

## JORDAN

# UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

August 2015

### KEY FIGURES

**686,594**

Persons of concern (all nationalities) registered by UNHCR

**628,867**

Syrians registered by UNHCR

**57,727**

Iraqis, Somalis, Sudanese, Yemenis and others registered by UNHCR

**79,709**

Syrians in Zaatari Camp

**22,643**

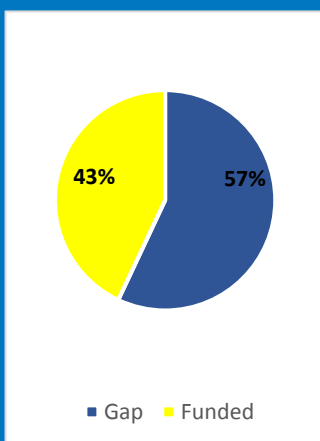
Syrians in Azraq Camp

**6,388**

Syrians in Emirati-Jordanian Camp

**USD 329 million**

requested for the operation



### NUMBER OF RETURNS TO SYRIA DOUBLES



Refugees preparing for their return journey to Syria from the Zaatari refugee camp.  
©UNHCR/J.Kohler

The number of refugees returning to Syria from Jordan more than doubled in August with 3,853 returns recorded compared to 1,934 at the end of July. The rise is partially attributed to the increasing difficulties of surviving in Jordan, most recently underlined by further World Food Programme (WFP) food cuts.

On 31 July WFP announced that 229,000 refugees classified as “highly vulnerable” would no longer receive food assistance from September to reflect international funding shortfalls in Jordan. Food assistance for another 211,000 refugees identified as “severely vulnerable” will cease at the end of November.

The World Food Programme cuts represent yet another “push” factor compelling increasingly larger numbers of Syrians to choose the dangerous strategy of returning to Syria, or for those with the resources – a life beyond the region.

Whilst returns continue to exceed arrivals, there was also an increase in Syrians accessing Jordanian territory. From 1 to 18 August the average new arrival figure was 39 individuals per day, with this figure increasing in the second half of the month to 54 following high-level advocacy efforts by the Office.

## EASTERN BORDER: REFUGEES SURVIVING IN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS



UNHCR vehicles traveling towards the northern border where many Syrians are living in remote and inhospitable conditions. ©UNHCR/J.Kohler

On 18 and 19 August a team from UNHCR visited the eastern border where many Syrians are living in extremely difficult conditions inside makeshift shelters with inadequate access to food, water and sanitation. The vast majority are women, children and the elderly.

Following an agreement with the Border Guards, UNHCR committed during the visit to assisting the authorities at the border with the provision of 25 pre-fabricated shelters, an ambulance and 5,000 blankets in order to facilitate the entry of the most vulnerable and improve the conditions at the berm.

## FOOD CUTS: UNHCR CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME BOLSTERED

UNHCR is adding 2,500 more vulnerable refugee families to its cash assistance programme in September in an effort to help mitigate the increasing vulnerability of refugees. The widening of assistance is possible thanks to the funds raised by UNHCR's Lifeline Appeal launched at the end of June to coincide with the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

By the end of August the appeal had generated US \$ 4.8 million, enough to provide cash assistance to approximately 3,000 refugee families for a year. The appeal relies exclusively on the generosity of individuals and private sector donors.

Over 97,000 Syrians and 9,600 Iraqis in Jordan received cash assistance during the month of August bringing the total delivered to refugees so far in 2015 to US \$ 29 million. UNHCR's cash assistance programme for Syrians only is currently funded at 73% of the needs at US \$ 24 million.

UNHCR cash assistance provides life-saving support to displaced Syrians living away from the safety net of the camps in urban areas where 86% are living in poverty. Increasing numbers of refugees are resorting to begging, dropping out of school and reducing their food intake in order to survive.

In Arabic: <http://donate.unhcr.org/ar/lifeline> - In English: <http://donate.unhcr.org/international/lifeline>

## HEALTH CUTS: REDUCED ACCESS AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL FOR IRAQIS



UNHCR continues to provide support to Ministry of Health facilities throughout the Kingdom, including this dialysis unit at Mafraq Hospital in northern Jordan. ©UNHCR/J.Kohler

In mid-August the Ministry of Health announced the withdrawal of subsidized health care access for Iraqi refugees at the primary level due to funding deficits.

Iraqi refugees are now having to pay the same rate as foreigners at the primary level whilst non-refugee Iraqi citizens residing in Jordan are asked to pay the rate applicable to non-insured Jordanians.

This latest development follows the announcement in November 2014 that free access to healthcare for Syrian refugees would be withdrawn and that non-insured rates would apply.

## URBAN VERIFICATION: DOCUMENT RETURN PROCESS STARTS

The return of identity documents to Syrians started in mid-August as part of the urban verification process which aims to issue Syrians with new identity documents to facilitate their access to essential services. For over a year, starting in 2012, Syrians handed over their identity documentation to Jordanian officials upon accessing Jordanian territory.

The document return process started on 25<sup>th</sup> August at Mafraq Police Headquarters in northern Jordan before being extended across the country. On 31 August, 658 documents had been returned to 426 individuals.

Since its initiation in early 2015 the urban verification process has registered 183,250 Syrians, including almost 13,000 who were not previously registered - those who are financially independent, without protection concerns, but are registering to ensure their continued access to services.

## ACCESS TO HEALTH: CRITICAL U.S. SUPPORT ACROSS JORDAN



The U.S. Ambassador, UNHCR Representative to Jordan and officials from the Ministry of Health tour the Princess Rahma Hospital in Irbid where U.S. support has ensured the donation of vital new equipment that will benefit refugees and the host community alike.

On 12 August the Director of the Hospitals Directorate at the Ministry of Health joined the U.S. Ambassador and the UNHCR Representative in the presentation of new equipment to officials at the Princess Rahma Hospital in Irbid, the only public pediatric referral hospital covering the Irbid Governorate.

The equipment includes two resuscitator units, three infant incubators and four phototherapy units for neo-natal babies, as well as an anesthesia machine and laparoscopy unit for endoscopic pediatric operations.

The majority of the 629,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR are concentrated in the northern governorates, increasing the pressure on the ability to provide health care services to treat Jordanians and Syrians alike.

UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has been engaged in a project to identify those health care areas most affected by these demographic pressures, including primary health care facilities, maternal and neo-natal care, renal dialysis and emergency health care services.

The inaugural event took place in Irbid but the project targets all governorates, with a focus on the Central and Northern Governorates in particular, and aims to support existing structures with medical equipment for 21 hospitals, 35 primary health care centres and three public health laboratories.

The project is only made possible with the generous funding of the U.S. – UNHCR Jordan’s top donor - which has provided some US \$ 3.3 million towards ensuring the purchase of medical equipment for those health facilities most in need.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: U.S. LISTENS TO REFUGEES' CONCERNS



The U.S. Ambassador listening to the concerns of Syrian refugees at a UNHCR Community Support Committee in Irbid in September 2015.  
©UNHCR/K.Dunn

On her visit to Irbid on 12 August the U.S. Ambassador attended one of UNHCR's Community Support Committees (CSC) for Syrian refugees at the Princess Basma Centre in Idoun, Irbid governorate.

The Ambassador engaged with Syrian refugees on the challenges facing them in Jordan with particular regards to accessing services, meeting basic needs, and integrating into the host community.

Later on the Ambassador observed a women's cooking activity and enjoyed some of the prepared confectionery. Some 16 women, including 9 Syrian women and seven Jordanian women, took part.

The Idoun CSC in Irbid is one of 23 CSCs nationally (15 for Syrians, six for Iraqis, one for Sudanese, and one for Somalis) implemented by UNHCR's partner, International Relief and Development (IRD).

CSCs conduct recreational and educational activities across Jordan to promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities, and ensure the distribution of assistance to the most vulnerable families through community networks.

## “TALKING WITH REFUGEES”: WEB PORTAL REVAMPED

A revamped [web portal](#) launched by UNHCR in Jordan in early August will allow refugees to publish their concerns and testimonies whilst also servicing refugees with important information about services provided by UNHCR and its partners.



The site aims to assist refugees in making the best decisions for themselves and their family like, for example, where to turn for help and how to avoid falling the victim to fraud.

The portal, exclusively in Arabic, reflects the widespread use of smartphones by refugees to access information on services available to them.

## EXTREME WEATHER: REFUGEES IN CAMPS AFFECTED



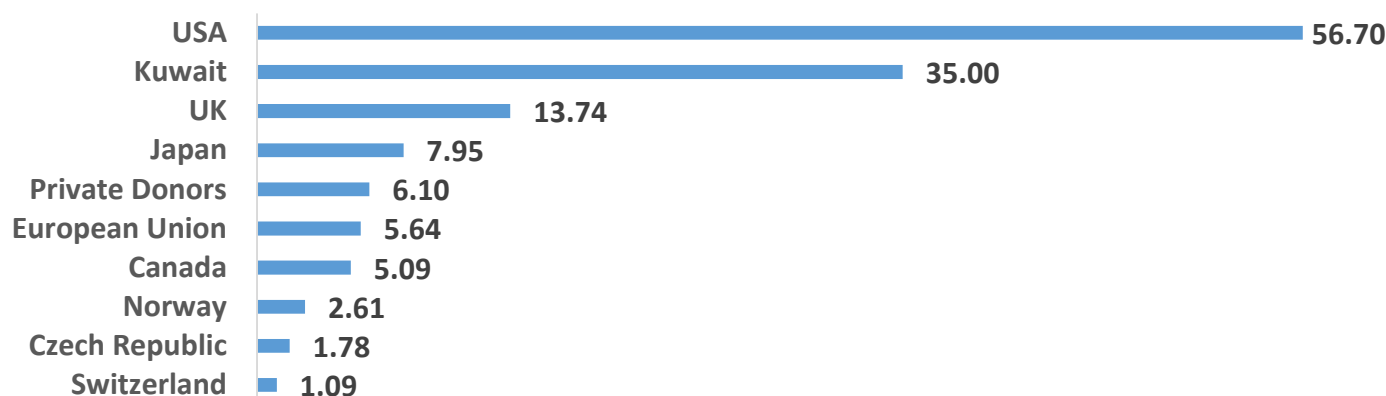
The dust storm at Zaatari camp on 2 August led to some refugees requiring treatment for respiratory conditions. ©UNHCR/J.Kohler

A dust storm and high temperatures on 2 August adversely affected conditions at the Azraq and Zaatari camps. High temperatures exceeding 40c led to power outages at Zaatari whilst over 150 refugees at both Azraq and Zaatari required medical attention, mostly relating to respiratory complaints.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US \$ 139.4 million**, including **US \$ 139 million** for the **Syria response** and **US \$ 390 thousand** for the **Iraq situation** at the country level.

### Funding received for the Syria situation at country level (million US \$)



The funding received for the Iraq situation at the country level is **US \$ 340 thousand** from the **European Union** and **US \$ 50 thousand** from **UNAIDS**. Contributions made at the regional level for the Iraq Situation Response may also benefit Jordan. To date, US\$ 147.8 million have been provided by donors, notably from the **USA (US \$ 146 million)** and **Japan (US\$ 1.25 million)**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Jordan operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Afghanistan | Algeria | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Costa Rica | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Holy See | India | Italy | Japan | Kuwait | Latvia | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Morocco | Mozambique | New Zealand | Netherlands | Norway | Peru | Qatar | Rep. of Korea | Romania | Russia Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | UAE | USA | UK | Uruguay

## UNHCR PARTNERS

Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD-Legal Aid), Care International (CARE), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), International Relief and Development (IRD), Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS), The Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), Jordan River Foundation (JRF), Ministry of Interior (MOI), Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) including the Civil Status Department, Family Protection Department & Ministry of Social Development, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate (SRAD).

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