

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

18 - 24 April 2013



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 62 partners across the region. Published weekly on Thursday, the next update will be available on 2 May 2013.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Close to 1.4 million refugees are seeking asylum and exerting growing pressure on neighbouring countries, particularly Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Registration data shows the top places of origin as Homs (23.3%), Daraa (15.1%), Hassakeh (14.1%) and rural Damascus (13.2%) for Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt (excluding Turkey).
- The Government of Kuwait released US\$ 300 million to cover humanitarian needs both inside Syria and in the region. Of this, over US\$ 200 million is allocated to the Syria Regional Response Plan for refugees, which is now 55 per cent funded.
- Growing tensions between host and refugee communities recall the need for long-term strategies to provide services and livelihoods options to both Syrians and vulnerable local communities. The revised Regional Response Plan, to be launched on 28 May in Geneva, will focus significantly more on supporting local communities as an important priority to mitigate tensions.
- With summer approaching, UNICEF and partners are preparing to meet growing demands for water and promote healthy hygiene practices to prevent disease outbreaks in anticipation of higher temperatures.

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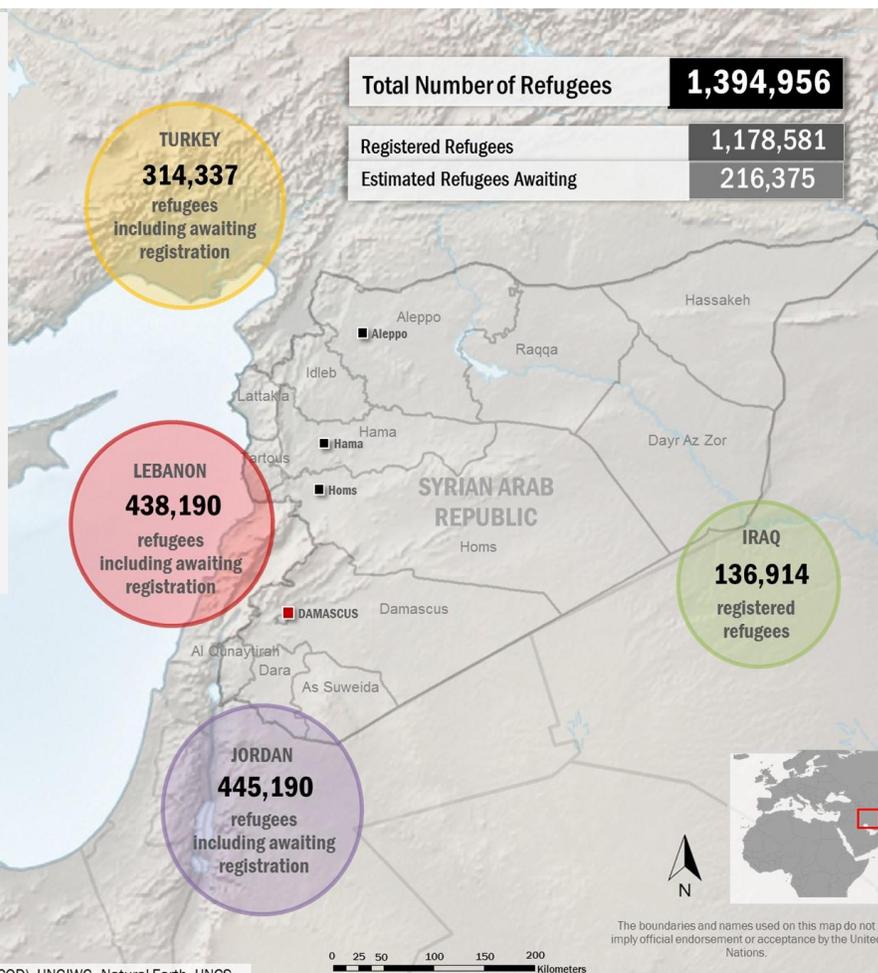
1,394,956 refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighboring countries

55% of funding received for the Syria Regional Response Plan

522,000 refugees provided with food assistance by WFP in March

157,480 refugee children accessing psychosocial support from UNICEF since January

36,419 consultations delivered through UNRWA health centres that serve some **45,000** Palestine refugees who have fled to Lebanon and Jordan from Syria.



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

Refugee population as of 24 April 2013, based on available data. For updated figures, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

Lebanon: Mix of shelter solutions being explored to manage influx

- Hundreds of spontaneous tented settlements all over Lebanon illustrates the difficulties faced by refugees to identify suitable accommodation. UNHCR and response partners are identifying and assessing potential sites for transit centres that could accommodate 1,000 families (5,000 individuals) or more. Response partners continue to work on a mix of solutions to address shelter needs and improve living conditions, prioritizing urgent shelter assistance to informal settlements. Rehabilitation works are underway in collective shelters as the Danish Refugee Council and CISP continue to identify additional sites for renovation. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) signed contracts with 12 new hosting families owning unfinished houses. Additionally, more Lebanese families continue to host Syrian refugees in their homes. NRC assisted 82 Lebanese households hosting 110 families with cash to begin rehabilitation works in their homes this week.
- Over the week, the Swiss Development Cooperation distributed cash to 83 host families in Akkar for the renovation of their unfinished houses, bringing the total number of Lebanese families benefiting from this programme in the area to 1,417. These families have agreed to host Syrian refugees in the rehabilitated houses in return. Similarly, the Polish Centre for International Aid and SHEILD assisted 95 and 80 host families respectively with cash for renovations.

Jordan: New camps with potential to host 60,000 people

- On 10 April, a second camp for Syrian refugees opened in Mrejib Al Fhood, constructed by the Jordanian Government in cooperation with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and managed by the UAE Red Crescent. The camp has an initial capacity of 5,000, with plans for expansion to host 30,000 people by the end of June 2013. Currently the camp is hosting over 1,000 Syrian refugees. IOM provides orientation and reception services to new arrivals and will launch a community participation programme in the camp next week to involve the refugees in the community's activities and to improve the quality of services inside the camp.
- Construction of a third camp at Azraq, which will have a capacity of 30,000, is progressing smoothly with the support of the Ministry of Public Works. Roads have been constructed and UNICEF will be carrying out structural works for WASH facilities. It is expected that partners will begin setting up facilities by the end April.

Turkey: Government establishing five new camps

- The Disaster and Emergency Management Agency of Government of Turkey (AFAD) operates 14 tent camps and three container camps for displaced Syrians in eight provinces, with assistance from humanitarian organizations. Turkey announced on 15 April the construction of five new camps to host refugees from Syria with a capacity for 60,000 people.

Save the Children: addressing the children's crisis

- With some 52 per cent of the refugee population under eighteen years of age, the Syria situation is very much a children's crisis. There are an estimated 700,000 refugee children in the sub-region.
- Save the Children (SC) is working in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan to serve Syrian children and mothers, enhance child protection and facilitate education opportunities.
- Jordan - SC has reached 204,432 beneficiaries through food and NFI distributions, and interventions for infants and school-aged children. SC is working with WFP to distribute food and implement a school feeding program in Za'atari camp, and distribute food vouchers in host communities. Save the Children and UNICEF continue to reach over 1,500 children between the age of 5 and 11 through 29 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Za'atari and King Abdullah Park camp. SC Jordan has reached a total of 46,021 refugees through education interventions, including the distribution of school kits and school registration in Za'atari camp and to children in vulnerable local communities.
- Lebanon - SC is supporting 425 schools through its Accelerated Learning Programme, aimed at enhancing children's capacities in Arabic, English, science and math, and awareness sessions for parents on the importance of education and for teachers on positive discipline to support children and provide quality education. SC is conducting home and school visits to follow-up on Child Protection cases in Akkar and provide free medical consultations for pregnant women, new mothers and children in Bekaa valley. A total of 54,805 beneficiaries have been reached in Lebanon but gaps still exist: more psychosocial follow-up, case management and referral are needed especially amongst children suffering from psychosocial trauma and the ability to practice good hygiene is limited due to a shortage of products, a pressing issue with Summer approaching and higher temperatures anticipated.
- Iraq - SC has reached 7,747 beneficiaries and concentrates its humanitarian response on the Al Qa'im refugee camps as logistical and security difficulties in accessing the region means that the camps are critically under-served. SC currently runs two Child- and Youth-Friendly spaces with a variety of activities including handicraft, sports, age appropriate games, Arabic and English letter-learning and basic language lessons, drawing sessions and computer classes. SC is also pursuing an opportunity to support a CFS with a local partner in Domiz camp in Dohuk.



Save the Children has so far assisted more than 300,000 Syrian refugees with a multi-sectoral humanitarian response in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Save the Children | J. Hyams

DRC: Supporting refugee and host communities in Lebanon

• The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) continues to implement Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) as a key priority in providing sustained support for Syrian displaced and Lebanese hosting communities struggling to cope with the additional strain. These projects reflect DRC’s commitment to supporting livelihoods options and peacebuilding activities for all affected populations. Not only do these projects support local communities financially, the process for decision making and management of the QIPs develops the capacity of local municipalities, and supports strong systems of community participation in the decision-making.

• Since November 2011, DRC has implemented 34 QIPs in North Lebanon and Bekaa areas. Through these projects, funded by UNHCR, DRC has supported clinics with equipment, constructed playgrounds for children, provided electric generators and supported agriculture cooperatives to name a few.

• **Supporting medical aid in the Bekaa** - Qarha village (Bekaa area) suffers from severe electricity shortage. As a result, the medical clinic at the Social Development Centre (SDC), a community centre run by Lebanon’s Ministry of Social Affairs Lebanon, was operating below capacity from being limited to only three hours of electricity per day. Amongst other impacts, this meant the gynaecologist couldn’t use the ultrasound machine, leaving many pregnant women to find assistance much further away. In order to cope with this situation, DRC supported the SDC with a power generator. The installation of the generator significantly increased the number of beneficiaries, both Lebanese and Syrian, to access reliable working medical equipment for diagnosis and treatment.

• **Rehabilitating ocean markets in North Lebanon** - The fish market in Bebbeen (North Lebanon) was facing significant food safety concerns due to a lack of proper infrastructure and equipment. Fishermen were forced to store fish on the ground and there was no protection from insects and other pests. This was having an impact on public health and the livelihoods of fishermen in the area. DRC rehabilitated the fish market by installing walls and windows to separate the market from the street. After repairing the plumbing system, DRC installed two washing sinks and a marble fish stand. To improve the air pollution, DRC also provided six fans, four air extractors and four anti-mosquito electrical zappers. A cool room was also installed to store the fresh fish in a more hygienic way. These improvements were able to enhance the income-generating opportunities for fishermen and the well-being of the community.



The source of renewed power at the SDC community centre medical clinic in the Bekaa, Lebanon. DRC | March 2013

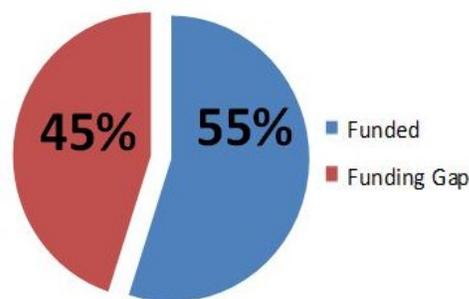
Donors commit new funds for Regional Response Plan, now over 50 per cent funded

• The Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) for refugees, covering activities between January and June is now over 55 per cent funded, up from 31 per cent in mid-March.

• A pledge of US\$ 300 million by Kuwait was converted last week into funding commitments, of which over US\$ 200 million will be allocated to the RRP for refugees in the region. The funds have been allocated as follows: UNHCR (US\$ 110 million); UNICEF (US\$ 53 million); WFP (US\$ 40 million); WHO (US\$ 35 million); International Committee of the Red Cross (US\$25 million); UNRWA (US\$ 15 million); OCHA (US\$ 10 million); IOM (US\$ 5 million); UNFPA (US\$5 million); UNDP (US\$ 2 million).

• The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) also confirmed a contribution of over US\$ 25 million towards the Syria RRP, distributed to UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, Save the Children and IOM.

• As of 22 April the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) for Syria has allocated US\$ 19.1 million to 66 projects, of which 35 per cent have been made to projects outside Syria to benefit refugees. This includes close to US\$1.5 million for Lebanon, over \$US 950,000 for Jordan and over US\$ 200,000 for Iraq.



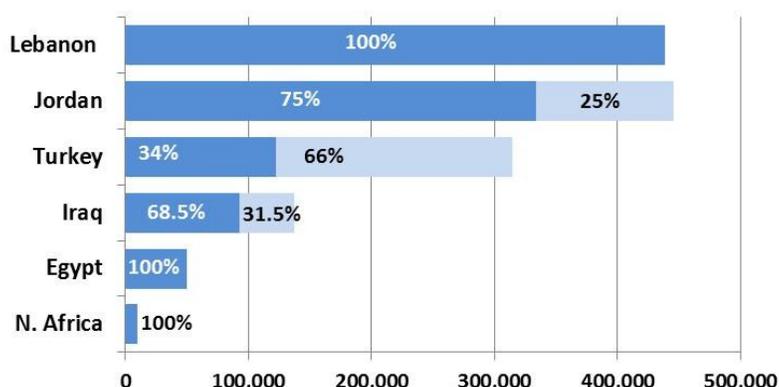
Innovation improving food assistance for refugees

- In March, over 70 per cent of WFP’s food assistance in the region was in the form of vouchers. Voucher assistance helps support the local economy and allows Syrian families to shop and cook for themselves whilst also benefitting the local economy.
- **Turkey** - The expansion of WFP’s e-food card programme into four new camps has gone ahead officially as planned this week, nearly doubling the existing caseload. The programme was expanded to Nizip 1 (10,000 people), Karkamis (7, 330 people), Adana (8,860 people) and Islahiye (8,280 people) camps, and was fully operational in all camps by 19 April. A hobby garden has been set up by the camp manager in Adana camp to provide beneficiaries with seeds to grow their own vegetables and fruits. Information on the initiative has been shared with FAO to suggest future collaboration to potentially expand the initiative to other camps.
- **Iraq** - WFP continues to support school feeding for Syrian refugee children, reaching on average some 2,200 children in Domiz and 1,300 in Al Qa’im camps each school day.
- **Jordan** - The systematic retention of WFP ration cards has been established through the formal bail-out (voluntary leaving) system in Al Za’atri camp. Between 100 and 200 individuals have been deactivated on a daily basis this week. This week, multiple agencies have reported the growing concern over unemployment. In Al Za’atri camp, WFP’s cooperating partner Save the Children employs more than 100 Syrian refugees on a daily basis during distributions.
- **Egypt** - WFP conducted an in-depth assessment and investigation into the complaints made by a small group of refugees regarding high food prices in a WFP-partner shop. The results were shared with the refugee representatives and findings showed that the rising food prices are a general trend in Egypt and the said shop has reasonable/average prices compared to other shops. Refugee representatives were satisfied with the assessment but highlighted that non-food assistance is also needed.

Place of Origin		
Aleppo	62,310	11.2%
Damascus	17,123	3.1%
Dara	83,755	15.1%
Deir-ez-zor	11,776	2.1%
Hama	27,592	5.0%
Hassakeh	78,399	14.1%
Homs	129,279	23.3%
Idleb	44,627	8.0%
Raqqa	7,217	1.3%
Rural Damascus	73,416	13.2%

Top 10 places of origin of registered refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon [excluding Turkey] as at 31 March 2013.

URBAN/CAMP POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY



Thank you to the following donors for contributing to the Syria Regional Response Plan 2013, as of 24 April:

Australia | Belgium | Canada | CERF | China | Croatia | Czech Republic | Denmark | ERF | Estonia | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Hungary | Iceland | Ireland | Japan | Republic of Korea | Kuwait | Lithuania | Malta | Netherlands | Norway | Private Donors | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America |

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 62 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 | Islamic Relief Worldwide | 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 | Save the Children International | 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

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](mailto:anna.king@unhcr.org), UNHCR Regional Reporting Officer | kinga@unhcr.org