



The Syrian refugee population increased by 130,535 this month, with the vast majority of the increase in Turkey & Lebanon

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

Across the region, **registration and re-verification** of refugees continues to be of great importance, as it is the basis on which much of the protection and services can be delivered by the humanitarian community. In Turkey, under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior, mobile units undertook registration and re-registration in both camp and non-camp settings. In Iraq, the roll-out of registration directly into the ProGres database in camps is almost fully complete, with more than 92 per cent of the refugee population registered. In Lebanon during April, 66,000 people requested appointments, more than 50,000 refugees were registered, and 46,000 had their registration verified to maintain access to essential services.

In all countries, the protection sector provides specific services and responses for **child protection**. In Egypt, almost 130 Best Interest Assessments have been conducted this year for unaccompanied or separated children and child spouses. In Iraq, almost 130 children at risk have received specialized services. More than 2,300 children in Lebanon received such services in 2014, while over 100 humanitarian workers and volunteers were trained on aspects of child protection in April alone. By the end of April, 31 child friendly spaces had been established in camps in Turkey. In Jordan, trainings continued on the standard operating procedures on child protection and the prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), reaching almost 480 people this year.

Protection monitoring and coordination continues, including progress toward agreed interagency referral mechanisms in camps in Iraq. Meanwhile in Jordan, protection actors were all present and operational to receive the first refugees who arrived at the new Azraq camp on 27 April.



Refugee children in Iraq. C Robinson, UNHCR.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:



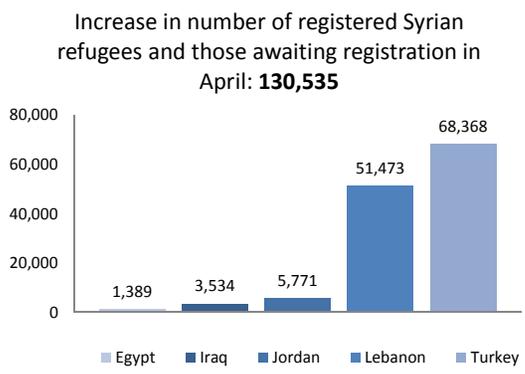
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The key protection response for Syrian refugees remains access to territory and safety and the preservation of protection space. Notwithstanding that countries in the region have been exceptionally generous in receiving and hosting millions of refugees, access is increasingly restricted, partly due to the challenges of absorbing additional refugees as well as security concerns.

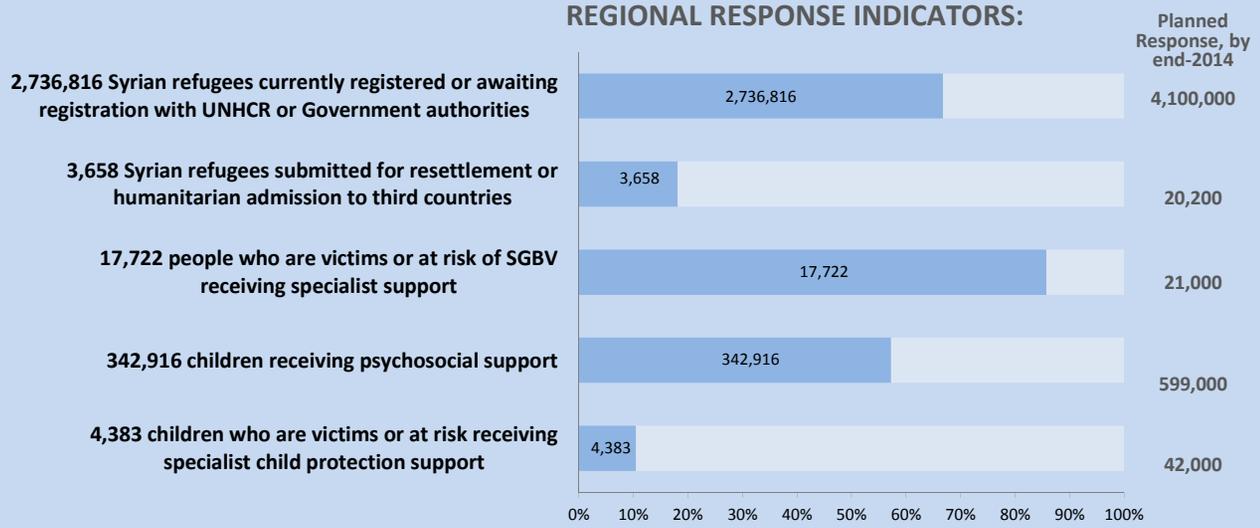
Providing protection in countries of asylum necessitates equitable assistance to meet the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men, including in health, education, and shelter. Registration is the starting point for access to these services and serves to identify refugees who may have specific needs. In 2013, 1.7 million Syrians were registered in the region, a 340 per cent increase compared to 2012. UNHCR has increased its field presence and is employing mechanisms such as mobile registration and providing transport support to facilitate access to registration to ensure all persons of concern have access to information and counselling regarding their status and available services.

SGBV remains a significant protection risk faced by Syrian refugees. In the context of displacement, many women and children are living without their traditional family and community support structures.

A multi-sector needs assessment of the non-camp population in Iraq was undertaken during April, with preliminary reports suggesting a lack of knowledge of protection services available in the urban areas.



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. There are currently 2.7 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 27% funded.