

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

26 February - 4 March 2013



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional response in full coordination with host Governments and 55 partners across the region. Published weekly on Thursday, the next update will be available on 14 March 2013.

ONE MILLION SYRIAN REFUGEES

- “With a **million people** in flight, millions more displaced internally, and thousands of people continuing to cross the border every day, Syria is spiralling towards full-scale disaster” - *UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres*.
- **Underfunding** remains a major operational challenge. It is vital and urgent that host Governments and their populations are well supported by the international community in sharing the heavy burden.
- The **exodus** of Syrian refugees accelerated dramatically in recent weeks, doubling in three months to 1 million from 500,000 in December 2012.
- Impact on host countries is severe:
 - Lebanon** - population has increased by as much as 10 per cent.
 - Jordan** - energy, water, health and education services are being strained to the limit.
 - Turkey** - Government has spent over US\$600 million setting up 17 refugee camps, with more under construction.
 - Iraq** - hosting more than 100,000 Syrian refugees in addition to its own crisis with more than 1 million Iraqi IDPs.
 - Egypt** - over 20,000 Syrian refugees registered and a further 23,000 identified as in need of assistance.

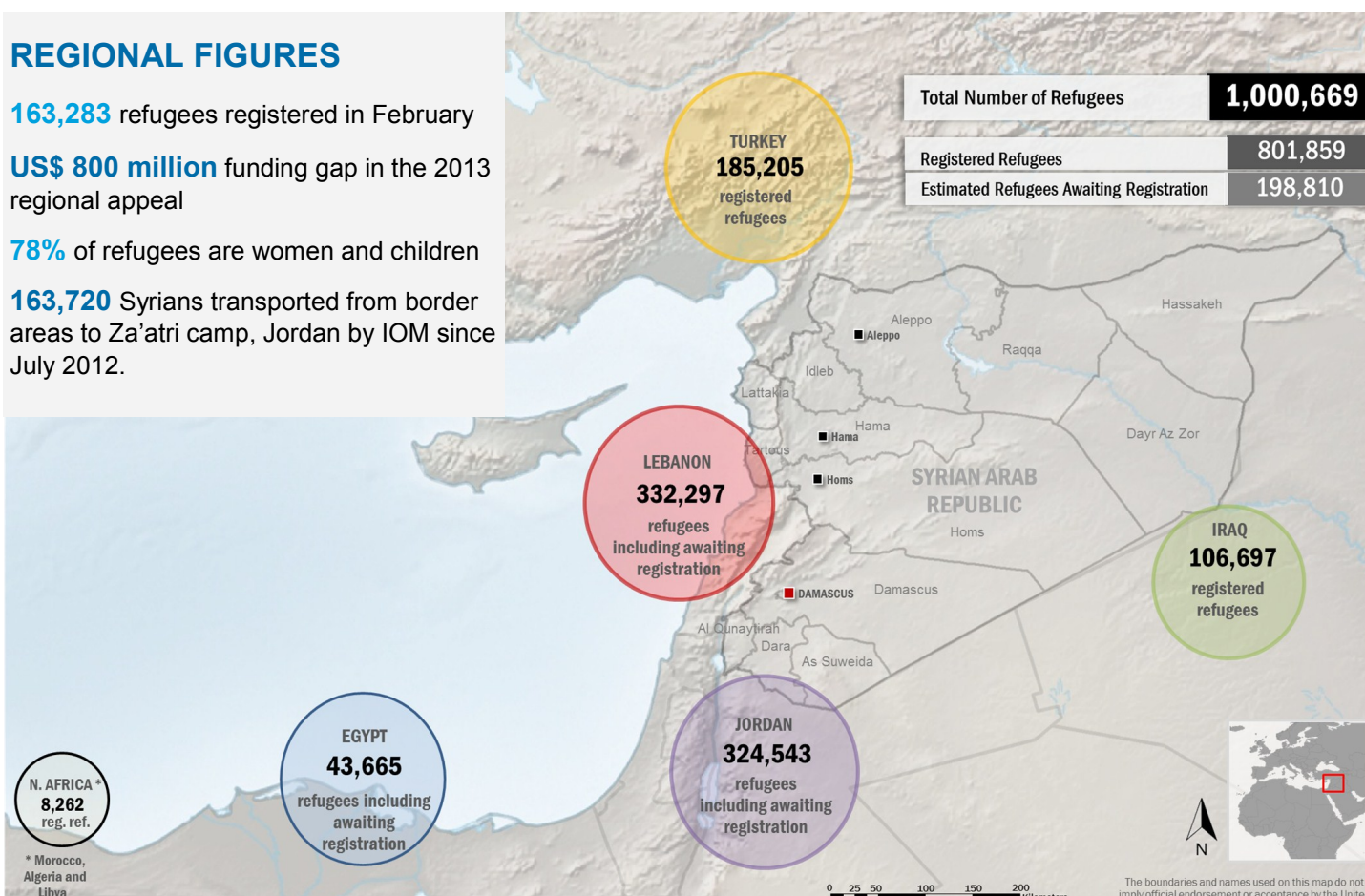
REGIONAL FIGURES

163,283 refugees registered in February

US\$ 800 million funding gap in the 2013 regional appeal

78% of refugees are women and children

163,720 Syrians transported from border areas to Za’atri camp, Jordan by IOM since July 2012.



Refugee population as of 7 March 2013, based on available data. For updated figures visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

Availability of shelter a persistent concern to accommodate waves of new arrivals

- Syrian refugees approaching UNHCR for assistance in February reached a new monthly high of 163,283, a 29 per cent increase on January. Over 320,000 refugees have been registered in 2013 so far.
- The availability of shelter overall, and especially adequate shelter, is a persistent concern. As the crisis worsens, the volume of refugees is exceeding both hosting capacities in urban areas and the current 22 camp sites.
- Turkey - a shortage in capacity to accommodate new arrivals continues to be a main challenge. Additional sites are under construction and the Government is also in search of available space in different cities.
- Iraq - Domiz camp is overcrowded and many tents are now hosting two families despite intensive work to accommodate the large number of new arrivals. Lack of space and sharing of shelter makes new arrivals particularly vulnerable. Local authorities and response partners are jointly assessing the coordination and planning for new transit areas and camps.
- Jordan - the Government will receive new Syrian refugees at the Rabaa al-Sarhan camp as soon as it is equipped. Approval has also been given for a new reception and registration center to be set up at an established site in Mafraq, where registration will be conducted prior to transfer to a camp. This should reduce time refugees spend in transit, eliminate duplicate data collection processes by the various actors involved in transfer from border as partners such as IOM would process from and to the same location.

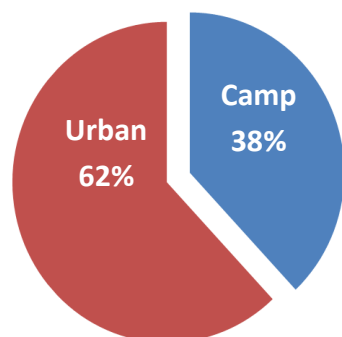


Syrian refugee children in front of a collective shelter in Aarsal, Lebanon.
UNHCR / S. Malkawi

Cash assistance vital for hard-to-reach urban refugees to rebuild lives from scratch

- Despite the massive presence of 22 refugee camps across Turkey, Jordan and Iraq, most Syrians are living in towns and villages in host communities. This largely invisible urban population are harder to reach.
- Host communities continue to demonstrate extraordinary generosity and hospitality but additional challenges such as high rental prices, rising costs of living, low incomes and the rising strain on existing facilities are creating new hardships for both refugees and host governments.
- Cash grants give vulnerable households some reprieve in extremely difficult circumstances. With the number of refugees potentially eligible for cash assistance increasing rapidly, programs are being scaled up across the region to meet urgent needs.

Urban vs Camp Population
Breakdown



- Jordan - cash assistance for Syrian refugees in urban areas began in March 2012. In February this year, 7,728 families (38,640 people) benefited from an average payment of around US\$ 228, or US\$ 124 without the winterization bonus. UNHCR's target is to reach 12,000 vulnerable families (60,000 beneficiaries) by year-end.
- Lebanon - a pilot project for 197 families will conclude at the end of March. Planning is underway to transition from the pilot to assist 30,000 people in the first half of 2013.
- Iraq - high rental costs and low wages are further stretching the ability of Syrian refugees to purchase basic commodities. Over 1,800 vulnerable families have already been identified. UNHCR is finalizing the structure of a programme that will initially assist 500 families, and scale-up to cover 1,000 families (5,000 individuals) by mid-2013.
- Egypt - RESALA, Caritas and Islamic Relief Worldwide are identifying vulnerable families and provided financial assistance to more than 350 families, with a further 1200-plus families in need of assistance identified.

Over half of refugees are children

• Humanitarian partners are scrambling to address child protection and education needs in response to the young refugee population.

• Lebanon - students continue to enrol in public schools and are assisted with the back-to-school education grant encompassing stationary, school bags, uniforms and enrolment fees through UNICEF, UNHCR, Amel Association, Save the Children and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre.

Efforts to create intellectual and psychological incentives for children to continue to attend school are ongoing. Partners provided remedial classes, accelerated learning programmes and other extra-curricular activities engaging both Lebanese and Syrians students.

A birth registration campaign entitled “give your child a name” was launched in February. The registration of births is vital to ensure that the Syrian nationality of these children is recognized so that they do not become stateless.

• Iraq - partners are looking to support the Directorate of Social Affairs to increase monitoring and reach more children with quality services. UNICEF distributed stationary, school bags, learning, and aid learning materials for all children attending the new school in Al Qa'im camp. There are very few schools in the Kurdistan region with the Arabic curriculum, leading to greater numbers of children out of school. In Domiz camp 2,099 students are currently receiving education on a double-shift basis.

• Jordan - UNICEF/Mercy Corps are constructing two new multipurpose playgrounds in Zaa'tri camp. The Ministry of Education is committed to ensuring that more than 4,200 Syrian students enrolled in 13 public schools will progress to the next grade in the new academic year.

• Egypt - Catholic Relief Services registered 206 Syrians for an education grant.



A Syrian refugee boy stands in front of a blackboard while attending class in Adiyaman camp's primary school in Turkey. More than 2,050 Syrian children are attending primary school in the camp, built and run by the Turkish government. UNHCR / B. Sokol



A doctor examines a sick Syrian refugee girl while her younger brother looks on at a health clinic in Domiz refugee camp, Iraq. UNHCR / B. Sokol

Immunization activities enhanced as measles confirmed in Iraq and Lebanon.

• Iraq - 97 cases of measles, most among new arrivals, have been diagnosed in the camps. Most cases are among new arrivals. All new arrivals are screened for measles and those under the age of 25 years are vaccinated. Vaccination of all children in primary schools (Iraqi and Syrians) is ongoing.

• Lebanon - WHO and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) conducted enhanced immunization activities for 180,000 Syrian and Lebanese children up to the age of 18 in 10 sub-districts in the North over the past few weeks. UNICEF, WHO and the MOPH are planning another enhanced immunization activities in additional priority sub-districts in the country. UNHCR and UNICEF are closely working together on establishment of vaccination in the registration sites.

• Jordan - 11,820 children have been vaccinated against measles and 5,569 children against polio at the French field hospital in Za'atri camp since phase two of the campaign began in November 2012. Vaccination of new arrivals continues and there have been no reports of measles.

WFP assists 412,000 Syrians in February through food rations and vouchers

- Jordan - The increase in refugees in need of food assistance has resulted in WFP doubling its caseload since December 2012. New arrivals to Al Za'atri camp receive welcome meals, monthly dry food rations and daily fresh bread.
- Lebanon - Almost half of the Syrian refugee population benefitted from food vouchers, which allow them to choose food items including fresh produce and dairy products from selected shops. WFP is working with UNHCR to establish criteria for refugee profiling which will contribute to assuring food assistance interventions have the most impact.
- Turkey - The new electronic food card programme in Harran camp will assist an additional 12,000 refugees, bringing the total number assisted to 36,000 in 6 camps. The electronic vouchers can be used to choose from a variety of food items and allows beneficiaries to prepare their own meals as per their families' dietary needs. WFP will scale up its assistance to two additional camps by April as per a request from the Government of Turkey, with the aim of targeting 100,000 Syrians by June 2013.
- Iraq - food distribution and vouchers reached almost 20,000 Syrians in Domiz and Al Qaim camps in February.
- Egypt - a voucher programme to assist vulnerable Syrians residing in the greater Cairo area, Alexandria and Damietta was launched in February. WFP is scaling up this assistance in March. In the current absence of NGO partners, WFP is implementing this assistance directly, but hopes to have cooperating partners on board shortly.

Response plan projects prioritized in follow-up to \$1.5 billion of Kuwait conference pledges

- The needs of one million Syrian refugees already in host countries are immediate and urgent. As violence and insecurity continue to threaten civilians inside Syria, the influx of refugees into Egypt and neighbouring countries is showing no signs of abating.
- At the International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, held in Kuwait at the end of January, strong solidarity from the international community resulted in recorded pledges exceeding US\$ 1.5 billion.
- As follow-up, UNHCR and all humanitarian partner agencies in the Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) have [prioritized the most pressing unmet needs](#) in order to provide urgent, lifesaving assistance to refugees while ensuring that the cost of their welcome is not solely borne by the countries of asylum and local communities.

Syria Regional Response Plan Prioritized Requirements Per Sector - March 2013

| Sector | Number of Projects | Prioritized Requirements |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Protection | 21 | \$50,626,195 |
| Food | 8 | \$104,799,444 |
| Basic Needs | 23 | \$151,090,978 |
| Cash and NFIs | 4 | \$14,848,526 |
| WASH | 3 | \$24,636,337 |
| Shelter | 3 | \$121,085,479 |
| Education | 9 | \$29,903,114 |
| Health and Nutrition | 14 | \$26,800,690 |
| Total | 85 | \$523,790,763 |

The regional response plan for Syrian refugees is the coordinated effort of 55 participating agencies:

ACF | ACTED | AMEL | Association of Volunteers International | CARE International | CARITAS | Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre | Centre for Victims of Torture | CHF International | CISP/RI | DRC | FCA/ACT Alliance | GVC/Muslim Aid | HAI | Handicap International | ICMC | IMC | IOM | International Orthodox Christian Charities | IRD | IRC | Internews | Intersos | JEN | JHCO | JHAS | JRF | Madrasati Initiative | Medair | Mercy Corps | Movement for Peace | NRC | Oxfam GB | People in Need | PU-AMI | Relief International | Restart | Save the Children Jordan | SCI | Terres des Hommes | THW | Un ponte Per | UNDP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHABITAT | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNOPS | UNRWA | UNWOMEN | War Child Holland | WFP | WHO | World Vision International

Humanitarian response partners are invited to contribute to this report. For more information or to be added to the distribution list, please contact Anna King, UNHCR Regional Reporting Officer | kinga@unhcr.org