

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

21 - 27 November 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.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- A UNHCR survey of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and Jordan has found **widespread psychological distress**, many children **living alone or separated** from their parents, most **receiving no education**, and extensive involvement of children in **illegal labour**.
The report, [The Future of Syria - Refugee Children in Crisis](#), is the first in-depth survey conducted by UNHCR of Syrian refugee children since the conflict began in March 2011. Among its findings are that many Syrian refugee children are growing up in fractured families, and that children are often the household's primary breadwinners. Over 70,000 Syrian refugee families live without fathers and over 3,700 refugee children are either unaccompanied by or separated from both parents.
- Humanitarian partners in [Lebanon](#) are responding to an influx of some 4,000 families following fighting in the Qalamoun area of Rif Dimashq, Syria. Heavy clashes, which began on 15 November in Qarah, have now spread to many neighbouring villages. The majority of refugees have found shelter in the municipality of Arsal, Beqaa Governorate, with others now accommodated in the neighbouring villages of El Ain, Fakehe, Chaat and Ras Baalbek.

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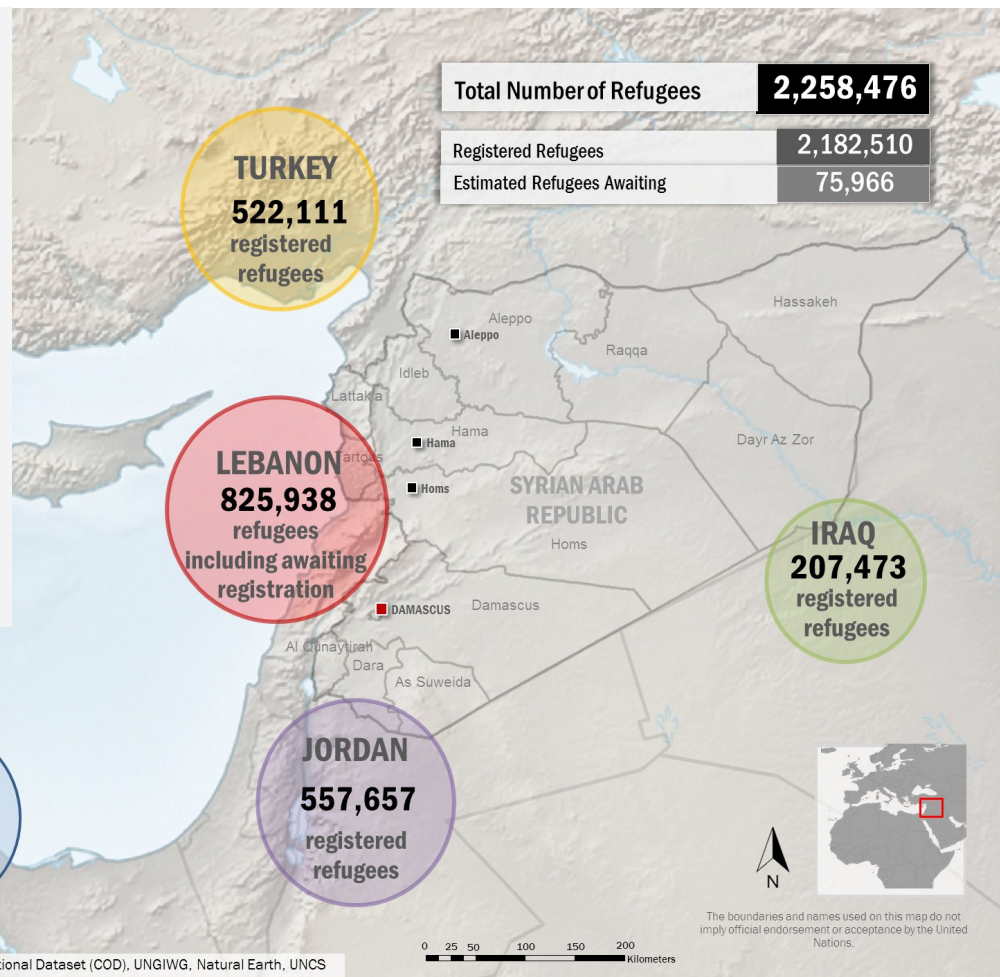
REGIONAL FIGURES

2.2 million refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

1,138,634 refugee children estimated to be affected by the crisis

1.1 million Syrian refugees will benefit from additional support in winter

40,000 Syrian refugees have crossed into the Beqaa in Lebanon since 15 November following ongoing fighting across the border



An estimated 20,000 Syrians flee across the border into Lebanon as heavy clashes spread

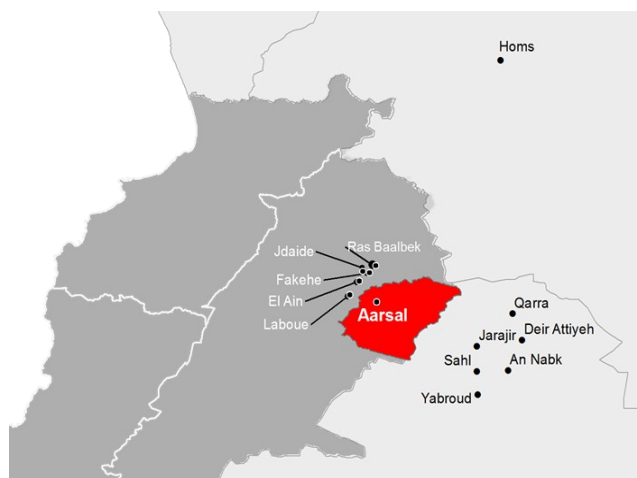
- **Lebanon** - Humanitarian partners are responding to an influx of some 4,000 refugee families following heavy fighting in the Qalamoun area of Rif Dimashq, Syria. The clashes began on 15 November and have now spread to many neighbouring villages.
- The majority of refugees have found shelter in Aarsal, with others accommodated in the neighbouring villages of El Ain, Fakehe, Chaat an Ras Baalbek. Refugees continue to arrive in Aarsal at a rate of some 50 families a day. As of 27 November, 3,478 families have been registered and up to 500 families are estimated to be pending registration.
- Humanitarian partners have been on the ground since the start of the influx. Emergency registration procedures have been put in place and mattresses, blankets and kitchen sets are being distributed. UNHCR is coordinating the inter-agency response under the direction of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Referral pathways for persons with specific needs including follow-up with SGBV and child protection vulnerabilities have been established to ensure the broadest possible access to available services. Partners are exploring means of increasing outreach to facilitate the registration of vulnerable refugees.



A child accessing a water point in the temporary shelter site, Aarsal. UNHCR

35,000 residents of Aarsal
+
20,000 registered refugees*
+
20,000 refugees registered with the local municipality
=
75,000 total population in Aarsal

* as of 26 November



- Humanitarian partners have reached over 2,700 families with food and basic items for cooking, personal hygiene, sleeping and keeping warm. WFP is working closely with UNHCR and partners to ensure that individuals have quick access either to food parcels or electronic vouchers to buy their choice of food products without having to move to a distribution point.
- A temporary shelter site is hosting 67 families and land for an additional site in Aarsal is currently being assessed. Ten latrines and 13 showers have been installed and safe water has been supplied to over 1,100 households. Partners continue to increase primary health capacity, both through support to local health centres and mobile medical units.
- Partners have visited 920 families accommodated in private homes to assess their shelter and other needs. In addition, 50 families residing in unfinished shelters were provided with plastic sheeting, wood and other materials to help them seal off their accommodation for winter.
- After a rapid assessment, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has begun sealing-off unfinished houses and establishing partitions in large collective centres in Aarsal. Additionally, NRC's social teams are referring refugees to registration and other services such as schools and health services.

Enhancing protection capacity in Child Protection and SGBV

- Iraq - Child protection and child rights convention training was completed in Al Obaidy Camp for Afkar and UNICEF staff on 6 November. Case management training was also provided by International Rescue Commission (IRC) for Directorate to Trace Violence Against Women staff. In the Kurdistan Region, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs to establish a Child Protection Information Management System to follow the cases of separated and unaccompanied children and other vulnerable children, and ensure care and services are provided



- Egypt - UNHCR held a workshop in collaboration with the Arab Organization for Human Rights from 20-21 November on international refugee protection. The workshop enabled a better understanding within the Syrian civil society about the rights, obligations and needs of refugees in Egypt.
- Jordan - A two-day workshop for Family Protection Department staff on the legal framework for refugee protection, Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV) and Child Protection (CP) in Jordan took place on 18-19 December. Two trainings on CP and SGBV Standard Operating Procedures were also conducted this week for Amman based staff of 11 organizations, and Emirate Jordan Camp staff from seven organizations. The training addressed, inter alia, how to identify and refer cases of SGBV and CP, and how to address issues such as early marriage and child labour. The final training session on protection for Syrian Refugee Camp Directorate staff also took place, highlighting the vulnerability of and specific risks to refugee women and children.
- Lebanon - Some 40 Syrian refugee women received awareness-raising sessions on sexual harassment and domestic violence provided by International Relief and Development (IRD). The sessions are aimed at sensitizing participants about gender-based violence prevention.

Spontaneous voluntary returns to Syria ongoing

- Syrians continue to voluntarily opt to return to Syria from neighbouring countries. Among the motivations for return are reunification with family members in Syria, and difficult living conditions in host countries. UNHCR is monitoring returns, providing counseling to returnees and family members and assessing the voluntariness of returns.
- Jordan - From 17 to 24 November, 938 individuals returned to Syria, representing a slight increase from the previous week when 773 individuals returned. A more systematic individual tracking and monitoring procedure for Za'atri camp and Rabaa Al-Sarhan is being discussed by UNHCR and Government authorities to better understand factors informing decisions to return and address concerns through an adapted assistance and protection framework, including a systematic mechanism to prevent the recruitment of children into armed forces and their return to Syria. At present, UNHCR regularly shares lists of unaccompanied and separated minors with the Government as a measure to prevent the return of children at risk to Syria.
- Turkey - UNHCR does not advocate or encourage returns but observes a proportion of the Government of Turkey process. Over 121,000 people have voluntarily returned to Syria in 2013 to 10 November. Of these, UNHCR has been present to observe interviews for 23,905 people.
- Iraq - 44,480 individuals have returned to Syria from January to mid-November 2013.

Refugee Voices: Preparing for winter in Domiz Camp

- **Iraq** - In the Kurdistan Region's Domiz Camp, home to more than 50,000 Syrian refugees, lives 55 year-old Shaha Jameel, wrapped with a quilt that she had just received from the UNHCR winterization program.
- Shaha is a wife of 62 year-old Mohammed and mother to a 19 year-old son and three daughters, aged between 7- 23 years. Upon their arrival in Domiz and settling in Phase 1, they were given a canvas tent, sleeping mats, and blankets. "Despite the limited heating and shortage of warm clothes in the last winter, we will not forget the efforts and the assistance from UNHCR," said Shaha.
- As a second winter for Domiz approaches, response partners are working hard to meet the urgent needs of refugees and tackle the challenges that harsher weather conditions are expected to bring.
- The Development and Modification Center (DMC) - the main government body in charge of refugee programs and camp management for Domiz and other camps in Dohuk governorate, are working on improving camp infrastructure by elevating roads with gravel and asphalt and improving drainage. The distribution of items to combat the onset of winter began on 25 November.
- Every family in the camp will receive kerosene, plastic sheets, heaters, blankets, quilts, water jerry cans, fuel jerry cans, and warm clothes and coats for children. Between 25 to 28 November, some 1,000 families have already received their winterization packages from UNHCR.
- Field teams are working hard to assess the condition of tents and issuing new ones as part of the shelter improvement in anticipation of harsher conditions. Some 3,500 tents will be replaced.
- Comparing to last winter, Shaha is hopeful that the coming season will be easier for her family to endure. Their shelter is well sealed with additional plastic sheets and they have received a winterization package of goods. "I'm very delighted to receive these items. I have some blankets from last winter but the items I just received will keep us even warmer".



Distribution of Winterization items in Domiz Camp, Dohuk in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. UNHCR | R. Hussein

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