

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

4 - 10 April 2013



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 61 partners across the region. Published weekly on Thursday, the next update will be available on 18 April 2013.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, disrupting livelihoods, leading to over 1.3 million people fleeing the country to seek assistance as refugees in neighbouring countries.
- The conflict increasingly spills over the Syrian border. Lebanon's border region is experiencing regular shelling and gunfire and Jordan has tightened security along its border with Syria.
- Funding shortfalls are threatening the continuation of delivering basic assistance and programmes. Public services provided by host countries are being stretched to the maximum and depleting rapidly. The operations have reached a breaking point.
- Jordan: a notable increase in spontaneous returns of Syrian refugees from Za'atri camp to Daraa governorate, Syria, took place with over 4,000 returns from 1-7 April. Some 80 per cent of spontaneous returns are families going back to areas that are under opposition control. UNHCR is monitoring the voluntary nature of returns.
- Humanitarian agencies are completing need assessments to revise the Regional Response Plan to December 2013 (RRP5), which will be presented in Geneva on 28 May together with the inside Syria plan (SHARP).

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REGIONAL FIGURES

1,311,926 refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighboring countries

589,099 refugees have been registered in 2013 alone.

31% of RRP funding has been received*

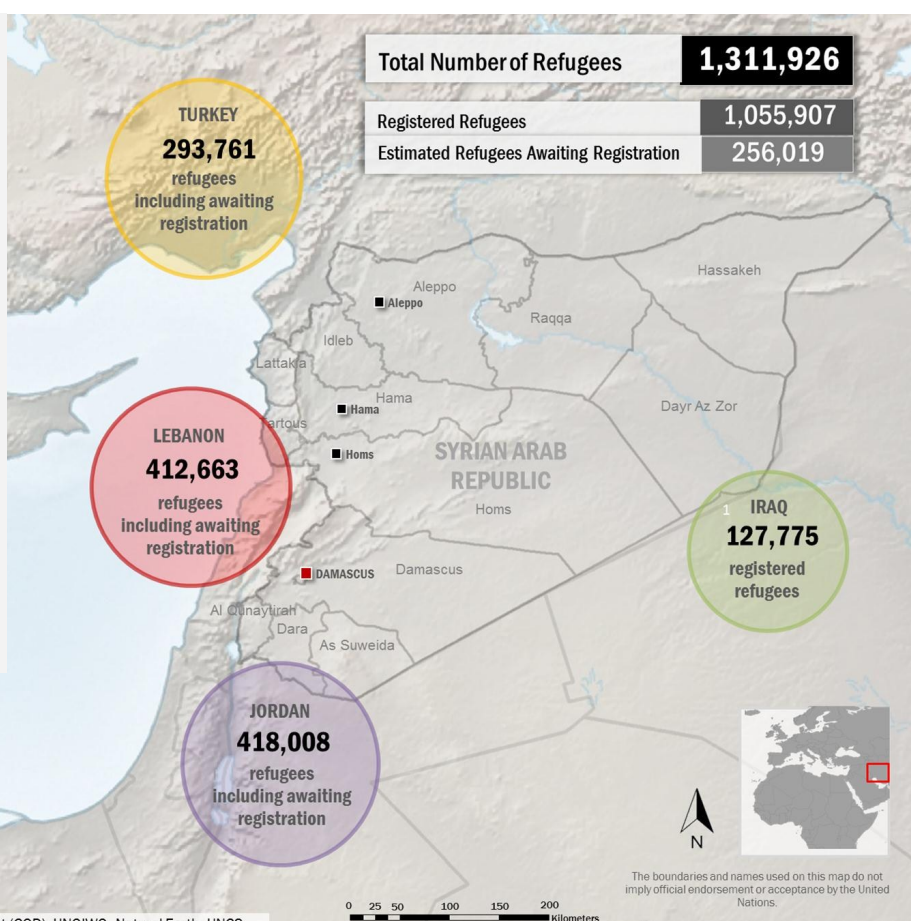
US\$ 700M funding gap in the Regional Response Plan

120% of the refugee population planning figure for June 2013 reached

74% of registered refugees live outside camps in host communities

48% of refugees are children

**Funds received as of 15 March 2013.*



Sources UNHCR Regional Datawarehouse, Common Operational Dataset (COD), UNGIWG, Natural Earth, UNCS

Refugee population as of 10 April 2013, based on available data. For updated figures visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

Coordinated efforts ensure access to quality health care for vulnerable refugees

- Outbreaks of infectious diseases continue to concern health service providers. Across the region, cases of measles, hepatitis A and leishmaniasis have been reported. Suspected cases of measles have now been confirmed in Jordan, in addition to Iraq where it was first detected. In order to review response activities, UNHCR, WHO and partners are looking at all available data from the region.

- UNHCR is supporting health care for refugees via direct subsidies or collaboration with implementing partners but health needs are far outstripping the available resources.

- Jordan - A total of six suspected and two confirmed measles cases have been reported from Za'atari camp. Planning for a comprehensive mass vaccination campaign in Za'atari continues. The vaccination will target both measles and

polio. Already 75 Ministry of Health (MOH) and 125 refugee staff have received the necessary training to carry out the campaigns. The MoH will soon set the date for the commencement of activities. The measles campaign will include all individuals between 6 months and 30 years old and the polio campaign will target all children below 5 years. In addition to the vaccination campaigns, mass vitamin A administration for children <5 years old will be conducted.

- Lebanon - Mental health continues to be of concern in Lebanon. International Medical Corps' mental health unit provided a total of 355 clinical and social consultations this week. Primary and secondary health care services benefitting close to 4,000 refugees weekly are supported by UNHCR, International Medical Corps (IMC), Amel Association, UNICEF, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), and Makhzoumi Foundation. IMC staff visited refugee patients in their communities, at primary health care centers and hospitals to ensure they have been properly assisted. The preventative health programme was expanded to reach refugees living in collective shelters and in IMC-supported hospitals.

- Iraq - So far, 270 cases of measles have been identified in Domiz camp with no reported fatalities. A polio vaccination campaign is underway in both Al Qa'im and Dohuk, targeting both refugees and the host population. The lack of medicines in Al Qa'im camp, especially for chronic diseases, remains of critical concern.

- Egypt - Over 300 refugees benefitted from primary health care services delivered by Caritas and Refuge Egypt.



At the Kahramanmaraş refugee camp in Turkey, a Syrian father watches as Turkish medical staff examine his child, who has developed breathing difficulties. UNHCR/A. Branthwaite

Volatility along the Syrian border limiting aid delivery in neighbouring countries

- The escalating conflict in Syria is exacerbating insecurity along the Syrian border, impacting on the delivery of assistance in bordering countries, reducing access and limiting operations in areas of concern.

- Lebanon - border areas and the Beqaa Valley in particular continued to experience regular shelling and gunfire. UNHCR and partners were forced to temporarily suspend staff travel and limit activities during the reporting period. UNICEF cancelled all missions travelling to Baalbek, affecting sector coordination meetings, field visits and implementation of WASH activities. Progress on establishing appropriately designed toilets for 2,765 beneficiaries in the North has been delayed by ongoing violence in the area since late 2012.

- Turkey - Thousands of Syrians have moved to the border areas with Turkey due to the recent intensification of violence in the Raqqa region of Syria. The Government of Turkey is providing humanitarian assistance (food, non-food items and tents) to the displaced Syrians across the border, where reportedly several thousands of people are accommodated in public buildings and villages with their relatives.

- Iraq - The overall security context in Al Qa'im, located in Iraq's Anbar Governorate remains tense. As of 28 March, the Al Qa'im border is now closed even for family reunification with some exceptions for females and minors less than 15 years old. Spill over of hostilities from the Syrian side, though isolated, have occurred in addition to a present potential of civil unrest. Recently, gunmen attacked a private company operating in Anbar along the border with Syria, resulting in the death of three people and the kidnapping of two others.

Improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities vital in lead up to summer

- The increasing number of Syrian refugees settling in camps and host families has required substantial improvement to basic services in order to meet the growing demand for water, increased intake of wastewater and solid waste.

- Humanitarian response partners are supporting the improvement of network maintenance and water infrastructure to improve services and provide more stable water reserves in communities hosting large concentrations of refugees, camps and transit sites. Substantial additional funding is required to avoid a catastrophic interruption of basic WASH services in the coming summer months.

- Jordan - UNICEF and partners are currently serving some 102,500 beneficiaries through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in Za'atari camp. The Ministry



Delivering safe drinking water in Za'atari camp, Jordan. © UNICEF | Mekki

of Public Works is progressing with the installation of 110 prefabricated WASH blocks (1,144 latrines and 1,001 showers), with 64 blocks already completed (448 latrines, 384 showers) and the rest expected to be completed by end of April. As part of a new strategy to reduce vandalism of WASH facilities in the camp, UNICEF and ACTED are identifying community leaders to be responsible for the maintenance of each block.

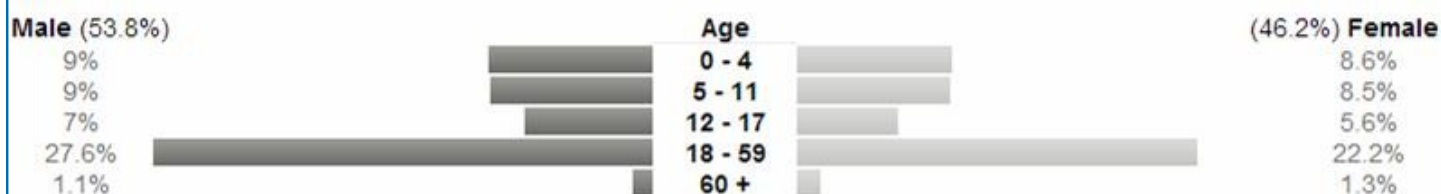
In host communities, UNICEF and Relief International (RI) have begun hygiene promotion and the distribution of 8,000 hygiene kits over a four-month period for 2,150 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugee households in Ramtha and Mafraq. Thus far, UNICEF and RI have distributed 722 hygiene kits to these households.

- Iraq - The construction of a new water supply system in Domiz camp is complete and provides 1,000 M³ of water daily, an average of 50 litres of water per person per day for about 20,000 people. The water delivery is planned to be doubled to 2,000 M³ in the coming weeks to cover 100 per cent of the water supply need for over 35,000 people in the camp. UNICEF completed training for staff from the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works on the operation and maintenance of water network systems and there has been a significant improvement in the quality of water supplied by the water treatment project, including a lower turbidity rate and adequate chlorination.

- Lebanon - The rehabilitation of WASH facilities began in four schools in Tripoli last week, benefitting 1,235 students – 344 of whom are Syrian refugees. An additional 2,200 people have been reached with face-to-face hygiene promotion sessions in the past week, bringing the cumulative total to 14,484.

- Turkey - UNFPA has provided 40,000 dignity kits to refugees in the 14 camps set up by the Turkish authorities; another 20,000 will be delivered soon. The kits include sanitary napkins, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other essential items that help refugees to maintain daily hygiene routines under the harsh conditions of camp life.

Demography of Registered Refugee Population



Regional demographic breakdown above is based on available data from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon as of 10 April 2013. For updated figures visit

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

WFP: Food assistance doubled in first quarter 2013

- WFP continues to dramatically scale up operations in response to the growing numbers of refugees and is planning for further expansion. More than 522,000 people received from food assistance in March, more than double that of three months ago last December.
- Jordan - A total of 121,581 beneficiaries (36,295 households) benefitted through voucher assistance in host communities in March.

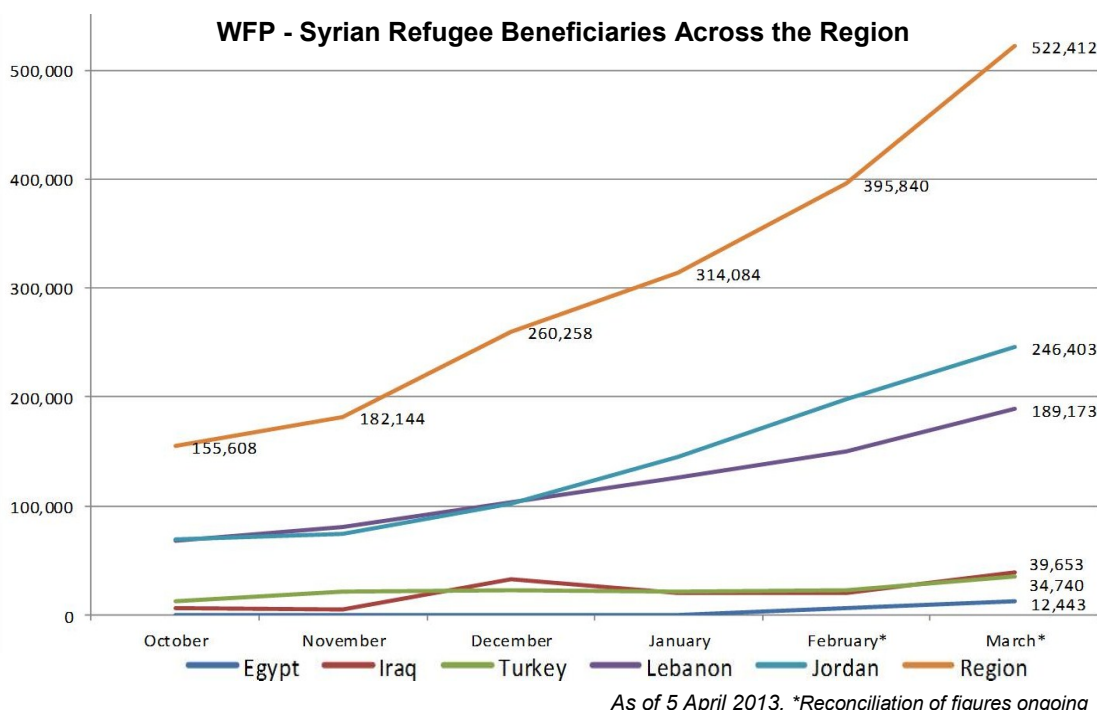
WFP plans to reach a total of 152,316

individuals (44,548 households) in April, while continuing to add newly registered individuals. WFP and partner Save the Children International added two new shops to the voucher retailers in Amman to accommodate the large influx of refugees in the area and reduce expenditure on transportation for beneficiaries. WFP is also distributing half a million pita bread every day to the entire population in Za'atri camp.

- Lebanon - WFP plans to target 256,488 beneficiaries with food vouchers and 59,250 beneficiaries with food parcels to new arrivals and refugees pending registration for more than one month. The April caseload represents an almost 60 per cent increase from March for a total of 315,738 beneficiaries. Voucher distribution started in North Bekaa on 2 April with Danish Refugee Council. During the first two days of distribution 6,627 beneficiaries received their full value vouchers, which are now valued at US\$ 27. World Vision International will start distribution in Central and West Bekaa on 8 April.

- Turkey - WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) uploaded funds through the Electronic Food Card programme to approximately 40,000 beneficiaries on 1 April. This represents over a quarter of the total Syrian population in camps. By the end of April, if expansion into other camps continues as planned, the program will double in size and reach nearly 80,000 beneficiaries. The Government of Turkey has requested WFP to scale up to cover all camps, but currently WFP only has sufficient funding to assist less than half the population until mid-May.

- Egypt - Preparations are underway for April cycle voucher distributions, targeting approximately 20,000 vulnerable and food-insecure Syrians. Due to rising inflation rate and high food prices in Egypt, WFP has increased the voucher value from US\$ 26.30 to US\$ 30 from April.



The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 61 participating agencies:

ACF | ACTED | AMEL | Arab Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights | ARRD-Legal Aid | Association of Volunteers International | CARE International | CARITAS | Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre | Centre for Victims of Torture | CHF International | CISP/RI | Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services | 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 | Psychosocial Training Institute in Cairo | Questscope | Relief International | Restart | Save the Children Jordan | SCI | ShelterBox | Terres des Hommes | THW | Un ponte Per | UNDP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHABITAT | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNOPS | UNRWA | UNWOMEN | War Child Holland | WFP | WHO | World Vision International

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