

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

11 - 17 July 2013



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 126 partners across the region. Published weekly on Thursday, the next update will be available on 25 July 2013.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Access to safety in the region has become more difficult for Syrians trying to flee the conflict, joining the close to **1.8 million Syrian refugees** known to UNHCR in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.
- Sectarian clashes continue to intensify in Iraq. Multiple border crossing points remain closed, slowing new refugee arrivals from Syria to a trickle.
- In Egypt, a number of passenger flights from Syria were turned back last week following a decision to impose visa requirements and security clearance for Syrians.
- Authorities in Turkey and Jordan are carefully managing their borders with Syria, mainly due to national security concerns.
- The conflict is steadily creeping into Lebanon, the only country whose borders remain completely open and which has to date taken in more than 600,000 registered refugees.
- Jordan - A new registration centre was opened in Amman on 7 July. UNHCR registered 1,400 Syrian refugees on the opening day. The new centre will enhance registration capacity and expedite the clearance of the existing registration backlog.

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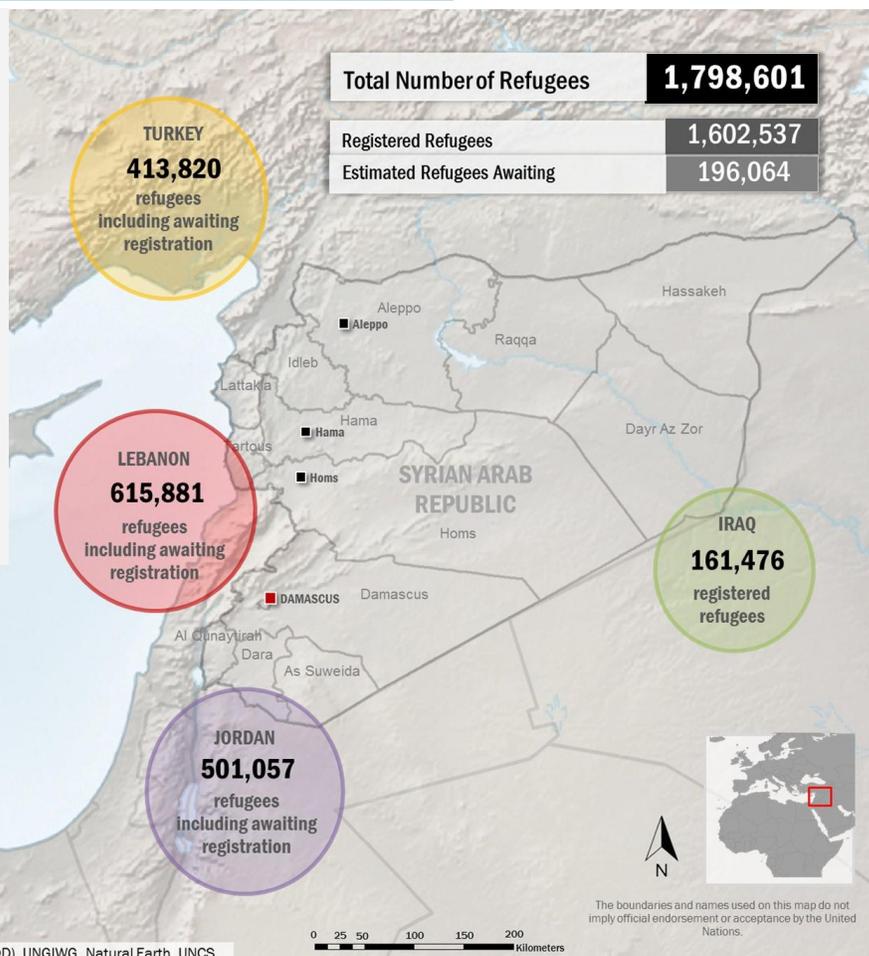
REGIONAL FIGURES

1,798,601 refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighboring countries

969,392 people benefitted from WFP food assistance in June

622,745 children, including **81,448** Syrians and **533,008** Jordanians aged 6 months-15 years have been vaccinated against measles in Jordan's Irbid and Mafraq regions

201,032 Syrian refugees are accommodated in **20** camps across **10** provinces in Turkey



Lebanon: partners increase psychosocial support to address gender and child protection risks

- Terre des Hommes is preparing to open two additional centres in Aarsal targeting 200 children in the area to take part in psychosocial activities to help prevent early marriage and create a protective environment for children.
- Women and girls survivors or at risk of violence will soon benefit from alternative accommodation established by UNHCR, UNICEF, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and Abaad. These shelters that will be established in the Bekaa, North and South Governorates during the coming month, with the aim of providing immediate safety and protection to vulnerable refugee women and girls.
- In June, 380 women and girl survivors or at risk of gender-based violence received psychosocial support, counselling, family planning and nutrition awareness sessions at the four Women and Girls Community Centres run by the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Jordan: gender-based violence prevention and response

- As part of their gender-based violence (GBV) prevention project, IRC and UNFPA started a series of trainings to mainstream GBV into the multi-sectorial response. Two trainings have already taken place for 22 participants, with one day focused on the health sector and one day on child protection and education.
- UNICEF conducted a training of TDH staff in the Emirates Jordan Camp (EJC) on GBV. In addition, International Medical Corps began a new three-day training of 30 case managers as part of an ongoing process to build capacity to identify, manage and refer child protection cases in host communities. Participants are from community-based organizations and NGOs, mainly from the north of Jordan.
- Services for the prevention and response to GBV at UNFPA/Institute of Family Health (IFH) sites have reached 1,672 women and men, who participated in a total of 405 sessions including recreational activities, awareness raising activities, individual and group counselling sessions, and individual and group psychosocial support sessions. Activities took place at UNFPA/IFH women and girls centres in Cyber City, King Abdullah Park and Za'atri camp, as well as in host communities.

Child protection capacity enhanced

- Turkey - The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) with the support of UNICEF have completed orientation and training for 20 youth and recreation workers who have been deployed to 14 camps accommodating Syrian refugees across the country. The training - the first in a series to be carried out over the course of the 18 month programme - was also attended by ten social workers from the Ministry of Family and Social Policy who are already working in the camps. The new youth and recreation workers will mobilize youth volunteers and plan and implement recreational activities for young refugees, targeting 10,000 refugees aged four to 18 years old.
- Jordan - In preparation for the opening of Azraq camp, UNICEF/Mercy Corps have conducted a three-day workshop on child protection for 34 participants from the town of Azraq, Zarqa Governorate. Participants were identified by Mercy Corps as potential staff for psychosocial support services in the new camp. The training aimed to build the capacity of participants around child rights, child protection in emergencies, and community-based psychosocial programming.
- Iraq - Save the Children (SC) conducted training to enhance the knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers from Child Friendly Spaces and Child Protection Units (CPUs). UNICEF and SC are following up to identify further training needs as well as to establish common Standard Operating Procedures. The two CPUs in Domiz held a joint awareness session for 30 girls on the prevention of violence against children. A session was also held on Mine Risk Education for 22 children, in cooperation with the Mine Advisory Group.



Young refugees play in an open area in King Abdullah Park, Jordan. UNHCR | J. Kohler

Iraq: insecurity remains in the border town of Al Qa'im as refugees are transferred to a new camp

- The security situation in Anbar province remains unstable with underlying internal conflict, risk of terrorism and spill over of the Syrian crisis. Access to Al Qa'im remains difficult for humanitarian workers.
- Some 2,055 individuals were residing in the Al Qa'im camp. The Al Qa'im border has been closed since 29 March 2013, restricting the number of new arrivals, but is open for refugees wishing to return to Syria.
- As per the agreement with the Government of Iraq, UNHCR transferred all refugees settled in Al Qa'im to a new area, Al Obaidy camp. The relocation took four days and was completed on June 27th. UNHCR held several meetings with local authorities and military to review plans for securing the future use of Al Qa'im camp for transit areas in the event the border is re-opened.
- Some refugees in Al Obaidy recently expressed their concerns that the camp is larger than their previous site and it is difficult to walk to receive food parcels and other distributions. One refugee brought a motor-truck (tuk tuk) and is providing delivery services to refugees. A similar initiative to provide transport services to refugees by refugees has been underway in Domiz camp since early 2013. UNHCR is considering replicating this project in Al Obaidy camp.
- The majority of Syrian refugees in Iraq are in the Kurdistan Region, which is currently hosting some 95 per cent of the 161,476 Syrian refugees who have fled to Iraq. Approximately 45,000 people are living in Domiz camp.

Food assistance reaches 969,000 refugees in June, insecurity a concern in Lebanon and Egypt

- Jordan - WFP reached over 350,000 Syrian refugees through dry ration and food voucher distributions in the month of June, including 98 per cent of registered non-camp refugees. The first distribution of WFP 'reduced-value' voucher assistance (US\$8.47/person/month) in the EJC began on 17 June, reaching 2,967 beneficiaries. Reduced-value vouchers are being distributed given that the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent is already providing meals to camp residents.
- Lebanon - The unpredictable security situation is a source of major concern for WFP and operations often experience delays, sometimes severe. In July, due to the growing number of refugees, WFP plans to assist over 560,000 refugees (compared to 432,699 beneficiaries in June).
- Turkey - WFP, in partnership with the TRC, is assisting 111,000 Syrians in fourteen camps following the expansion on 15 July into Adiyaman camp. The programme covers around 60 per cent of the total camp population in Turkey. For the month of July, a total of US\$ 4.4 million was uploaded on the e-food cards, bringing the total amount uploaded since the beginning of the operation in October 2012 to \$20.7 million. Due to funding constraints, which is restricting WFP's ability to expand food assistance programme into all camps, the Government of Turkey is planning to start a separate voucher programme in Malatya Beydagi, Akçakale and Ceylanpinar camps.
- Iraq - In June, 53,665 refugees in Domiz camp received vouchers valued at over US\$ 1.6 million. In Al Qi'am camp, 2,915 food parcels were distributed and an additional 2,792 food parcels were given as a one-off distribution in preparation for the holy month of Ramadan. WFP in-kind food stocks have also been moved to the new Al Obaidy camp.
- Egypt - In the month of June, WFP Egypt reached over 27,000 beneficiaries exclusively through food vouchers and plans to reach near 34,000 Syrian refugees in July. In addition, WFP has been requested by the Government of Egypt to provide assistance through UNRWA to 6,000 Palestinian refugees who recently departed Syria. The current security situation has affected food voucher distributions. However, with special regard to Ramadan, WFP is taking all measures to ensure that food vouchers are provided without significant delays.



Workers distribute lunch from food trolleys to refugees in the Akcakale refugee camp in southern Turkey, which houses some 10,000 Syrians. UNHCR | A. Branthwaite

Relief International: providing essential services for vulnerable families in Jordan

- **WASH** - Relief International (RI) is currently focusing on vulnerable Syrian households living in the host communities of Irbid, Mafraq and Ramtha. The distribution of NFIs and hygiene materials to the most vulnerable has reached over 4,000 households (20,000 beneficiaries) through ongoing distributions, which will be expanded to deliver an additional 1,160 modified hygiene kits across the northern governorates. RI has also completed WASH infrastructure rehabilitation for 34 vulnerable households.
- **Education** - RI's Remedial Education programme continues to grow. Activities include catch up classes and informal education in Za'atri and Azraq camps. Classes also began at the Karak Children Centre (KCC) in northern Jordan. The curriculum currently provided includes Arabic, English, Math, Science and Art classes.



Young refugees in north Lebanon. Relief International

- Due to the difficulties faced by many families in traveling long distances to the KCC, RI is planning the establishment of an additional five education centres in the Karak area to increase accessibility for vulnerable families to education assistance.
- **Community awareness** - The KCC is also hosting health and hygiene promotion lectures for women, which provide a platform for RI to distribute hygiene promotion brochures and promote the self-empowerment of women. Each session reaches 25 women and have been conducted on the importance of educational awareness, health and hygiene and women's health. As the lecture spaces are small, each session is able to reach 25 women during each session.

Refugee voices: DRC assisting new refugee arrivals in Lebanon

Nour is a mother of 13 children (eight girls and five boys) who recently fled the Syrian crisis to Tripoli in North Lebanon. Her house in Idlib was destroyed by a bomb and she had to leave everything behind. She says, "If there was not a God we would all be dead". Now, Nour lives with two other families (ten people) in a two bedroom apartment where they pay US\$ 300 rent. With no savings, she is asking for humanitarian assistance in order to take care of her family. The DRC Tripoli team conducted a home visit to assess the needs of her family. In the coming week, Nour will receive an SMS indicating the date, time and location of the next distribution. In Lebanon, DRC assists up to 25,000 newcomers every month, more than a third of all new arrivals in the country.

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 126 participating organizations, including 84 appealing:

ActionAid | [Action Contre la Faim](#) | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | [Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development](#) | The Lebanese Association for Development | [Lebanese Association for Human Promotion & Literacy](#) | Amel Association | [ARRD – Legal Aid](#) | Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale | [CARE International](#) | Caritas | [Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre](#) | Catholic Relief Services | [Centre for Victims of Torture](#) | Cooperative Housing Foundation International | [Children without Borders](#) | Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | Finn Church Aid/Act Alliance | [FAO](#) | Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura | [GVC/Muslim Aid](#) | Handicap International | [Heartland Alliance International](#) | Institute for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation | [International Catholic Migration Commission](#) | International Medical Corps | [IOM](#) | International Orthodox Christian Charities | [International Relief and Development](#) | International Rescue Committee | [INTERSOS](#) | Islamic Relief Worldwide | [JEN](#) | Jesuit Refugee Service | [Jordan Health Aid Society](#) | LDS Charities | [Lebanese Red Cross](#) | Lutheran World Federation | [Madrasati Initiative](#) | Medair | [Médecins du Monde](#) | Mercy Corps | [Movement for Peace](#) | Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | Operation Mercy | [Oxfam GB](#) | Première Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale | [Qatar Red Crescent](#) | Questscope | [Refugee Education Trust](#) | Relief International | [Restart](#) | Rene Mouawad Foundation | [Royal Health Awareness Society](#) | Safadi Foundation | [Save the Children International](#) | Save the Children Jordan | [Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development](#) | Solidarités International | [Terre des Hommes](#) | Terre des Hommes Italia | [Terre des Hommes Lausanne](#) | German Federal Agency for Technical Relief | [Un ponte per](#) | UNDP | [UNESCO](#) | UNFPA | [UN-Habitat](#) | UNHCR | [UNICEF](#) | UNODC | [UNOPS](#) | UNRWA | [UN Women](#) | War Child Holland | [WFP](#) | WHO | [World Rehabilitation Fund](#) | World Vision | [YMCA](#) |

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](mailto:Anna.King@unhcr.org), UNHCR Regional Reporting Officer | kinga@unhcr.org