



Week of 25 February – 01 March 2014

This weekly update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency response to the influx of Syrians into Jordan. The response is led by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and undertaken in full coordination with the Government of Jordan and humanitarian partners.

Highlights and General Developments



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Water pumping station project - On 24 February, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation HE Dr. Hazem Nasser (pictured) inaugurated the Al-Basal wells and water pumping station in Ramtha rehabilitated with UNICEF/Mercy Corps. UNICEF Jordan Representative a.i. Rozanne Chorlton, Mercy Corps Country Director Robert Maroni, and Yarmouk Water Company General Manager Mohammad Rababa joined the event. The project will increase water supply by 15 per cent to some 440,000 Jordanians and Syrians living in Ramtha and Mafraq. The works have resulted in water supply system enhancement, reduction of water losses and increase in water supply in the northern governorates.

Total Persons of Concern - as of 01 March there are 584,406 registered refugees in Jordan. In recent weeks the rate of arrivals has averaged between 6-700 refugees per day; this represents an increase from 4-600 refugees per day in mid-February.



UNHCR's Branch Office in Amman is in the process of relocating to new premises next to the Registration Centre in Khalda where over 200,000 refugees have been registered with biometric data capture since it opened 07 July 2013.

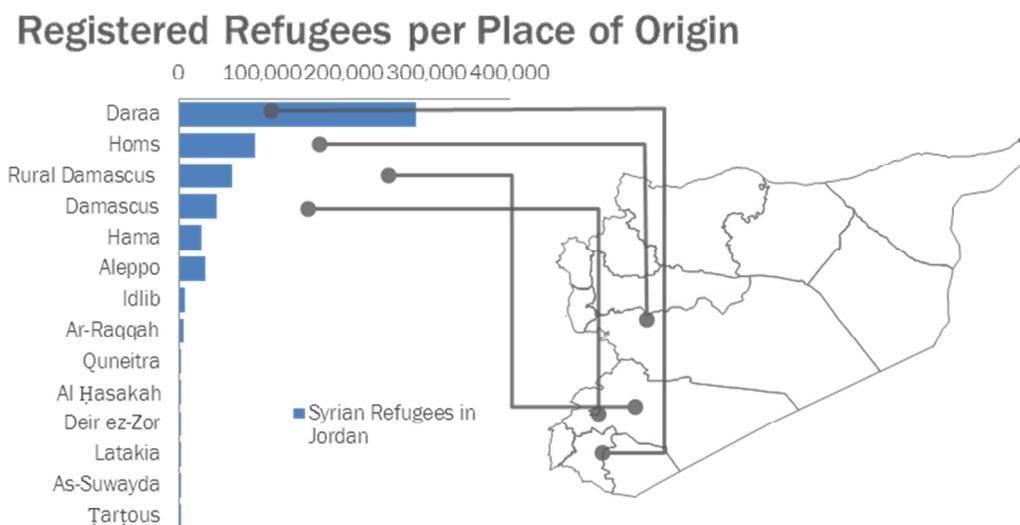
New Arrivals and Registration

Verification in Zaatari - In the reporting period verification in Zaatari has processed a total of 4,650 individuals, resulting in 4,072 active individuals and inactivation for 607 individuals. By 27 February, a total of 17,881 Zaatari residents were called for verification since the start of the exercise, out of which 15,032 presented themselves and were processed, including 13,131 individuals who remained active thereafter.

Registration - In Raba Al A Sarhan, a total of 22,442 individuals were processed by 01 March since the centre opened late December 2013. From 22-27 February a total of 282 cases (700 individuals) were newly registered at the Khalda Amman registration centre, bringing the figure of new registrations since the beginning of the year to 9,137 individuals (3,558 cases).

In the same period, the office processed a total a total of 8,022 individuals (2,047 cases) for renewal¹ of their certificate. Since the beginning of 2014, 14,898 cases corresponding to 59,289 were processed for renewal.

Irbid registration centre registered 344 Syrian individuals (139 cases) and renewed another 3,825 individuals (996 cases) during the reporting period. The requests for new appointments have increased over the last week with an average of 69 individuals (28 cases/families) requesting appointments on a daily basis.



Protection and Community Services

Community Support Committees – UNHCR Community Services carried out a mission to Jerash along with IRD to explore the possibility of establishing Community Support Committees there. The Princess Basma Centre showed a high level of enthusiasm and committed to finding potential members (Jordanians and Syrians).



Participatory assessment - Participatory Assessment (PA) exercise continued in Mafraq and was conducted in Irbid by UNHCR and WFP, involving refugees from all age groups. The PA included eight Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in Ramtha and Irbid Community Centres.

Community Support Projects (CSPs) - On 27 February, UNHCR and its implementing partner ACTED undertook a joint assessment mission in Irbid to identify Community Support Projects (CSPs). The mission visited Aydoon area, Aydoon Charitable Society, Al-Amal Society for Special Education and Aydoon Park for possible CSPs. Identification of community support projects with focus on peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities is ongoing. Community Support Committees (six Syrians, seven Jordanians, one Government official and one UNHCR focal point), implementing partners (IRD, Mercy Corps, Acted) and local municipalities contribute.

Child Protection

Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse - UNICEF staff participated in the first Training of Trainers on Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse facilitated by IRC. The training is based on the UNICEF/IRC guidelines on Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse. UNICEF and IRC will roll out the training package further in 2014.

Psychological support - In the Emirati Jordanian Camp (EJC), a psychologist from Terre des Hommes (TdH) conducted a support group for 22 adult males and 15 boys. A list of 14 persons in need of mental health intervention is prepared and awaiting referral to IMC as soon as they begin activities in the camp with UNHCR support.

Outreach activities in Zaatari were conducted jointly by Save the Children and Mercy Corps in order to identify children and adolescents who are at risk or are engaged in labour or any other unhealthy activity. They will be referred to services in camps.

Shelter

UNHCR continues compiling daily statistics on caravan distribution in Zaatari detailing donor, district and quantity. From 18 October 2012 until the end of February 2014, a total of 20,925 caravans have been distributed in the camp. The average weekly caravan distribution is 158 since beginning of February. A new verification method prior to distribution of caravans using tokens to be eligible to enter the distribution area is under discussion.

Wash

Site selection for wastewater treatment unit - A team from Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MoWI) visited Zaatari to conduct site selection for the UNICEF-supported wastewater treatment unit and to finalize handover to the contractor to commence site preparation. The contract is signed between MoWI and contractor for the procurement and installation of two wastewater treatment units; they are expected to become operational by September 2014. The MoWI is currently verifying the location of the third borehole in Zaatari; drilling is expected to start by the third week of March. A number of water and sanitation projects have been identified for host communities in Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa. The assessment phase is completed and work will start by May.

Education

Teachers' training - In Zaatari camp, UNICEF/CADER delivered a three-day training on pedagogy to nearly 500 Jordanian and assistant Syrian teachers in 24 different workshops.



SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE

Outreach door-to-door campaign - Save the Children Jordan (SCJ) has completed an outreach door-to-door campaign in Zaatari with UNICEF support, targeting all households and informing the community about school enrolment processes. To address the issue of children who are registered but do not regularly attend, SCJ has organised 14 awareness-raising sessions with children and their families aimed at encouraging retention and reduce drop-outs.

School materials - With UNICEF support, some 14,000 students in Zaatari received textbooks during the reporting period.

Vocational training - Vocational training classes in Zaatari were not held at the end of February since students took final exams. NRC staff has worked intensively during the February break on updating vocational program curricula as well as teachers' training and preparation of the facilities for the new intake.

Learning Centre – Female students at the Learning Centre in (EJC) requested NRC to open tenth grade. NRC is looking into availability of space to accommodate students' requests. NRC has also collaborated with SCJ to accommodate time shifts of the Learning Centre and meet the needs expressed by male students to return home before attending formal education classes in the afternoon.

Health and Nutrition

Polio campaign sensitization activities - The Ministry of Health in Jordan, with the support of WHO, UNICEF and UNHCR finalized the preparations for the comprehensive national polio vaccination campaign for children under age five to take place between 2 and 6 March 2014. As part of the preparation, UNICEF in coordination with MOH/WHO/UNHCR and other agencies supported various communications activities, including the distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials (1,000,000 flyers and 20,000 posters) for the polio campaign in March. A meeting was held on 26 February with media, private medical sector and medical associations to seek their support during the implementation of the campaign. During the last week of February, TV/radio programmes began disseminating awareness raising messages regarding the March Polio campaign. Training and orientation for health promoters at the governorate level were carried out. The campaign aims to target 950,000 children up to the age of five, who will receive two drops of the oral polio vaccine (OPV) across Jordan. Children in refugee camps, host communities and settlements are included.

WHO provided supervision to 14 multidisciplinary staff (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses) working at three WHO-supported Ministry of Health outpatient centres, and provided mental health services to Syrians and Jordanians. WHO also supported the Directorate of Health in Mafraq to strengthen the quality of data reporting in all public health facilities for Syrian refugees in the area.

Routine vaccination in Zaatari: In Zaatari camp the 5th Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI) vaccination team established at the UNFPA clinic providing routine vaccination for all under five children and childbearing-aged women.

Food

E-vouchers: The partner bank uploaded the February entitlement to e-cards distributed as part of the e-voucher pilot as well as the first phase of e-voucher rollout. A total of 35,244 beneficiaries (9,302 households) were assisted through e-cards in February. WFP and UNHCR began the second tranche of the e-voucher rollout on 23 February (to be loaded in March) with plans to reach 47,691 beneficiaries (13,696 households) with e-cards in four Governorates in Jordan: Ramtha district in Irbid, Karak, Ma'an and Tafila. Each e-card will then be loaded with 24JD per person for the household to buy food for the month in early March.



School Feeding in Zaatari camp: The second semester began on 9 February and WFP recommenced the regular date bar distributions reaching 12,853 students in February, its highest number of children attending school with date bars since the start of the programme.

Nutrition in Za'atri camp: Partner Save the Children Jordan began SuperCereal Plus distributions in Za'atri camp under the targeted nutrition programme on 26 February reaching children under five with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and malnourished pregnant and nursing mothers.

Co-ordination

During the Inter-Agency Task Force held on 26th February, the heads of agency body considered several issues, including advocacy on livelihoods, new arrival rates and the implications for opening Azraq Camp. The Inter-Sector Coordinator presented an urban/rural coordination model, reviewed by the INGO forum. A further update was provided on the Coordinated Needs Assessment system – including the development of an online registry, which will be rolled out in March. The new January dashboards were presented, by sector, as well as individual NGO facts sheets based on RRP6 data. These documents are all available at

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/documents.php?page=1&view=grid&Language%5B%5D=1&Country%5B%5D=107>.

UNHCR also briefed on the revitalization of the inter-agency Communications Group, which met twice in the past month. Main objectives of the Communications WG is inter alia to improve inter-agency reporting, share best practices and undertake joint advocacy and communications activities.

External Relations and Communication

Some of the visits to Zaatari camp included the following: Belgian Interior Minister, Romanian media, Omani Charitable Organisation; World Vision International (WVI) UK CEO, Romanian media, Handicap International photographer, NRC Oslo Representative; NRC Brussels & Geneva Representatives; Bibliothèque Sans Frontières; and WVI RTE team.

UNHCR MENA Bureau will host consultations on mass communication with special focus on communication with refugees. BBC Media Action, Communication with Disaster Affected Communities Network, London, U.K. and Internews will be attending. The meeting will take in Amman on 25 March.

Funding

RRP 6 Funding gap 84%, funded 16 % (data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php)

AGENCIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.



UNHCR is compiling information from partners working on the Syrian crisis in Jordan. For more information, please contact Frauke Riller, External Relations Officer, at UNHCR Jordan: riller@unhcr.org.