

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

28 February - 6 March 2014



This situation update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 156 partners across the region.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Mass vaccination campaigns led by WHO and UNICEF were launched in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria on 2 March and in Lebanon on 9 March. The campaign plans to reach nearly 10 million children across the Middle East with a dose of polio vaccine this month and more than 22 million children multiple times over six months. This is the region's largest-ever coordinated immunization plan.
- The first secondary school for Syrian refugees in Domiz camp, in Iraq's Kurdistan Region, was opened in collaboration with UNESCO and International Rescue Committee. The school has the capacity to host 600 students, and certified teachers will be selected from amongst the camp population. The Kurdistan Region is hosting more than 95 per cent of Iraq's 226,000 registered Syrian refugees, of whom 58,500 are living in Domiz camp.
- Ongoing fighting in western Iraq's Anbar province continues to force more people to move to safety, including to areas in Al Qa'im Governorate and the Kurdistan Region which are already hosting large numbers of Syrian refugees. More than 300,000 people are estimated to be affected. Close to Baghdad, the city of Fallujah remains under siege, the roads remain closed and there are reports of shortages of fuel, food and other basic items.

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REGIONAL FIGURES

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

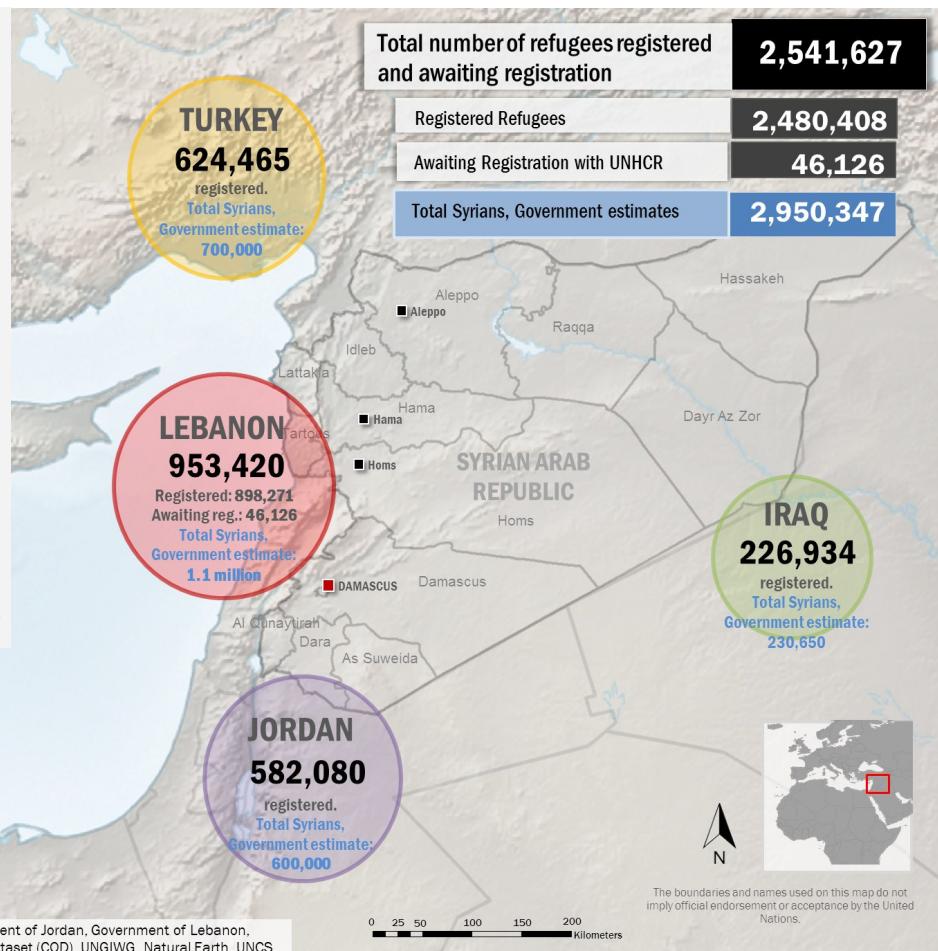
84% of refugees are living in urban and rural communities

1.3 million refugees are under 18 years of age

844,000 Syrian refugee children are of school age (5-17)

317,000 Syrian refugee children were enrolled in formal education in 2013

78,000 Syrian refugee children accessed informal and non-formal education in 2013



LEBANON: PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM STRETCHED TO ITS LIMITS

- Public schools lack both the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase in school-aged children as a result of the refugee influx. Despite the Ministry for Education and Higher Education's (MEHE) efforts to ensure capacity to enroll almost 90,000 Syrian children and the availability of non-formal education, more than half of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 are estimated to be not accessing any form of education.
- Additional educational resources need to be put in place throughout the country to respond to both immediate and longer-term educational needs of school-aged refugee children in Lebanon, which currently totals more than 300,000 children.
- In January, the MEHE supported by UNHCR opened "second shifts" for students in 79 out of 87 schools planned for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Over 90,000 Syrian refugee students are currently enrolled in Lebanese public schools including 29,900 students attending the afternoon shift in 79 schools, which delivers a lighter, certified curriculum for Syrian students who were not able to enroll in the first shift.
- Over 5,000 out-of-school children benefitted from the Accelerated Learning Programme provided by Amel Association, Hilfswerk Austria International, UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision in February. In addition, IQRA Association completed another round of accelerated learning classes with the graduation of 1,061 children.
- UNHCR continued the distribution of education materials (school-in-a-box), which have reached 411 schools (3,750 classrooms) supporting 150,000 children and 7,500 teachers with basic school supplies. Additional individual education material (60,000 school bags and over 124,000 additional notebooks) was distributed to children enrolled in formal and non-formal education.



Young Syrian refugees attending an Accelerated Learning Programme in Tripoli, Lebanon, to help them catch up after months or years of missed classes and regain confidence in their own abilities. UNHCR | S. Baldwin

EGYPT: INVESTING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ASSIST REFUGEE AND LOCAL CHILDREN

- In coordination with the Ministry of Education, UNHCR and UNICEF have increased the capacity of schools in areas with a high concentration of Syrians to enable access to education for some 6,960 children between 6 - 14 years of age in 53 primary public schools in five governorates. UNHCR and UNICEF have provided computers, furniture and education supplies to 20 schools with high concentrations of Syrian children.
- In collaboration with civil society organizations, UNICEF has established 12 community-based kindergartens in Cairo and Kalubiya for 290 children between 3-5 years of age.
- The Ministry of Higher Education has reported that 3,552 Syrian undergraduate students are enrolled in public universities and 672 Syrians are enrolled in post-graduate studies in Egyptian universities.

JORDAN: PROMOTING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION

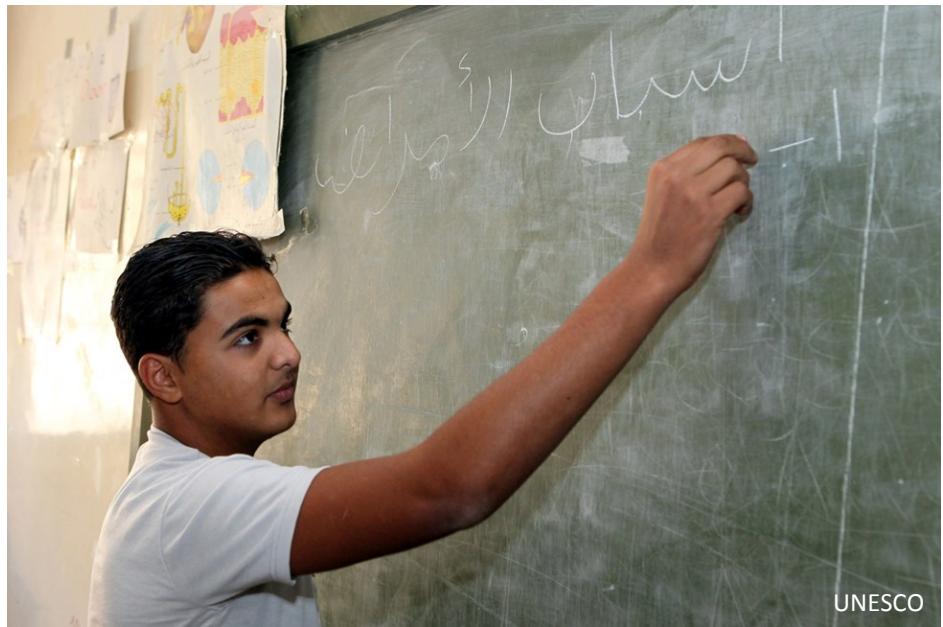
- In order to encourage children's continued attendance in schools, UNICEF and Save the Children Jordan initiated a "Back to School/Stay in School" campaign on 26 January, promoting messages that also focus on child protection, child labour and early marriage. The campaign has reached some 40,000 refugees in Zaatari camp and 3,500 in the Emirates Jordan Camp.
- UNICEF/CADER conducted a four-day pedagogy training (the first half of a two-part training series) for 194 teachers in double-shifted host community schools. The training seeks to enhance teachers' classroom management abilities, introduce learner-centred approaches and assessment techniques, and support quality of education, particularly in the context of schools operating at maximum capacity. Training of these 194 teachers ultimately benefits some 3,500 students.

UNESCO: LEARNING PATHWAYS FOR VULNERABLE REFUGEE AND LOCAL YOUTH

- UNESCO Amman launched in February 2014 the second phase of its project on youth skills development, titled *Sustaining Quality Education and Promoting Skills Development Opportunities for Young Syrian Refugees in Jordan*.
- The first phase of the project was successfully completed over the past months and offered young Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian youth alternative learning pathways as well as contributing to re-engage participants positively in their communities.
- UNESCO's implementing partner Questscope, in close coordination with the Jordanian Ministry of Education and local civil society partners in selected urban areas, provided much-needed alternative learning programmes to some 1,300 youth in Zaatari Camp and across Jordan, including to young people from vulnerable host communities whose resources and social relations have been strained by the influx of refugees fleeing the Syria crisis.
- The project also seeks to ensure that once Syrian refugee children are enrolled in formal schooling, the quality of education delivered is of a high standard and not compromised by the new pedagogic challenges placed on teachers as a result of accommodating Syrian students in their classrooms. In partnership with the Queen Rania Teachers Academy, training of more than 400 trainers and 2,000 teachers in schools that hosts Syrian refugees was completed in January 2014 across the country. By training a large cohort of Ministry officials, the project seeks to develop systemic capacity in the Ministry of Education so that the concepts contained in the training can be embedded in other regular school-based support.
- Over the coming 12 months, the second phase of the project will benefit more than 2,500 Syrians and vulnerable Jordanians across the country.
- Nearly 1,400 out-of-school Jordanian and Syrian refugee youth will be enrolled in **non-formal education** programme. This unique initiative developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education to provide an equivalency to a 10th grade level certificate of the Jordanian Education System for out-of-school Syrian and vulnerable Jordanian youth.
- **Informal education** will provide learning opportunities for more than 350 Syrian refugees both in Zaatari and the host community and learning spaces to facilitate their transition onto formal schooling and other educational opportunities.
- In addition, 700 Syrian youth in Zaatari will be enrolled in two **mentoring programme** cycles and coached by 70 mentors with the support of 14 case managers in the camp.



UNESCO



UNESCO

THE FUTURE OF SYRIA: REFUGEE CHILDREN IN CRISIS

- Some 5.5 million Syrian children have been displaced by the conflict in their homeland, including 1.3 million who have become refugees.
- Despite the generosity of host governments and ongoing efforts by humanitarian partners, a large number of Syrian refugee children are out of school.
- In 2014, funding for education has been significantly increased in the Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP6) for refugees. Refugee response partners are supporting the No Lost Generation initiative, an inter-agency strategy embedded in the RRP framework as well as planned development programmes for refugee-hosting countries.
- The No Lost Generation strategy targets some six million children across the region, including inside Syria, to expand access to learning and psychosocial support, strengthen social cohesion and peace-building efforts, and restoring hope for the youngest Syrians affected by the violence.
- The No Lost Generation strategy calls for US\$ 990 million from October 2013 to December 2014. Fully implemented, it will provide millions of children with learning opportunities, a protective environment and opportunities to build their future.



Syrian refugee Jamal El Haddad, 12, writes on a chalk board beside his teacher Ms Abir Sbai on his first day back at school after many months of displacement and absence. UNHCR | S. Baldwin

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 156 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 Word 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 | 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

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