

IOM reached a total number of **13,112** Syrians with tuberculosis (TB) screening and **20,176** Syrians through awareness-raising activities in Jordan since March 2012. IOM's medical team has confirmed 9 TB cases, treated 2 extra-pulmonary cases and 6 pulmonary TB cases thus far.

A Syrian refugee's escape to Jordan: IOM staff spoke with Um Ali<sup>1</sup> at Za'atari camp about her family's harrowing escape two weeks ago, from Daraa, the Syrian border town where protests began on 18 March 2011 and where some of the worst violence continues to take place. Um Ali described the situation in Daraa as extremely insecure with bombs exploding and gun fire erupting constantly. Her family decided to flee to Jordan the day after Um Ali's son, married just two months ago, was shot dead in their house. She explained, "My son was neither a protestor, militant, nor soldier. He was sitting at home when a bullet entered the window and hit him in the back. We had to wait a day before burying him because of the fighting." Um Ali traveled to the Syria-Jordan border with her husband, children, two grandchildren, and widowed daughter-in-law, where IOM assisted them with food, water, and a pre-departure health check before transporting them to Za'atari camp.



*Um Ali's grandchildren and the neighboring tent's children at Za'atari camp in Mafraq, Jordan.*

## 2. Iraq Operations

### Needs assessments

IOM continues to assess the needs and concerns of Syrian refugees, Iraqi returnees, Third-Country Nationals and IDPs, in order to better understand the situation and inform, and shape IOM and stakeholders intervention. Thus far, **46** out of a planned **170** assessments have been completed and encoded. The full results are expected to be available next week.

## 3. Lebanon Operations

### Distribution of Non-food Items (NFIs)

IOM is currently planning its second round of NFI distribution for household shelter support items in parallel to its first distribution of winterization items. This round is planned for early next week. It will target both Syrian refugees and Lebanese returnees.

In addition to the **700** families identified based on data generated through an in-depth shelter needs assessment carried out by IOM earlier this month, IOM was able to identify **290** more families in the Bekaa, raising the number of beneficiaries to **1,000** families. To date, a total of **967** individuals (**138** Lebanese returnee families) have received assistance in Wadi Khaled, Akkar, in the form of shelter support items. These materials have helped improve the living conditions of returnees in overcrowded and precarious shelter environments.

## 4. Turkey Operations

### Distribution of Non-food Items (NFIs)

IOM is finalizing procedures for the distribution of NFIs. Procurement will begin this week in coordination with Turkish Red Crescent, Kizilay, on specifications of items and points of delivery.

IOM is following up with local authorities at Kilis border on the assistance of **3** Moldovans in Syria who will return to Moldova through Turkey.

## Funding Updates

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

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