

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

8 - 14 August 2013



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 126 partners across the region. Published weekly on Thursday, the next update will be available on 22 August 2013.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Jordan** - Humanitarian partners are preparing for the opening of a new camp in early September. Azraq camp, located near Zarqa city, will have an initial capacity to host 50,000 people and can be expanded to potentially host up to 130,000 people.
- **Egypt** - A month-long state of emergency has been declared. There has been a notable increase in the number of Syrians approaching UNHCR for registration with over 107,000 Syrian refugees known to UNHCR, already surpassing the 100,000 population planning figure projected for December 2013. UNHCR is overseeing the development of a contingency plan with partners to respond to the evolving situation.
- **Lebanon** - the General Security Office (GSO) since 22 July 2013 is imposing stricter border controls at the Masnaa crossing, requiring Syrians to present full, undamaged documentation. The Government of Lebanon has reiterated assurances that borders will remain open to Syrians fleeing violence and seeking safety. UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs are working with GSO on possible measures to enhance border control and access to assistance in a protection sensitive manner.

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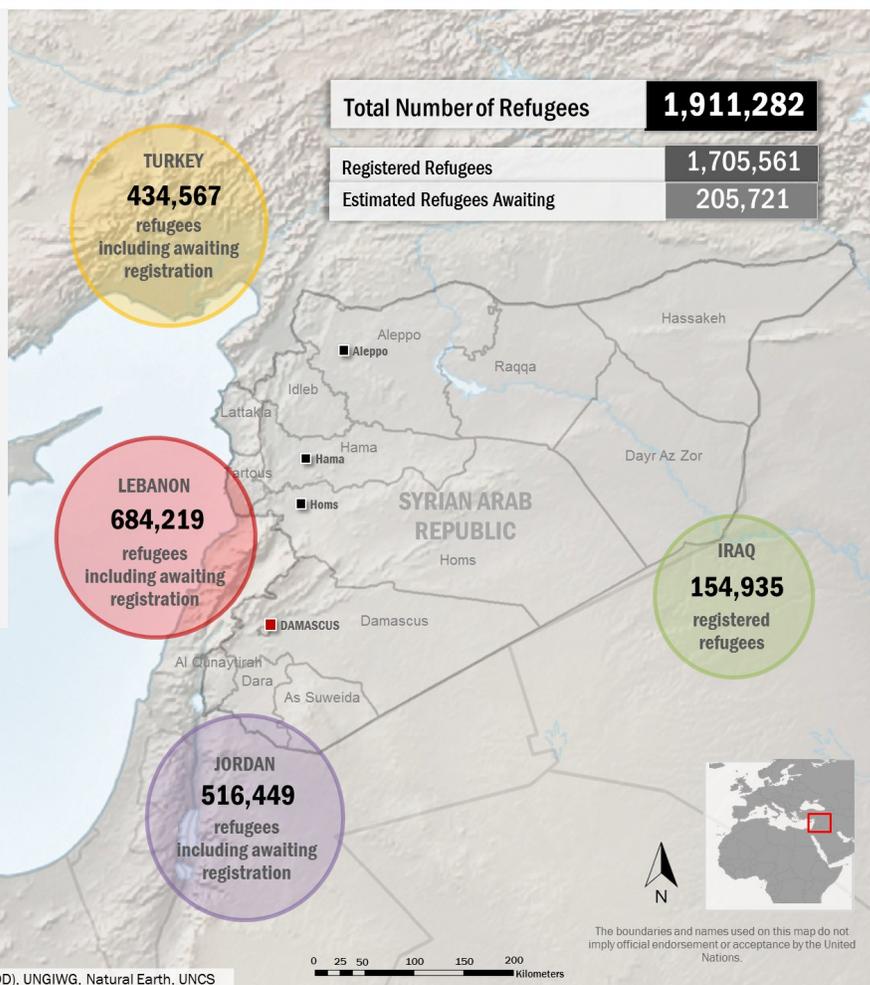
REGIONAL FIGURES

1.9 million refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighboring countries

79% of Syrian refugees are living outside camps in urban settings amongst host communities across the region

103,000 people have benefited from shelter solutions in Lebanon, including cash for shelter, cash for host families, weatherproofing, support to informal tented settlements and the rehabilitation of collective shelters

US\$ 1.85 billion funding gap in the Syria Regional Response Plan for refugees



Egypt: registration capacity expanded to cater to dramatic increase in requests for assistance

- A month-long state of emergency was declared in Egypt on 14 August. Over 107,000 Syrian refugees have approached UNHCR for registration and assistance, already surpassing the population planning figure of 100,000 projected for December 2013. According to Government estimates, some 250,000 to 300,000 Syrians currently reside in Egypt.

- The Government and people of Egypt have provided gracious hospitality and support to refugees fleeing Syria, including through free access to public health services and public education.

- Within the current political turmoil in the country there has been a shift in perceptions and the level of sympathy afforded to the Syrian community. The Government announced temporary measures on 8 July requiring Syrians coming to Egypt to obtain a visa and prior security approval.

- UNHCR is continuing to see an increase in the number of Syrians approaching the office to register following the application of new entry requirements and a recent increase in reported incidents of detention and deportation.

- Registration remains the key mechanism through which persons of concern are identified, protected and assisted.

Vulnerable new arrivals with specific needs, including people with disabilities or serious medical conditions, female headed households, unaccompanied minors and the elderly continue to be prioritized for assistance.

- To accommodate the need and demand, UNHCR is rolling out fast-track registration procedures to reduce waiting times and is in the process of establishing an office in Alexandria in addition to the Cairo office and mobile registration missions.

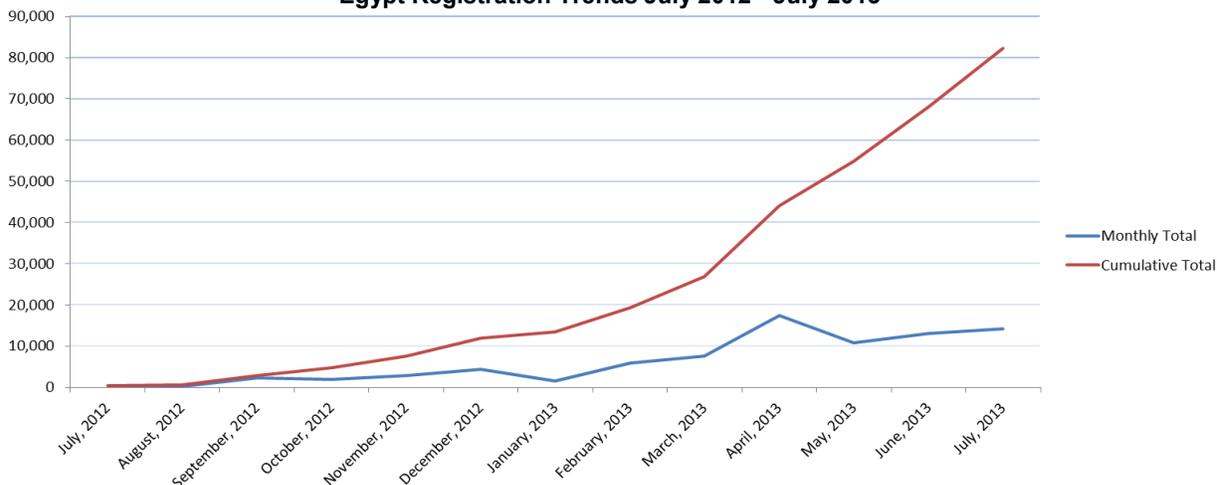
- UNHCR began operating a 24/7 hotline for Syrians on 31 July to address refugee inquiries and respond to requests. During the week UNHCR responded to 161 calls. UNHCR is also distributing flyers, in tandem with the Syrian community, urging all Syrians in Egypt to abide by Egyptian laws and regulations, including refraining from participating in political activities and demonstrations. Syrians have also been advised to carry their passport and UNHCR registration card with them at all times and ensure their residency permits are up to date.

- Syrians registering with UNHCR are expected to obtain a residency permit from the Government of Egypt on their UNHCR Yellow Asylum-seeker card, or transfer their existing residency to the card. There have been a number of cases recently of the Government not granting residency renewals over failure to adhere to this requirement. UNHCR has been increasing its mass information efforts to ensure Syrians registered with UNHCR are fully aware of the importance of following the proper procedures in regards to their residency permits.



Syrians wait outside the UNHCR office in Cairo to register as refugees.
UNHCR | S. Baldwin

Egypt Registration Trends July 2012 - July 2013



Lebanon: Strengthening the response to sexual and gender-based violence

- UNICEF has provided training on gender-based violence (GBV) case management for 27 social workers and case managers. In addition, 21 hygiene promoters from the water sanitation and health (WASH) sector were trained on GBV referral and mainstreaming in WASH. Five religious leaders, including one woman, have been identified to raise awareness on GBV issues, including sexual abuse and child marriage. A Friday Speech has been developed with the five religious leaders, with a pilot sensitization campaign through mosques to start in Tyre after Ramadan.
- UNHCR is expanding the roll-out of the Gender-based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) and 14 new organizations were trained in July. GBVIMS facilitates the collection, management and sharing of data generated through service delivery to inform the humanitarian response to sexual and gender-based violence.

Expanding target interventions and capacity to address child protection needs

- Lebanon - UNICEF has provided capacity training to field workers, social workers, teachers and animators from ten implementing partners operating in Zahle, Qoybayat, Baalbek, Tripoli and Burj Albarajneh. The sessions encouraged coordination between partners, enhancing communication skills and increasing fieldworkers' awareness of their own stress and stress management techniques.
- Jordan - UNICEF and partners are operating 65 Child and Adolescent Friendly Spaces (42 in camps and 23 in host communities) to provide psycho-social support to children. A further ten playgrounds and multipurpose courts are providing recreational activities for children and youth in camps. Over the past month, seven more spaces have been added in three governorates in host communities with the approval of an agreement between UNICEF and INTERSOS/Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development by the Government of Jordan.
- Iraq - IRC in partnership with UNICEF has completed six days of case management training attended by 16 child protection workers from ACTED and UNICEF.
- Turkey - Ongoing activities are taking place in the Child Friendly Spaces that have been established in 16 of the 20 camps. Youth workers are continuing to mobilize youth volunteers through registration activities, and have begun to plan activities for youth and children in the camps. Art activities that were piloted in Osmaniye and Adana camps last week will continue to be rolled out to the other camps.



A Syrian mother with three of her children in Za'atri camp, Jordan. UNHCR | J. Kohler

Enhancing food and nutrition security for camp and non-camp refugees

- Jordan - In September, WFP plans to transition to vouchers programme in Za'atri, allowing refugees to purchase fresh food, including meat and fresh produce, from partner shops located in the camp. In preparation for the establishment of the voucher programme, WFP is in the process of selecting retailers who will manage and operate markets within the camp. WFP is also working with the Government of Jordan's Syrian Refugee Camp Department to select retailers for the programme.
- Iraq - WFP is working with local authorities and humanitarian partners to begin providing assistance in an upcoming camp in Erbil governorate, which will provide shelter and assistance to Syrian refugee families in the governorate. Initial food assistance in Darashakran camp will be provided through the distribution of food parcels for up to four months, during which WFP will assess the feasibility of starting a voucher programme.

Iraq: inflows stagnant but shelter needs continue to be of concern

- The closure of Peshkhabor and Sahele border crossing points since 19 May has led to an ongoing decrease in the number of Syrians entering the Kurdistan Region, which is hosting 95 per cent of Iraq's 155,000 Syrian refugees. Some exceptions are being made for family reunification and humanitarian cases.
- During the reporting period, the office of the Governor of Dohuk announced its decision to open a new camp in the Bardarash district, located in the eastern part of Dohuk governorate, in an effort to ease the strain on the overcrowded Domiz camp and accommodate new arrivals.



A nine-year-old Syrian refugee runs up the stairs of the partially-constructed building where she and her family are living in Erbil. They fled from Deir ez-Zur, Syria after a shell hit their neighbour's house, killing everyone inside. She said the most frightening thing in Syria was the sound made by the tanks. "It was even more scary than the sound of planes, because I felt like the tanks were coming for me." UNHCR | Brian Sokol

- The proposed site can accommodate up to 50,000 people. However, due to the lack of funds, the Governor has appealed for international support and solidarity to facilitate the development of the site.
- Norwegian Refugee Council is providing 800 households with shading and install some 20 community shades. Identification and selection of households are being coordinated with protection and community services workers, targeting families with elderly persons above 65 years old, families with children under 6 months old, persons living with disabilities, persons having serious medical conditions, as well as those in irregular tents. The locations and modalities of using the community shades are being coordinated with response partners to ensure that consensus is reached with the local population. It is envisaged that the community shades can be converted to warm rooms for the winter to facilitate community activities.

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 126 participating organizations, including 84 appealing:

ActionAid | [Action Contre la Faim](#) | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | [Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development](#) | The Lebanese Association for Development | [Lebanese Association for Human Promotion & Literacy](#) | Amel Association | [ARRD – Legal Aid](#) | Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale | [CARE International](#) | Caritas | [Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre](#) | Catholic Relief Services | [Centre for Victims of Torture](#) | Cooperative Housing Foundation International | [Children without Borders](#) | Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | Finn Church Aid/Act Alliance | [FAO](#) | Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura | [GVC/Muslim Aid](#) | Handicap International | [Heartland Alliance International](#) | Institute for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation | [International Catholic Migration Commission](#) | International Medical Corps | [IOM](#) | International Orthodox Christian Charities | [International Relief and Development](#) | International Rescue Committee | [INTERSOS](#) | Islamic Relief Worldwide | [JEN](#) | Jesuit Refugee Service | [Jordan Health Aid Society](#) | LDS Charities | [Lebanese Red Cross](#) | Lutheran World Federation | [Madrasati Initiative](#) | Medair | [Médecins du Monde](#) | Mercy Corps | [Movement for Peace](#) | Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | Operation Mercy | [Oxfam GB](#) | Première Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale | [Qatar Red Crescent](#) | Questscope | [Refugee Education Trust](#) | Relief International | [Restart](#) | Rene Mouawad Foundation | [Royal Health Awareness Society](#) | Safadi Foundation | [Save the Children International](#) | Save the Children Jordan | [Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development](#) | Solidarités International | [Terre des Hommes](#) | Terre des Hommes Italia | [Terre des Hommes Lausanne](#) | German Federal Agency for Technical Relief | [Un ponte per](#) | UNDP | [UNESCO](#) | UNFPA | [UN-Habitat](#) | UNHCR | [UNICEF](#) | UNODC | [UNOPS](#) | UNRWA | [UN Women](#) | War Child Holland | [WFP](#) | WHO | [World Rehabilitation Fund](#) | World Vision | [YMCA](#) |

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