

Syria Regional Refugee Response Update

Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey,

Iraq and Egypt

17 January 2013



Highlights

As of 15 January, there were 638,286 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Jordan and North Africa, a near tenfold increase compared to May 2012. Based on recent arrival trends, humanitarian agencies estimate these countries may be hosting 1.1 million Syrian refugees by end of June 2013. A new interagency Syria Regional Response Plan covering the period from January to June was therefore launched by UNHCR and its partners in December 2012 in Geneva (see last page for information on funding requirements for the new RRP).

Extreme weather conditions in the region over the past two weeks have caused considerable damage and hardship to host and refugee populations, particularly in Jordan where parts of Zaatri camp were flooded, and in Lebanon where rain and snow limited access to the worst hit refugee locations.

Humanitarian agencies on the ground have been working round the clock to help refugees recover and withstand dropping temperatures and continued bad weather.

In Jordan, over 2,650 refugee families in Zaatri camp were relocated to prefabricated shelters on site. Additional high thermal blankets, mattresses and clothes were distributed to the affected population. The drainage system was maintained and emergency WASH facilities provided.

More than 300 new dry tents were distributed to refugees and all communal spaces were provided with heaters. 1,500 cubic meters of gravel were immediately delivered to affected areas. All registration, protection and community services, along with the provision of shelter, food and non-food items, and medical assistance was maintained for all new arrivals on a 24-hour basis.

In Lebanon, agencies provided winterization items to families who had lost their belongings due to flooding and distributed over 6,300 hygiene, baby and food kits, mattresses, blankets, warm clothes, fuel vouchers and heating stoves. Registration was interrupted in the Bekaa due to roads being blocked so refugees with registration appointments were rescheduled, while new arrivals continued to receive assistance from UNHCR, partners and local municipalities.

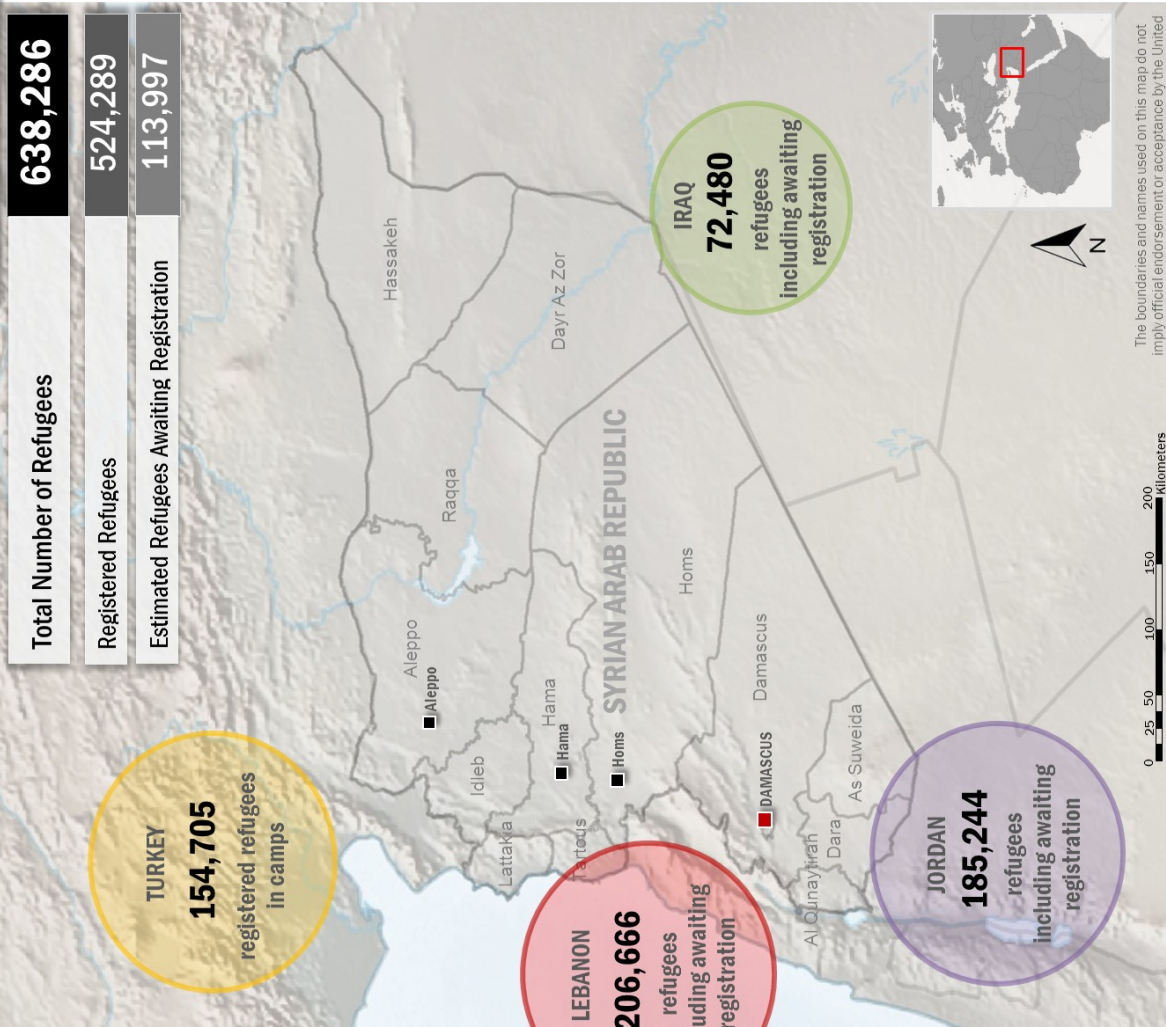
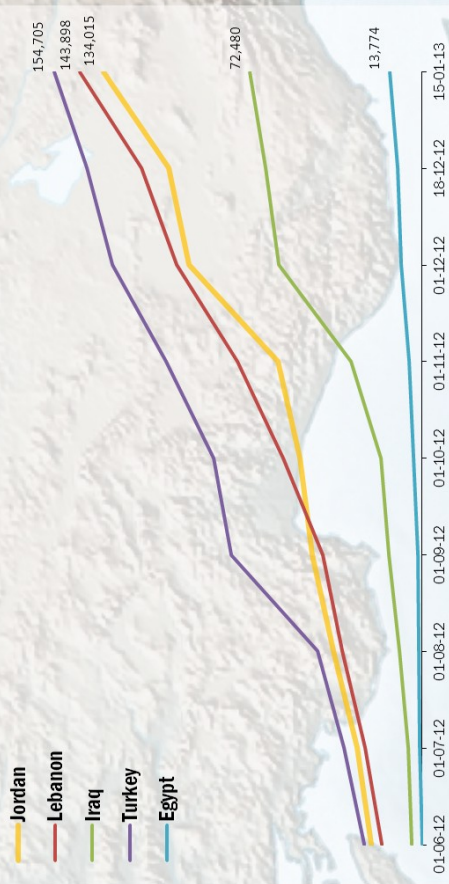
Workers visited accessible families to ensure refugees were safe and to distribute extra warm clothing, blankets and fuel vouchers for heating. Flooded shelters were drained, and some families moved to better insulated sites.

UNHCR remains in daily contact with municipalities where tented settlements are located, and where the local authorities have provided pumps to remove water, while agencies present are supporting the drainage system, in addition to reinforcing shelters.

Syrian Refugees

Cumulative Registration Trends by Country of Asylum

Includes only registered refugees

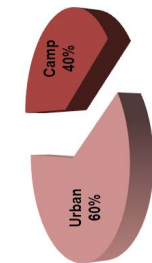


For more information, consult <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

Camp and Urban Refugee Populations



Registered Refugee Demographics



Lebanon 206,666 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration

Over 24,000 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in December 2012 in its centres in Tripoli, Beirut, Bekaa and south Lebanon and through mobile registration.

With four registration centres across Lebanon, UNHCR registers approximately 1,500 refugees a day, and is continuing to increase its capacity.

Refugees awaiting registration are assisted with WFP food kits and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) baby kits and mattresses. UNHCR is also entering into partnership with selected local charities and municipalities to assist recently arrived vulnerable refugees in the process of registering.



In 2012, over 580,000 **winterization** items, as well as World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers, food parcels for newly arrived families, hygiene and baby kits were distributed to Syrian refugees. Over 6,700 families had their homes weatherproofed for winter, and an additional 5,300 families had their homes renovated. UNHCR, WFP, DRC, UNFPA, UNICEF, Save the Children, Caritas, World Vision (WVI), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Shield, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC) and Medair continue to distribute winter items (warm clothes, blankets, hygiene kits, food kits, heating stoves and fuel vouchers) to refugees across Lebanon.

Early January, the **Government plan** to respond to the influx of Syrian refugees was approved by the Cabinet. The plan, which was developed to complement the interagency response (the Syria Regional Response Plan 2013), includes a series of measures to protect and assist Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

More than 10,000 Syrian refugee children are registered in school. **Education** partners and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) offer accelerated learning courses to students in need of extra assistance to follow the Lebanese curriculum, as well as to children in areas where schools are full.

A number of schools teaching the Syrian curriculum are at risk of closing down due to a lack of funding. UNHCR and UNICEF together with MEHE are working to find alternative education solutions for the children concerned.


UNHCR continues to work closely with International Medical Corps (IMC) to cover the costs of primary **healthcare** for refugees (diagnostic testing, basic treatment and medication) and 85% of the costs of secondary healthcare and hospitalization. Since the outset of the crisis, over 34,122 Syrian refugees have received primary healthcare services and 6,285 Syrians have been admitted to hospitals and 7,600 Syrian refugees have benefited from health awareness sessions. UNHCR and IMC have also enhanced the psychosocial response by holding focus group sessions with small refugee groups, and are working to improve the outreach and counseling capacity in the area of the Bekaa.

With projected refugee population of 300,000 Syrians by end of June 2013, UNHCR, DRC, NRC and other **shelter** partners such as Medair, Première Urgence (PU-AMI) and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC) are seeking to increase shelter capacity through identifying and renovating additional collective shelters, completing unfinished homes and erecting semi-permanent shelters.

To date, over 4,000 people have received **cash for shelter**, and partners receive an average of 40 referrals per week of families distinguished as vulnerable and eligible for such assistance.

UNHCR, Première Urgence (PU-AMI), UNICEF and Action Contre La Faim (ACF) have launched projects in south, east, and north Lebanon aiming to improve **water, sanitation and hygiene** conditions in refugee shelters. This follows extensive shelter assessments revealing inadequate water standards, and reports on the risk of expansion of water-borne diseases such as tuberculosis.

Lebanon now hosts some 13,000 **Palestinian refugees from Syria**, including 3,000 Palestinians who recently fled violence in the Yarmouk camp near Damascus and for whom UNRWA provides cash assistance upon arrival.



Jordan 185,244 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration

The past weeks have seen a steep increase in the number of Syrian refugees crossing into Jordan and arriving in the camp of Zaatri. The daily average in the first week of January was of over 1,100 refugee arrivals a day.

The majority of new arrivals come from Dara'a Governorate, the suburbs of Damascus and Homs, most affected by recent violence and the lack or frequent interruption of basic services.

From July to December 2012, IOM provided transportation assistance from the Jordanian border to 76,386 Syrian refugees.

Out of the registered population, 33.6 per cent are female-headed households while 26.6 per cent are single men. The specific **needs** identified so far include: serious medical conditions, specific legal and physical protection needs, women at risk, victims of torture, persons with disabilities, and unaccompanied or separated children.

Living conditions remain difficult for Syrian refugees in urban areas, especially due to increased prices of basic commodities. To date, 8,000 vulnerable refugee families are receiving **financial assistance** from UNHCR.

Refugee anxiety and frustration is particularly visible in Zaatri where some demonstrations over the past months had to be dispersed by the gendarmerie. In Zaatri camp, 53.4 per cent of the population is female, and 34.9 per cent of the cases are female-headed households. With the move to prefabs of the most vulnerable part of the camp population, community services teams have been providing counselling in order to assess individual needs and facilitate the relocation process.

WFP began its first **food distribution** cycle of the year on 5 January in Zaatri camp, during which it expects to reach 45,251 beneficiaries. WFP began the January voucher cycle on 2 January by distributing vouchers to beneficiaries living in communities in Jordan; this cycle is expected to reach 69,121 beneficiaries.

NRC continues the distribution of basic Noon Food Item (NFI) kits to new arrivals in Zaatri camp. As part of the winterization efforts, it has distributed over 4,349 winter packages, 34,511 blankets, 2,622 heaters and gas bottles, and 271 gas bottle refills. In urban areas, CARE has served 3,067 Syrian and 756 Jordanian families with winterization cash support.

UNICEF and Mercy Corps have signed an agreement to set up and operate four **playgrounds for children** aged 5 to 12, as well as multipurpose courts for adolescents and young people (13-25) in Zaatri and King Abdullah Park. Under the agreement, Mercy Corps will also upgrade three existing playgrounds in Zaatri and setup a mobile audio and video unit to provide more entertainment opportunities. Once completed, the facilities will have the capacity to welcome some 4,000 children every week.

Construction work on a new UNICEF school in Zaatri camp has been delayed due to the worsening weather conditions; the **new school** will cater for some 5,000 students between the ages of 6 and 17. The school will be managed by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, with support from NRC and Save the Children Jordan.

UNICEF/THW are continuing the **delivery of water** to Zaatri camp ensuring the quality of the water transported by truck. Lutheran World Federation decided to procure additional 10,000 sets of winter clothing (fleece training suits) for distribution in Zaatri in sector 5 of the camp in the next two weeks.

The Lutheran World Federation has been distributing winter training suits to new arrivals since 29 December 2012, and so far has handed out 4,000.

Agencies are preparing a plan on the communication of key unified **health and nutrition messages** for the refugees to be used in Zaatri camp and in urban setting.

A joint mission by UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and IOM has assessed the **new camp site in Zarqa** which is currently under construction by the Jordanian Armed Forces to determine its preparedness and capacity to absorb new arrivals. Follow up meetings are planned to establish roles and responsibilities once the camp opens in the coming weeks.

Turkey 154,705 Syrian refugees registered in camps

Another 70 thousand Syrian refugees are living in urban areas.

The Prime Ministry's Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (AFAD) in charge of the refugee response announced that about 1,100 Syrians temporarily accommodated in public facilities and guesthouses in Nizip town had been transferred to the new container site in Harran Kokenli in Sanliurfa province. There are now 15 operational camps in Turkey, including two container sites (Kilis -Oncupinar and Sanliurfa-Harran Kokenli).

With the construction of another **container site** (with a capacity for 5,000 refugees) in Nizip still underway, several thousand Syrians are still being hosted in public facilities in Nizip. The central government authorities and AFAD have therefore decided to transfer a group of around 700 Syrian refugees to Van to be accommodated in containers which were previously used by earthquake survivors. The remaining Syrian refugees should be transferred to Adana, Adiyaman and Gaziantep to be temporarily accommodated in sports centres. Shortage of space in camps represents one of the main challenge for the authorities confronted with a sustained influx of refugees.

UNHCR continues to visit the camps and work with the local authorities, including to observe the voluntary nature of the returns from the camps as per the Directive on the Reception and Accommodation of Syrians under **temporary protection** in Turkey. WFP is providing assistance through its **food voucher system** which gives refugees the opportunity to purchase and cook their own food in Kilis container site and four camps in Hatay. In order to further expand this scheme, UNHCR is working in close contact with Kizilay and AFAD and has agreed to provide kitchen sets and cooking sets which will allow WFP to introduce the voucher system to other camps.

According to information provided by camp officials, 24,431 refugee children are attending **school and kindergartens** and 5,361 adults are benefitting from **vocational courses** and language classes in camps. While the majority of schools teachers are Syrian, local governorates have also assigned teaching staff to support refugee children's education.

As of 12 January 2013, the nine **field hospitals** providing medical services for refugees in camps had provided over 575,000 consultations since April 2011. Moreover, 91,421 persons were at some point referred to hospitals in neighbouring cities and 8,770 surgeries were provided.



Top picture: Syrian girl playing in one of Turkey's fifteen camps for refugees along the border with Syria © UNHCR 2012



Iraq 72,480 Syrian registered refugees

Iraq currently hosts over 72,500 Syrian refugees, 63,500 are hosted in Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniyeh in the Kurdistan Region (KR) and around 9,000 in the governorate of Anbar, under one hundred being scattered in other parts of the country. The border crossing of Al Qa'im remains open only for emergencies and family reunification so practically all refugees continue to enter the Kurdistan Region (KRG), at a reduced rate than in November 2012 of around 150 individuals a day. Approximately 60% of Syrian refugees in Iraq reside in camps in Domiz (in KR) and in Al Qa'im (Anbar).

In all three **registration** centres in KR, UNHCR is working closely with the local authorities which have deployed teams to process the residency permits of new refugee arrivals. More than 30,500 residency permits have been issued in Dohuk alone. While refugees tend to prefer to live outside camps, protection monitoring in urban areas in KR reveals that living conditions are deteriorating, some refugees being unable to pay their rent and attempting to live in makeshift shelters despite the cold. In Al Qa'im, the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration has completed the distribution of the kerosene to cover refugees' additional needs over the winter.

NRC has distributed **winter clothes** to 1,500 children in Domiz camp and UNHCR has completed the distribution of its winter NFIs package to all residents of the camp as it continues the distribution of heating fuel and winter quilts for refugees living in urban centres.

Heavy rains are causing delays in the **construction works** in Domiz camp, blocking some roads where the water level makes it impossible to circulate either on foot or by car. Nonetheless, ISHO continues to erect new tents which are then attributed to selected families through the committees made up of representatives from the refugee community, the KR Department of Displacement and Migration and UNHCR. Despite weather conditions, the Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organization (ISHO), Islamic Relief Worldwide, UNICEF and UNHCR are continuing construction work on a new camp in Al-Obaidi (Anbar).

In December 2012, 3,975 refugee families in Domiz camp received **food vouchers** from WFP, allowing them to purchase and prepare their own food.

UNICEF is completing the construction of 15 **prefabricated classrooms** in Al Qa'im's new school. Moreover 25 Syrian and Iraqi school staff were trained in providing emergency psychosocial support. In Domiz, close to 2,000 students are studying in shifts with 23 teachers.

UNICEF has opened a new Child Friend Centre in the camp of Al Qa'im which is open six days a week and offers **recreational and psychosocial support** activities for approximately 1,300 refugee children a day.

Al Qa'im camp inaugurated a new **Public Health Centre** on 16 December. The centre which is managed by a team of 25 staff, one gynaecologist and two doctors, was provided with some equipment by UNICEF which also conducted the vaccination of close to 1,000 children as part of an national immunization campaign.

Egypt 13,774 Syrian refugees



Although Egypt does not share a border with Syria, it has been receiving an increasing number of Syrian refugees since 2012. The Egyptian government grants Syrians a visa-free entry which is renewable every three months, and access to public schools and hospitals.

Syrians in Egypt are scattered in **urban areas** such as Greater Cairo, Damietta, Mansoura, Hurghada, Suez, and Ismailia. They tend to live in areas where they have family links or acquaintances. UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP conducted a joint needs assessment targeting Syrians in Egypt in November 2012. Findings and recommendations were included in the Egypt chapter of the Regional Response Plan. The main findings revealed needs in the areas of protection, housing, food security, basic needs, livelihood, education and health.

UNHCR increased its **registration capacity** in the second half of 2012 and started conducting mobile registration exercises in different areas of Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta.

In October 2012, UNHCR set up a permanent registration presence in Zamalek (Cairo) which currently registers 80-120 persons a day.

The majority of Syrians cited **housing** as their most critical and expensive need in Egypt, often sharing apartments or borrowing to pay their rent. High rents and limited income, as well as NGOs limited capacity makes food security a major concern, 28% of Syrian families receiving regular food support from local NGOs.

Although a presidential instruction to the Ministry of **Education** to facilitate the enrolment of Syrian nationals in the public system was issued, some problems still exist including bureaucratic difficulties in enrolment, curriculum differences, discouraging class environment such as overcrowded classes, and inability to bear the expensive educational fees of private schools. 38% of interviewed families said their main concern about education is paying school fees. 25% said that differences between Egyptian and Syrian curricula is their major problem.

A decision was taken by the Egyptian government to give equal access to public hospitals to Syrians and Egyptians, yet UNHCR has received information that the policy has not been applied in some public hospitals where Syrians are being charged expatriate-rate fees. There is a high prevalence of chronic illnesses, some rehabilitative care needs, specific mental health needs, and general primary, maternal and under-five healthcare needs. UNHCR is currently subsidizing primary and specialized referral healthcare for Syrians through Caritas and Refuge Egypt. Main **health concerns** include Syrians' lack of awareness of public health services, long waiting periods in some NGO health facilities, low quality of public health services, and high cost of medications and hospitalization. Other Syrians receive health services from the Egyptians medical syndicate services network and from broader civil society health facilities.

Psychosocial support has also come across as a major need of the Syrian community. UNHCR is working with its partner the Psycho-Social Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) to train a group of Syrian psychosocial workers. Through its partner Tadamon, UNHCR has moreover set up a community centre in 6th October city to serve the Syrian refugee community.

Funding in 2012*

Agencies participating in the 2012 Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) received **69%** of their overall financial requirements (334.4 out of USD 487.9 million) from the following donors:



Funding also received from ERF, OCHA and PRIVATE DONORS

* For more details on funding and for the final 2012 funding breakdown at the end of January, please consult the Syria Regional Response web portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>.

The new Syria Regional Response Plan - January to June 2013

In 2013, UNHCR is coordinating the interagency humanitarian response with 12 UN agencies, 34 international NGOs and nine local partners. For more information, please consult the web portal:

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

RRP June 2013 refugee population projections and financial requirements per country:

	Refugee projections	Financial requirements
Jordan	300,000	\$ 495 m
Lebanon	300,000	\$ 267 m
Turkey	380,000	\$ 158 m
Iraq	90,000	\$ 86 m
Egypt	30,000	\$ 14 m
Total	1,100,000 refugees	\$ 1.04 billion*

* Includes an additional \$ 23 m for regional management and coordination requested by UNICEF and UNHCR.

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