

KEY FIGURES (SYRIA – RESPONSE)

Tents: 42,220 (for 211,100 beneficiaries)

Foam mattresses: 270,000

Plastic Sheets: 24,038 (for 120,190 beneficiaries)

Kitchen sets: 105,088 (for 525,400 beneficiaries)

Jerry cans: 213,600 (for 534,000 beneficiaries)

Blankets: 791,440

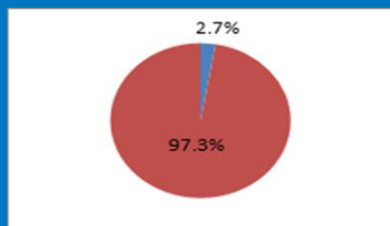
Sanitary napkins:
1,930,880 (for 45,973 women)

FUNDING 2015

UNHCR Turkey operation*

USD 330,714,058

Funded: 2.7%

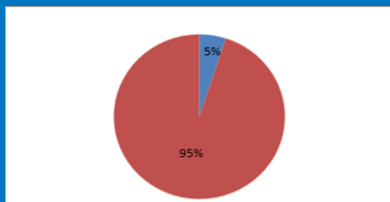


*excluding contributions earmarked at the Regional Level

Interagency Regional Response in Turkey

USD : 624,089,475

Funded: 5%



TURKEY

EXTERNAL UPDATE

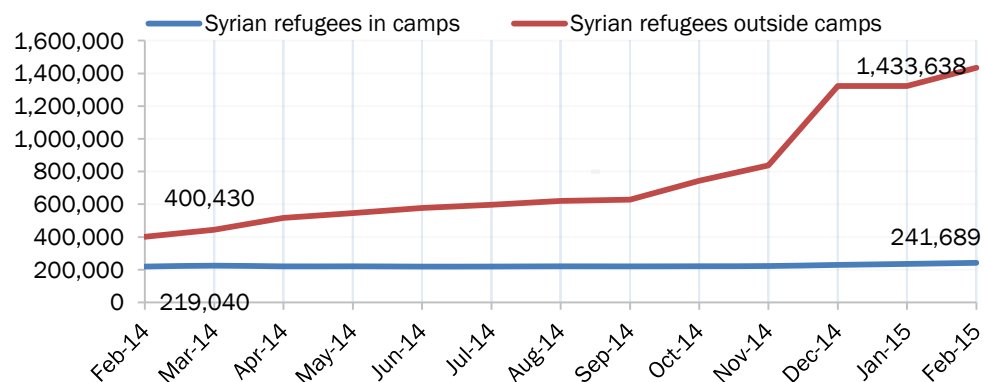
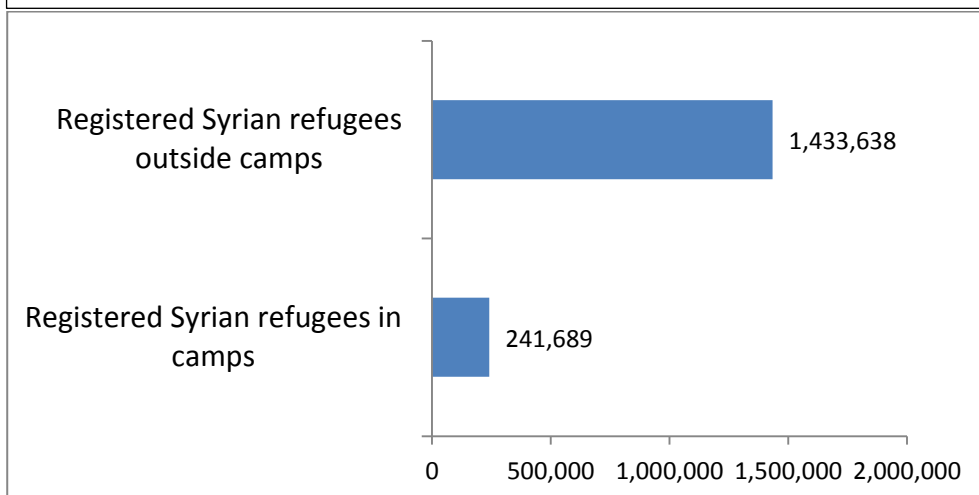
28 February, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- Returns to Ayn-al-Arab (Kobane) cross 15,000 persons
- More than 11,000 persons admitted to the new camp in Suruç
- UNHCR and HRDF open new counseling centre for Syrian refugees in Istanbul
- UNHCR teaching material approved by MoNE for schools in camps



Syrian Refugee Population in Turkey: 1,675,327 persons (as of 28/02/2015)



Syrian Refugees

Syria overtook Afghanistan to become the biggest source of refugees in the world. After four years of war, as reported by the *Guardian*, 200,000 are dead, nine million have fled their homes and more people have left the country than during the wars in Iraq, Sudan and Somalia. More than 3.7 million Syrian refugees are registered in five main host countries – Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. Turkey is home to the majority, with nearly 1.7 million registered by the authorities.

In a recent statement at the UN Security Council, High Commissioner Antonio Guterres noted that “One-third of the Lebanese population today is Palestinian or Syrian. Jordan is facing a similar challenge. And Turkey has now become the biggest refugee-hosting country in the world.”

Returns to Ayn-al-Arab (Kobane)

Almost the entire population of the Syrian town of Ayn-Al-Arab (Kobane) fled across the border to Turkey last year fleeing Da'esh, violence and conflict. But by the end of January 2015, local forces assisted by Iraqi peshmerga forces and air strikes by the US-led coalition took back the town after months of intense fighting.

Latest figures released by Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) indicate that **15,344 persons** voluntarily returned to Ayn-Al-Arab (Kobane) during 26 Jan- 04 Mar 2015. Much of the town of more than 200,000 people was destroyed by the fighting. Some 195,000 persons entered Turkey during the influx, as reported by Turkish authorities. Potential returnees now are worried about the many unexploded bombs and mortars that litter the streets of Ayn-al-Arab (Kobane).

To accommodate refugees fleeing the fighting at the time, a camp with a capacity of hosting 35,000 refugees was set up by the Turkish authorities in the border town of Suruc in January this year. Commenting on the number of people returning to Ayn-al-Arab (Kobane), the Governor of Suruc, Mr. Ciftci said in the media: “With better weather and diminishing winter conditions, it is assessed that this number might increase. People want to cross by their cars. Each family wants to reach, as soon as possible, their homes and fields. We understand this. We extend any kind of assistance needed to people who are leaving”

Reportedly, most of the returnees are men, who intend to help with cleaning up of the Ayn-al-Arab (Kobane) city centre, which is hazardous due to the presence of unexploded ordnances (UXOs), unstable buildings and infrastructure. For these reasons, Turkish authorities in Suruc as well as local authorities inside Syria advise against returns of women and children until the area is cleared of hazardous objects and human remains.



Authorities in Ayn-Al-Arab (Kobane) say at least 50% of the town has been destroyed. © BBC website



Distribution of relief items in Suruc camp ©UNHCR/A.S.Baran

Update on the New Camp in Suruc

The number of people admitted to Suruc camp, continues to increase. As of 4 March, 2015 according to AFAD, **11,518** persons are currently residing in the camp. A total of 59,289 persons from Syria (including those in the camps and in urban areas) are biometrically registered in Suruc.

UNHCR continues to support the authorities by providing core relief items for the camp. By the end of February, 2015 the delivery of various items for 1,000 households –approximately 5,000 persons of concern, was completed. These included: 10,000 blankets (2 items per person), 5,000 sleeping mats, 5,000 mattresses, 1,000 kitchen sets, 1,000 kitchen cabinets, 1,000 hot

plates, 1,000 fridges, 1,000 heaters, 2,500 jerry cans, 7,000 hygiene kits, 15,000 sanitary napkins and 5,000 sets of anoraks and thermal underwear. In addition to this, UNHCR has provided 50 wheelchairs (30 for adults and 20 for children) and 50 walking sticks.

UNHCR also provided WASH containers to Suruc refugee camp: a total of 65 Shower Containers and 59 WC containers delivered this month.

Opening of a new Counselling Centre for Syrian Refugees in Istanbul

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Human Resource Development Foundation (HRDF) opened a psychosocial counseling centre for Syrian refugees in Istanbul as per their partnership agreement on Refugee Protection, Community Outreach and Solutions in Urban Areas.



(L-R): Ms. Carol Batchelor, Representative, UNHCR, Mr. Aziz Mercan, Deputy Governor, Mr. Yüksel Ünal, District Governor of Esenler District, Istanbul, and Dr. Ayşen Bulut, Deputy President of HRDF Executive Board inaugurating the new centre. ©UNHCR/A. Baykal

Since the beginning of April 2011, Syrian refugees have found shelter and protection in Turkey. The Government of Turkey up to date has established 24 refugee camps in 10 provinces in South Eastern Turkey. Of the estimated 1.7 million Syrian refugees currently residing in Turkey, 85% are estimated to be living in urban and rural centres outside camps, faced with increasing needs.

In order to extend assistance and services to Syrian refugees living in urban settings, UNHCR has been supporting community and counseling centres, in cooperation with its implementing partners, as part of its ongoing support to Turkey's Syria emergency response directed at Syrian refugees both inside and outside of camps.

UNHCR Turkey Representative Ms. Carol Batchelor said “We are unfortunately very soon entering the fifth year of the conflict that forced close to 4 million people to flee their homes. Even after these people have crossed a border to safety,

they are traumatized, depressed and in need of a reason for hope, especially after four years of an ongoing conflict. This center will be a place where Syrian refugees receive counseling and have access to information on services available to them”.

The centre in Istanbul will be operated by HRDF and will extend psychosocial counseling and support services to Syrian refugees and provide up-to-date information on their rights in the fields of health and education along with on their other legal entitlements in Turkey. The centre will also contribute to establishing as well as strengthening the already existing cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs) and Turkish authorities so as to identify problems faced by groups under risks among Syrian refugees including women, people with disabilities, the elderly and children. Besides, the centre will join efforts by CSOs targeting refugees and asylum seekers in Istanbul and support advocacy activities.

In cooperation with Turkish authorities and its NGO partners and through valuable contributions of its donors, UNHCR will continue to extend its support to establishment and functioning of these centers providing counseling and services to Syrian refugees living in urban settings.

Education

The right to access education is guaranteed under the Temporary Protection regulation, with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) being responsible for overseeing all educational activities for pre-school and school-aged children, while the Council for Higher Education is responsible for higher education programmes. This includes access for refugees and those under temporary protection to education and higher education, once they are registered with the authorities.

The MoNE circular on foreigners' access to schooling states that Syrian refugee children may access educational services by enrolling in the national system or attending schools that have been established specifically for Syrians that are staffed

by volunteer teachers, offer instruction in Arabic and use a modified form of the Syrian curriculum developed by the Syrian National Coalition. These institutions are officially referred to as “temporary education centres (TECs)”. The intention is that they will enable children to continue learning using the home country curriculum, which will facilitate eventual reintegration into the Syrian education system on return. TECs have been established in all camps. Turkish language classes are also offered in TECs, with teachers being appointed by MoNE to deliver these classes.

Since the beginning, UNHCR has **advocated for the inclusion of refugee students in the Turkish national system** as this is seen as the most sustainable response to providing refugees with access to high quality education that is recognized and certified. Prior to the Syrian crisis, all other refugees in Turkey were expected to integrate into the national system and children received a period of intensive support in order to become sufficiently fluent in Turkish in order to benefit from the instructional opportunities provided. UNHCR is working closely with MoNE in order to promote access to supportive services and programmes for refugees attending national schools.



UNHCR staff visiting a school at Adiyaman camp for Syrian refugee children. ©UNHCR/T.Adanali

UNHCR teaching material approved by Ministry of National Education

UNHCR will be providing 25 TECs in camps and 130 TECs in urban areas with teaching support materials. These materials have been approved by the Ministry of National Education and include items such as maps, charts and items that can be used during classroom demonstrations, such as abacuses for primary schools and plastic anatomy models for secondary schools. Fifty

Turkish/Arabic dictionaries will also be included. Each temporary education will receive a standard set of materials that will cater to the learning needs of both primary and secondary school children. The production of materials has commenced and it is anticipated that materials will be distributed in March, 2015.

Agreement signed with the Foundation for Refugee Education Trust

Following meetings between UNHCR and Foundation for Refugee Education Trust (RET) on activities to be implemented in 2015, a Letter of Mutual Intent has been signed between the two partners. In 2015, RET will provide relevant and accredited Turkish language courses to Syrian adolescents and adult men in three districts of Şanlıurfa, and to Syrian women in Women’s Cultural Centres. RET will provide life-saving support for survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in seven Women’s Cultural Centres benefitting both refugees and members of host community.

Capacity Building with the Director General for Migration Management (DGMM)

Building capacity with government authorities is a key focus of UNHCR. On 12-13 February, 2015 UNHCR provided training for 50 DGMM Provincial Staff in Ankara. Topics covered broadly included among others, International Human Rights Law and International Refugee Law, UNHCR’s role and activities in Turkey and International Protection System in Turkey: Institutional and Legal Framework, International Protection Status Determination Procedures in Turkey. In addition, subjects concerning the implementation of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) were covered such as decisions to be taken by the Governorates according to the LFIP, appeal procedures under the LFIP, and rights and obligations of international protection applicants and status holders according to the LFIP.

Update on donor funding

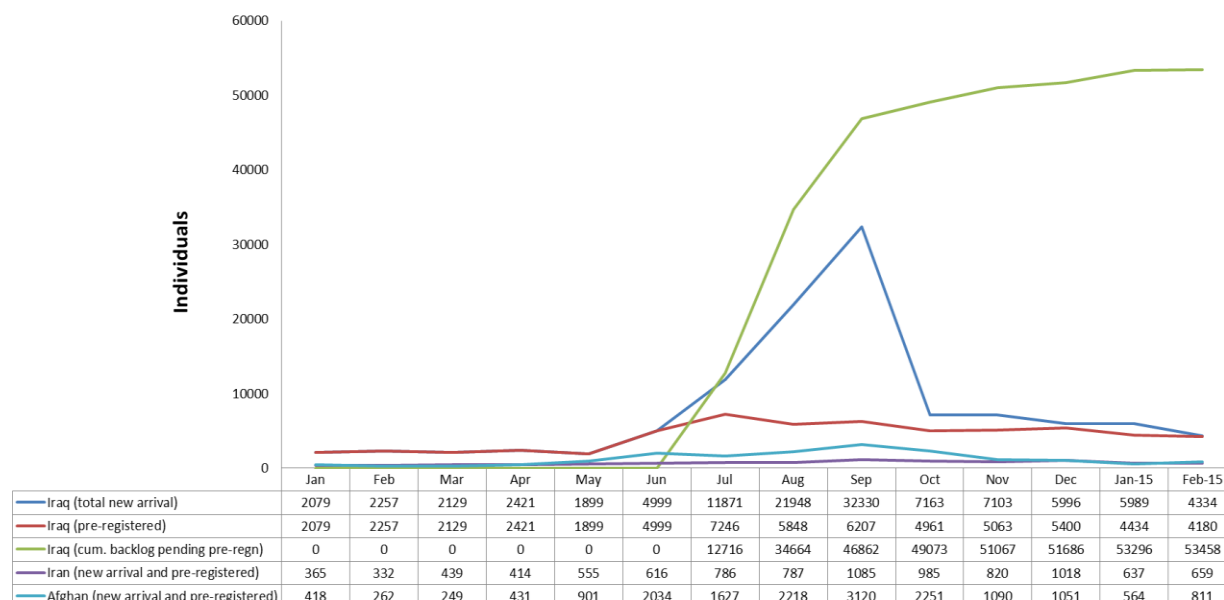
Following the confirmation of allocation of USD 9m Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF) funds for Turkey, UNHCR coordinated the preparation of the inter-agency proposal in 2015 under the Underfunded Emergencies window. The proposal includes activities by IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to strengthen the support to the Government of Turkey’s response to the Syrian refugee influx, with a particular focus on Suruc District of Şanlıurfa Province, which received an additional 200,000 new influx of persons in September 2014.

Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) delivered an additional 3,000 tents on 16 February 2015 to UNHCR Turkey. This donation supplements the 7,000 tents and 315,000 high-thermal blankets donated by QRC in 2014.

AT A GLANCE: GENERAL REFUGEE RESPONSE (NON- SYRIAN)

New Arrivals

In February 2015, a total of 6,034 individuals approached our implementing partner the Association for Solidarity with Asylum-Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) for pre-registration. Of this number, 4,334 were Iraqis, 659 were Iranians, 811 were Afghans and 230 were other nationals.



ASAM Pre-Registration

Prior to July 2014, all asylum seekers approaching ASAM were registered on the same day and subsequently referred to a satellite city for registration with the Aliens Police. At present all nationalities except for Iraqis are pre-registered on the day of first approach.

The number of Iraqi new arrivals approaching ASAM reached 11,871 in July 2014 as a result of the deteriorating security situation in Iraq. The number peaked in September 2014 with 32,330 individuals approaching ASAM in that month alone. This number dropped to an average of 5,000 Iraqi individuals per month for the last four months of the year. Starting July, ASAM was no longer able to process new comers on the day of first approach. As a result, from July onwards appointment slips for pre-registration were provided to Iraqi new arrivals and ASAM was only been able to pre-register 49% of the total number of Iraqi new arrivals in the last half of 2014. The 4,334 new Iraqi arrivals that approached ASAM in February were therefore provided appointment slips. In addition, 4,180 Iraqis were pre-registered by ASAM. In total, as of end February 2015, 53,458 individuals are pending pre-registration with ASAM with a waiting period of five months.

UNHCR Registration

UNHCR has so far registered 11% of the total Iraqi population and 58% of the total Iranian population. Although all Afghan new arrivals were pre-registered by ASAM, only Afghan unaccompanied minors/separated children and Afghans presenting particular vulnerabilities were registered by UNHCR on an exceptional basis.

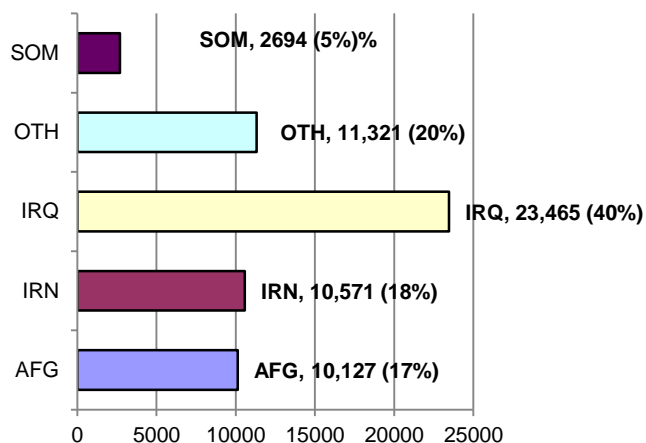
Total Asylum Figures	
Iraq (total new arr.)	112,518
Iraq (pre-regd)	59,123
Iraq (regd)	12,811
Iran (new arr. & pre-regd)	9,498
Iran (regd)	5,467
Afghanistan (new arr. & pre-regd)	17,027
Afghanistan (regd)	966

Persons of Concern (registered/ pending either registration/pre-registration) for UNHCR, excluding the Syrians: **204,943 individuals**.

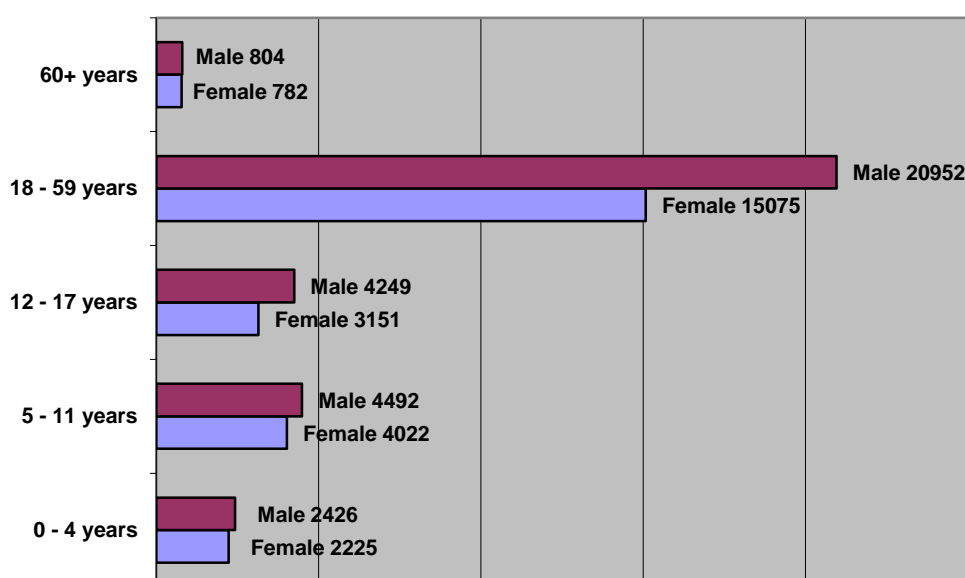
This includes the number of asylum seekers registered with UNHCR as of 28 February, 2015 (58,178 individuals) and the total number who are pending registration with UNHCR and pre-registration with ASAM (146,765 individuals).

All asylum seekers are encouraged to register with the Government, independent of the UNHCR registration process.

Total Number of Persons Registered with UNHCR as of 28 Feb 2015 (58,178 Individuals)



Current Population of Registered Asylum Seekers and Refugees by Gender & Age



Donor Countries of UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme for Turkey:



Other Donor Countries Contributing to UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme in alphabetical order:



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