

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

31 May - 6 June 2014



This situation update is prepared by UNHCR Office of the Director, Middle East and North Africa Bureau. It provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 157 partners across the region.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- UNICEF warns that the lowest levels of rainfall in over 50 years is the latest threat to children in the region.
- Ahead of the International Day against Child Labour on 12 June, CARE raises concerns that the percentage of Syrian refugee children being pulled into the labour market and out of school continues to rise as the Syria crisis continues. The Jordanian government estimates that child labour has doubled nationwide to 60,000 since the start of the crisis.
- Italian officials stated some 5,200 people were rescued and three bodies recovered from overcrowded boats in the Mediterranean Sea over three days from 5 June. The number of migrants who have reached Italy by boat this year is already approaching 2013's 43,000 arrivals. Reportedly, many arrivals are asylum-seekers from Syria and Africa.
- The number of civilians displaced by violence in Iraq's restive Anbar province continues to climb. As of 6 May, the Iraqi government have registered 434,000 people who have fled their homes since fighting escalated in January this year. Large numbers of internally displaced persons are in the Kurdistan Region, which is already hosting some 220,000 Syrian refugees.

IN THIS ISSUE

- UNICEF: Growing water crisis facing the region, p.2
- Italian Navy rescues 5,000 boat passengers in 3 days, p.2
- ACTED: Scaling up child protection initiatives in Iraq, p.3
- UNFPA: Empowering women and girls through multi-sectoral assistance, p.3
- Oxfam: Refugee perceptions study in Jordan key findings, p.3

REGIONAL FIGURES

2.8 million Syrian refugees have fled to neighbouring countries and North Africa

51% of the Syrian refugee population are under 18 years of age

73% funding gap in the 2014 Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP6)

Total number of refugees registered and awaiting registration **2,851,974**

Registered Refugees **2,785,260**

Awaiting Registration with UNHCR **66,714**

TURKEY
774,635
registered.

LEBANON
1,093,603
Registered: 1,040,009
Awaiting reg.: 53,594

IRAQ
225,409
Registered: 212,289
Awaiting reg.: 13,120

JORDAN
597,328
registered.

EGYPT
137,632
registered.

N. AFRICA*
23,367
registered.

* Morocco, Algeria and Libya

Sources AFAD, Government of Egypt, Government of Iraq, Government of Jordan, Government of Lebanon, UNHCR Regional Datawarehouse, Common Operational Dataset (COD), UNGIWG, Natural Earth, UNCS

0 25 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Refugee population as of 9 June 2014, based on available data. For updated figures, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

UNICEF: GROWING WATER CRISIS FACING THE REGION

- UNICEF reported on 6 June that parts of Syria are suffering their lowest levels of rainfall in more than half a century.
- The agency states that water scarcity is now so acute it may soon drive more civilians to leave their homes. In Lebanon and Jordan, tensions between local communities and Syrian refugees are also being heightened by competition over limited resources, including dwindling water supplies.
- UNICEF on 6 June issued a special alert on the water, sanitation and hygiene situation, [Drying up: The growing water crisis facing Syria and the region](#), highlighting the severity of the situation in the region.
- Jordan - Already the fourth most water scarce country in the world, the influx of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees across the country has put further strain on public services, including water resources. In Zaatari camp, aid agencies are struggling to meet the needs of what is now the biggest refugee camp in the Arab World, sheltering at least 99,000 people. During peak summer periods, water availability in northern governorates is reduced to less than one day every three weeks.
- Lebanon - Syrians now account for just over a fifth of the country's total population. This huge population influx is placing increased pressure on existing water and sanitation services. The coping capacity of Lebanese host communities is being seriously eroded. Competing demands between host and refugee communities for safe drinking water and wastewater services are increasing tensions within an already volatile social, economic and political environment.

ITALIAN NAVY RESCUES MORE THAN 5,000 BOAT PASSENGERS IN 3 DAYS

- Italian officials stated that more than 5,000 people have been rescued over three days from 5 June after attempting the perilous journey across the Mediterranean by boat. The latest figures highlighted the scale of the problem after Italy's government said almost as many migrants had arrived so far this year as in the whole of 2013.
- The Government of Italy places the number of migrant arrivals at over 39,000 so far this year, already approaching 43,000 registered in the whole of 2013. Reportedly, many are asylum-seekers from Syria, Eritrea and Somalia.
- The rescues are part of a major ongoing operation to save the lives of thousands of immigrants heading for Europe in overcrowded and rickety boats. Media reports say most of the passengers were Syrian and Egyptian.
- The European Union border agency, Frontex, also reports a significant rise in the number of people making the crossing from North Africa to Europe in recent months. Good weather conditions in the Mediterranean are expected to further increase the influx of asylum-seekers trying to reach Europe.

ACTED: SCALING UP CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVES IN IRAQ

- ACTED with support from UNICEF officially opened its child-friendly and youth-friendly spaces in Darashakran camp on 15 May. These spaces, along with those in Qushtapa and Domiz camps, form the cornerstone of ACTED's child protection activities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). Together with Child Protection Units and Committees, these spaces aim to provide psychosocial support to Syrian refugee children residing in the camps of the KR-I.
- Currently, ACTED provides psychosocial support to over 1,700 children in the KR-I. This is crucial assistance to children who are vulnerable due to displacement from their homes, and dream daily of their lives returning to normality.
- ACTED continues to strive to meet the needs of Syrian refugee children in KR-I and hopes to expand its child protection activities in Domiz camp as well as non-camp settings in the near future.



Children playing in Darashakran Camp's child-friendly space, KR-I. ACTED

UNFPA: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH MULTI-SECTORAL ASSISTANCE

- **Lebanon** - During May, UNFPA and its partners continued to conduct awareness raising sessions aimed at sensitizing participants on gender-based violence (GBV) issues, referral pathways, consequences and the importance of speaking up. In addition, training sessions on basic living, life skills and problem solving were also conducted for Syrian and Lebanese women. UNFPA and SHEILD have equipped Tebnin Social Development Centre as a safe space for women with electrical items, furniture and a decoration items for the Al Merj Local Counseling Centre.



*Women participating in a recreational psychosocial activity at an UNFPA Women Centre.
UNFPA | R. Addayleh*

- **Jordan** - UNFPA implementing partners provide specialized services for GBV survivors, including case management, psychosocial and legal representation and empowerment of women to take decisions. A total of 1,604 women, girls, men and boys were sensitized on GBV issues, services available and referral pathways, both in camps and communities. A total of 1,264 women, girls, men and boys participated in self-reliance, vocational training, and life-skills activities
- **Iraq** - Seven awareness sessions were provided on early marriage, domestic violence and family planning during social activities organized in Domiz and Erbil camps. In May, the main outreach activity taking place in Domiz camp was on early marriage. This activity was initiated by the UNFPA and UNHCR to minimize the number of young marriages taking place in the camp, which recent reports indicate is a common and spreading phenomenon. The campaign targeted all groups of Syrian refugees in the camp, including women, girls, boys and men. More than 200 people benefited from the awareness sessions. The campaign included a visit to schools, where a gynaecologist, legal specialist and a religious leader visited schools to speak about the consequences early marriage and early pregnancy.

OXFAM: REFUGEE PERCEPTIONS STUDY IN JORDAN KEY FINDINGS

- Oxfam released its [Refugee Perceptions Study on Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan](#). The study aims to assess the needs of refugees by looking at both objective data and perceptions of the situation from the perspective of the refugees themselves. The purpose of this is to allow organizations to identify new challenges and gaps in aid assistance efforts in Jordan. The methodology was based on: (1) an electronic questionnaire of 259 households, representing a total of 1,751 persons, and (2) focus group discussions with 24 groups, segregated by age and sex with a total of 224 participants. Data capture only focused on locations where Oxfam is presently or planning to provide assistance.
- The study found that approximately 50 per cent of respondents from both Zaatari camp and host communities reported facing difficulties in accessing services. Refugees feel they still need information on key sectors and do not have access to reliable, consistent sources of information. Gaps and weak dissemination mechanisms allow rumours to easily spread amongst the population, eroding trust and generating confusion.
- With regards to safety and security, close to 80 per cent of Zaatari respondents felt safe. In the Host Communities this number rose to 87 per cent. Women in the camp identified latrine/shower blocks and communal kitchens as the most insecure locations. Both men and women were explicit in stating they did not associate insecurity with threats of physical violence (outside of the domestic sphere). Fear was understood in a highly subjective manner and closely linked to cultural habits that emphasize privacy and dignity.

Thank you for contributing to the 2014 Regional Response Plan. Funding also received from private donors and the Emergency Response Fund.



The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 157 participating organizations, including 105 appealing agencies:

ABAAD | [ACTED](#) | ActionAid | [Action contre la faim](#) | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | [Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance](#) | Al Majmoua | [AMAN](#) | AMEL | [Arab Medical Union](#) | Arc en Ciel | [ARDD-Legal Aid](#) | Association de Charité Humanitaire | [Association Justice et Miséricorde](#) | Association of Volunteers in International Service | [BBC Media Action](#) | Beyond Association | [British Council](#) | CARE International | [Caritas](#) | Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre | [Catholic Relief Services](#) | Central Association for Kindergarten Supervisors League | [Centre for Victims of Torture](#) | Civil Development Organization | [Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli](#) | CONCERN | [Cooperazione Internazionale](#) | Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services | [DRC](#) | Family Guidance and Awareness Centre | [FAO](#) | Finn Church Aid | [Finnish Red Cross/Iraqi Red Crescent Society](#) | French Red Cross | [Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura](#) | GIZ | [Global Communities Partners for Good](#) | Gruppo di Volontariato Civile | [Handicap International](#) | Heartland Alliance International | [High Relief Commission](#) | Hilfswerk Austria International | [Human Relief Foundation](#) | Humedica | [ILO](#) | Institution for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation | [International Alert](#) | International Catholic Migration Commission | [International Children's Continence Society](#) | International Medical Corps | [International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) | International Relief and Development | [International Rescue Committee](#) | Internews | [INTERSOS](#) | IOM | [Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project](#) | Iraqi Youth League | [Islamic Relief Worldwide](#) | JBA | [JEN](#) | Jesuit Refugee Service | [Jordan Health Aid Society](#) | Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization | [Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development](#) | Jordan Red Crescent | [Jordan River Foundation](#) | Jordanian Women's Union | [KAFA](#) | KG | [KnK](#) | KURDS | [Lutheran World Federation](#) | MADA | [Madrasati Initiative](#) | Mines Advisory Group | [Mahmoud Mosque Society](#) | Makassed | [Makhzoumi Foundation](#) | Medair | [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#) | Médecins du Monde | [Mercy Corps](#) | Mercy USA | [Ministry of Public Health](#) | Ministry of Water and Irrigation | [Movement for Peace](#) | Muslim Aid | [NAJMAH](#) | National Centre for Culture and Arts | [NICCOD](#) | NRC | [Operation Mercy](#) | Organization for the Development of Women and Children | [Oxfam](#) | PEOPLE IN NEED | [Plan International](#) | Polish Centre for International Aid | [Psycho Social Training and Services Institute in Cairo](#) | PU-AMI | [Public Aid Organization](#) | QANDIL | [Qatar Red Crescent](#) | Questscope | [Rassemblement Democratique des Femmes du Liban](#) | Relief International | [Refugee Education Trust](#) | Refugee Egypt | [Resala](#) | RESCATE | [RESTART](#) | Royal Health Awareness Society | [Safadi Foundation](#) | SAWA | [SCI KR-I](#) | SCI | [SCJ](#) | Search for Common Ground | [Secours Islamique France](#) | Seraphim GLOBAL | [SHEILD](#) | Solidar Suisse | [Solidarités International](#) | Soins infirmiers et développement communautaire | [St. Andrew's Refugee Education Service](#) | STEP | [TADAMON](#) | Taghyeer | [TDH](#) | TDHI | [THW](#) | TRIANGLE GH | [UAE Red Crescent](#) | UNAMI | [UN Women](#) | UNDP | [UNESCO](#) | UNFPA | [UN-Habitat](#) | UNHCR | [UNICEF](#) | UNOPS | [Un Ponte Per](#) | UNRWA | [WAAJC](#) | War Child UK | [War Child Holland](#) | WARVIN | [WFP](#) | WHO | [World Rehabilitation Fund](#) | World Vision International | [Young Man's Christian Association](#) | Y-PEER

This report is prepared by UNHCR. 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