

JORDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

October 2015

KEY FIGURES

689,845

Persons of concern (all nationalities) registered by UNHCR

630,176

Syrians registered by UNHCR

59,669

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

79,138

Syrians in Zaatari Camp

26,445

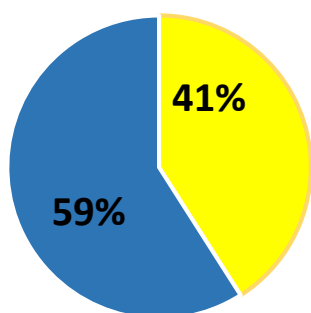
Syrians in Azraq Camp

6,329

Syrians in Emirati-Jordanian Camp

US \$ 329 million

requested for the Jordan operation in 2015



■ GAP ■ Funded

CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME EXPANDED



Two young Syrian refugees, Seedra, 6, and Nawaf, 2, asleep in a converted barn in Mafraq, northern Jordan. This form of accommodation, often just a room and rented for around US \$ 250, becomes bitterly cold at this time of year. ©UNHCR/Jared Kohler

UNHCR increased its cash assistance levels in October by an average of 34% to help mitigate those factors compelling many refugee families to consider returning to Syria, or a life beyond the region.

The assistance will range between 80 and 155 Jordanian Dinars (JD) (US \$ 113 – 218) per family per month, depending on family size, and will benefit an additional 5,000 families, pushing the total of families receiving cash support to 30,000. Some 4,000 others will remain on the cash assistance waiting list for lack of funds.

The latest level of increased assistance is determined through the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) agreed between partners at the inter-agency level in Jordan. The MEB establishes poverty lines for the refugee population by reflecting common expenditures and minimum thresholds that allow refugee families to survive and maintain dignified lives.

The month of October marked an important milestone for UNHCR Jordan's cash assistance programme with US \$ 120 million now having been provided to refugees since 2012. To date over 200,000 home visit assessments have been conducted to determine the vulnerability levels of individual refugee families.

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES: WFP VOUCHERS RESUME



A refugee family's kitchen in Marka, a suburb of Amman. ©UNHCR/Jared Kohler

The World Food Programme announced the resumption in late October of vital food aid to 85 per cent of urban refugees, amounting to some 438,000 individuals, registered with UNHCR in Jordan.

The new levels of assistance mean 212,000 individuals categorized as “severely vulnerable” will now receive 15 JD (US \$ 21) per month, up from 10 JD (US \$ 14) in September, whilst another 226,000 categorized as “vulnerable” will receive 10 JD per month, up from the 5JD (US \$ 7) in assistance they last received in August.

The welcome announcement follows additional donor support and comes a month after food assistance to 229,000 refugees classed as “highly vulnerable” was cut due to funding shortages, creating an additional push factor for refugees considering leaving Jordan.

RESETTLEMENT: TARGETS FURTHER INCREASED

The resettlement targets for Syrians doubled to 12,000 individuals in October, up from an initial target of 6,000 places at the beginning of the year. The number is expected to further increase by December in light of recent announcements from resettlement countries. The U.S. remains the largest resettlement country for Syrians from Jordan with an allocation of at least 7,000 places.

UNHCR in Jordan is meeting the sudden increase in resettlement requests with a reinforcement of its Resettlement Unit and the use of innovative methodologies, including the merger of the refugee status determination and resettlement interviews, to absorb the demand within the shortest possible period.

WINTERIZATION: UNHCR PREPARES FOR THE COLD



UNHCR's winter support provides a literal lifeline to Jordan's many refugees during the winter months. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari

UNHCR's winter assistance plan this year seeks to provide support to 229,400 of the most vulnerable refugees across Jordan, representing 37% of the total refugee population. The support will be provided through three key areas: cash assistance, non-food items and shelter support. The total budget for the critical winter support is US \$ 18.5 million.

For urban refugees, UNHCR's winter cash assistance is aimed at reducing the cold weather burden felt by families by allowing for the purchase of heating, blankets, clothing, shoes and essential household needs. Special attention will be paid to female-headed households, the elderly, people living with disabilities, children at risk, people with medical needs and protection needs.

Almost 39,000 families, covering 150,000 refugees, will receive assistance of either 340 JD (US \$ 483), for those who have not received in the past, or 190 JD (US \$ 271) for families who have benefited from previous winter support. The assistance will be accessible through Cairo-Amman Bank's network of iris-scan enabled ATM machines.

Shelter support will be provided to 1,000 families living in desperate conditions in Mafrq, Irbid, Ajloun, Jerash and Amman, whilst in the camps, all new arrivals will receive high thermal blankets and a gas stove or heater. Gas distribution will take place for the entire camp population with additional cooking gas refills between November and February. Refugees in Zaatari will further receive an unconditional cash voucher in order to purchase winter clothes, while in Azraq camp, families will receive in-kind winter clothing through the camp's community centres.

Remaining shelters in Azraq will also undergo insulation with all of the camp's shelters covered with insulated flooring. Refugees in Zaatari will also receive a voucher to assist in making improvements to insulation in their shelters, which will also allow for repairs to limit the impact of rain, snow and wind.

URBAN VERIFICATION: MEDICAL ASSESSMENT COSTS REDUCED

The cost of the mandatory medical assessment needed to obtain a Ministry of the Interior (MoI) Service Card has been reduced from 30 to 5 JD (US \$ 42 to 7) for Syrians over the age of 12. The development follows sustained advocacy efforts with the authorities at various levels.

The completion of a medical assessment is a prerequisite to obtaining the MoI card that allows access to key services included health and education. The Cabinet decision also increases the number of approved clinics from 12 to 30 in all governorates where the assessments may be performed.

EAST AFRICAN REFUGEES: EXTENDING CRITICAL SUPPORT



Sudanese students in Amman at the beginning of the new school year in September 2015. ©International Relief and Development

Whilst Jordan's refugee population overwhelmingly originate from Syria (630,176) and Iraq (51,499), other smaller populations, such as those from Somalia (769) and Sudan (3,514), also rely on the critical support of UNHCR and its partners. The majority of Somali and Sudanese refugees live in urban areas in the Amman Governorate with most having fled from violence and unrest in their countries of origin.

The largest form of support is through UNHCR's cash assistance programme that currently assists 340 Somalis (44% of the total population) and 478 Sudanese (almost 14% of the population). The amount of cash assistance disbursed to non-Syrian families per month varies between 75 and 300 JD (US \$ 106 to 424), compared to the 50 to 120 JD (US \$ 71 to 169) provided to Syrian families. The larger level of assistance to non-Syrians reflects the fact that Syrians are provided with greater access to services and have access to a larger network of assistance.

One recent and significant additional form of support to Somali and Sudanese refugee communities from UNHCR has been through educational support for the 2015/2016 school year. At the start of this academic year, 267 Somali and Sudanese students of all grades had their school fees provided in the Amman, Sahab, Zeizia and Al Mwaqer areas. Some 214 students also received support with school books and 400 others with other essential school items including stationary and uniforms.

REFUGEE CRISIS: HIGH PROFILE VISITS TO JORDAN CONTINUE



Clockwise from the top: Assistant Secretary Anne C. Richard and United States Ambassador to Jordan, Alice G. Wells listen to the concerns of Syrian refugee families at UNHCR's Branch Office in Amman; Prime Minister Manuel Valls being briefed on a tour of UNHCR's Khalda registration centre in Amman by UNHCR Representative to Jordan, Andrew Harper; Prime Minister Victor Ponta meeting with officials from the Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate at Zaatari; and Swiss Foreign Minister, Didier Burkhalter, speaking on a visit to Zaatari camp.

The interest in Jordan's refugee population continued through October in sharp correlation to the recent increase in Syrians seeking asylum in Europe. High profile visitors included Assistant Secretary Anne C. Richard of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the United States Department of State; Manuel Valls, Prime Minister of France; Didier Burkhalter, Swiss Foreign Minister, and Victor Ponta, Prime Minister of Romania.

Other visits to UNHCR's operation in Jordan, including to the Azraq and Zaatari camps, were delegations from Australia, Brazil, Czech Republic, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States.

URGENT LIFELINE APPEAL
Help provide a lifeline to Syrian families in Jordan. Donate Now

REPUBLIC OF KOREA: SUPPORTING JORDAN TO SUPPORT REFUGEES



The donation ceremony at the Ministry of the Interior in Amman on 1 October. ©UNHCR

The Republic of Korea generously donated six vehicles to the Government of Jordan at a ceremony at the Mol in Amman on 1 October. The three buses for the Mol, and two ambulances and one bus for the Ministry of Health, valuing US \$ 417,000, will be used in those areas of the country most affected by the demographic and infrastructural pressures resulting from the influx of refugees into Jordan in recent years.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Interior, His Excellency Salameh Hammad; Minister of Health, His Excellency Ali Hiasat; His Excellency Ambassador Hong-ghi Choi of the Republic of Korea to Jordan, and the UNHCR Representative to Jordan, Andrew Harper.

PROTECTION

Child recruitment pilot campaign launched



UNHCR and UNICEF launched a pilot campaign in October aimed at sensitizing refugee children and their parents to the risks associated with armed forces or groups. The campaign kicked-off in Zaatari camp through UNHCR's Mafrq Sub-Office, and will move to Greater Amman in November.

The campaign poster, distributed in Arabic and English, features a young boy telling his relatives, "I have chosen my family", above the message "using children under the age of 18 in armed conflict is prohibited".

OUTREACH

World Mental Health Day marked at Azraq camp



World Mental Health Day, 20th October, was marked in Azraq camp with a “Dignity in Mental Health” themed run of 1.5km featuring 200 refugees and many others lining the course to watch. Murad, 17, and Mansour, 18, from Dara’a in Syria, finished first and second respectively. The activity was organized by CARE, UNHCR’s implementing partner for Community Services in Azraq Camp.

UNHCR staff run with refugees at the Amman Marathon

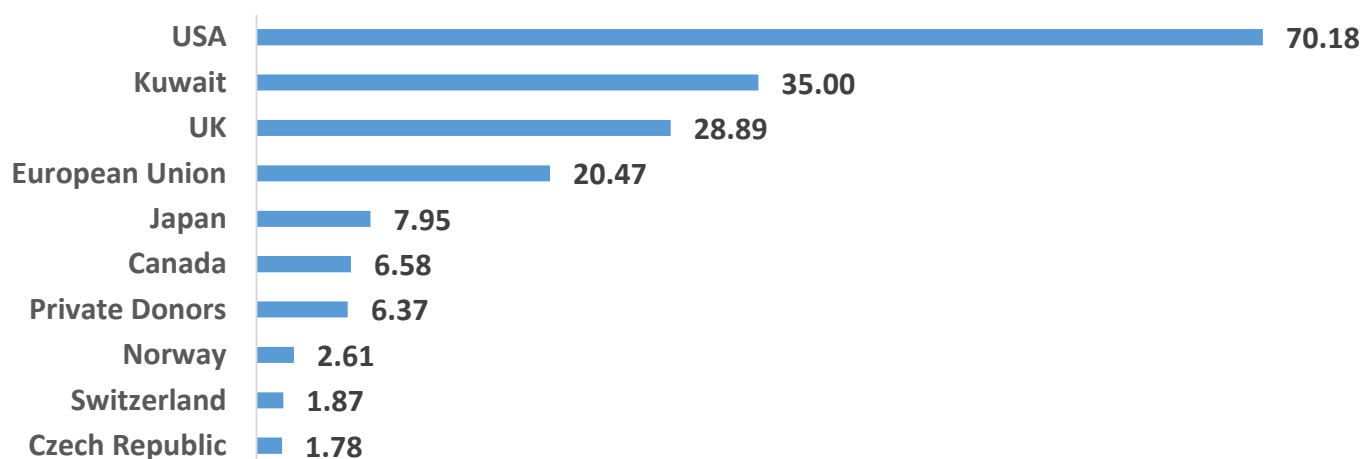


Refugees from Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and Syria were joined by staff from UNHCR in the Amman Marathon on 9 October wearing t-shirts reflecting this year’s World Refugee Day theme of “Standing Together”. The 42km, 21km, 10km run featured 8,000 runners from around the world who crossed the finishing line at the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US \$ 194.5 million**, including **US \$ 192.7 million** for the **Syria response** and **US \$ 1.8 million** for the **Iraq situation** at the country level.

Top ten donors to the Syria situation (Jordan) in million USD.



The funding received for the Iraq situation at the country level includes **US \$ 1.8 million** from the **European Union**. 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 at the regional level, 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).

Contacts:

Robert Sibson, Reporting Officer, sibson@unhcr.org - www.unhcr.org - www.facebook.com/UNHCRJordan - twitter.com/UNHCRJo