

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

25 July - 7 August 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 15 August 2013.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR has published a [real-time evaluation of the Syria response](#), entitled "From slow boil to breaking point". The self-evaluation was undertaken by an inter-agency team to identify key protection and assistance gaps experienced by exiled Syrians.
- **Jordan** - Za'atri camp opened a year ago on 29 July with some 100 refugee families arriving that first night. The piece of desolate desert is now home to some 120,000 Syrians and has become Jordan's fourth largest city.
- **Egypt** - UNHCR is concerned about receiving an increasing number of reports of arrests and detention of Syrians, including several minors and people registered with UNHCR.
- **Iraq** - Authorities and response partners continue to develop the site for a new camp, Darashakran, in Erbil Governorate (Kurdistan Region). The camp will have an initial capacity of 10,000 persons. The Kurdistan Region is hosting some 95 per cent of the 160,000 Syrian refugees who have fled to Iraq.
- A call for proposals for Emergency Response Fund projects in **Lebanon** was issued. Needs in the health, WASH and shelter sectors will be prioritized. Maximum funding per project has been increased to \$500,000 with a maximum implementation period of six months. National and international NGOs as well as UNRWA are eligible to apply.

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One year on: Za'atri camp in numbers

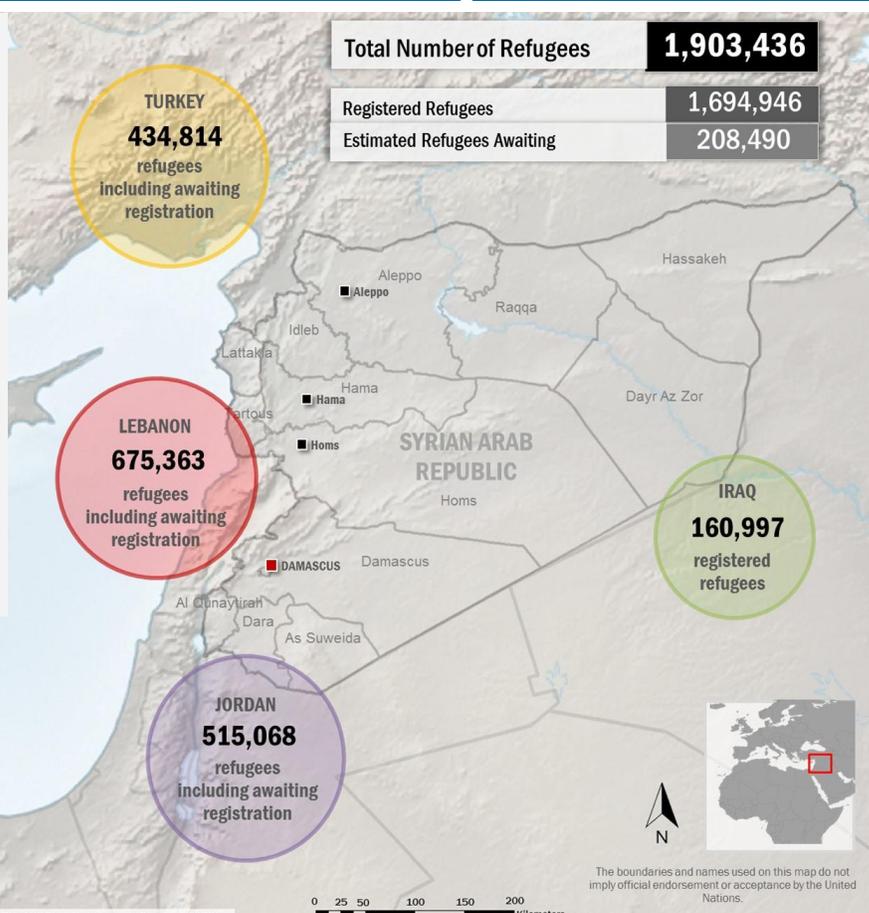
120,000 people - mostly women and children - live in the world's second largest refugee camp (after Dadaab in Kenya)

270 Jordanian teachers work in the camp's primary and secondary schools, accompanied by **90 Syrian assistants**

33 child-friendly spaces have been developed

1,000 businesses line the streets of Za'atri

10 babies are born in the camp each day



Iris scan technology implemented at new Amman registration centre to enhance data verification

- Jordan - UNHCR is utilizing Iris Recognition Technology at its new Amman Khalda registration centre to enhance data quality and to prevent refugees from registering more than once. This was the second registration site to adopt the technology after the Irbid centre.
- Iris scanning streamlines the refugee registration process and reduces potential fraud and multiple registration by using the eye iris to uniquely identify a person.
- Over 60,000 Syrian refugees have been registered using the technology at the Irbid registration centre and another 5,000 in the Khalda facility so far.
- The technology will be implemented country-wide. It is expected that UNHCR and the Government of Jordan will start joint registration using iris scans at the new centre in Raba Sarhan in the second half of August. Iris scans will also be captured during the upcoming data verification exercise planned for Za'atri camp.
- Registration remains the key mechanism through which persons of concern are identified, protected and assisted. Vulnerable new arrivals with specific needs, including people with disabilities and serious medical conditions, female-headed vulnerable households, the elderly and unaccompanied minors continue to be prioritized for assistance.
- Registered Syrian refugees in Jordan can access free education, healthcare and food. The most vulnerable families also receive financial assistance, which can be withdrawn from Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) that use iris recognition instead of a PIN code to allow refugees to access the funds.



Iris scan technology being used by refugees to access their financial assistance at an ATM. UNHCR | V. Schimmel

Quick impact projects provide common resources for both local and refugee populations

- Lebanon - Multiple Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) are being implemented across the country to respond to the needs of Syrians and vulnerable host community populations.
- The immense and growing strain on Lebanese host communities is contributing to rising tensions between host communities and refugees. This growing risk of violence demands mainstreaming of conflict prevention approaches across all sectors, as well as targeted interventions to strengthen community capacity to prevent and manage conflict.
- Two such initiatives by UNHCR with partner International Relief and Development (IRD) were recently completed:

Provision of two second-hand trucks for solid waste collection - the municipalities of the Union of Minnieh received two solid waste collection trucks to add to their existing fleet, which was previously unable to cover the needs of all five villages due to the influx of Syrian refugees residing in informal settlements.

Computers and equipment for public library upgrade - the municipality of Syr-Dannieh received computers and other equipment for the public library, which benefits both the host and Syrian population in Syr and surrounding villages. The municipality had been working on the library upgrade for two years, with completion of the technology room the final component.



*Top right: Additional trucks to enhance waste collection capacity. IRD
Bottom right: New computer room in public library in Syr-Dannieh. IRD*

From slow boil to breaking point: A real-time evaluation of UNHCR's response to the Syrian refugee emergency

- A team of UNHCR staff and representatives from two NGO consortia (ICVA and InterAction) completed a [real-time review of UNHCR's response to the Syria refugee emergency](#), focusing on Jordan, Lebanon and Northern Iraq, based on an 11-day mission to the field in May and June 2013.
- In brief, the review found that UNHCR has scaled-up substantially in its response to the mounting Syrian refugee crisis, and in doing so has helped to avert the refugee crisis from spiraling out of control. There have been some significant achievements: most borders have been kept open; protection space has been preserved to a considerable extent; relationships with governments have been positive and constructive; refugees have benefited from access to basic public services, while malnutrition and mortality rates have remained relatively low. The recent expansion of UNHCR's registration and coordination capacity has been particularly appreciated by partners.
- However, the growing number and needs of the refugees, as well as the serious pressures they are placing on host communities, now require UNHCR and its partners to complement their emergency response activities with comprehensive and proactive strategies that focus on:
 - (a) More extensive and effective outreach to out-of-camp refugees;
 - (b) Improving standards and security for refugees living in camps;
 - (c) Reinforcing UNHCR's presence and capacity at the point of delivery;
 - (d) Ensuring the immediate involvement of development actors so as to mitigate the impact of the refugee influx on host states and communities; and
 - (e) Clarifying and strengthening UNHCR's approach to coordinating the international response to the Syrian refugee emergency.

Medair: Meeting urgent shelter and health needs in the Bekaa Valley and northern Jordan

- Lebanon - Medair has been a lead agency in the Central and West Bekaa Valley in providing shelter assistance to informal refugee settlements. Activities include distributing shelter kits and conducting site improvement activities. Shelter kits include vinyl, nails, wood planks, and plastic sheeting to assist refugees in constructing sturdier, more weather-resistant tents. Medair is also conducting site improvements in 40 settlements in the Central and West Bekaa. The sites are not planned and sanitation and drainage issues often arise, creating flooding and public health risks. Medair is designing an improvement plan for these settlements that includes digging drainage ditches and dry wells, planning latrine construction and implementing waste management plans. Medair will also map out all informal settlements in the Central and West Bekaa using GIS mapping. Maps and datasheets will be shared with UNHCR and other humanitarian actors to improve delivery of services and inter-agency cooperation.



Syrian refugees constructing dry wells to improve the drainage and sanitation in informal tented settlements in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. Medair | M. Fraga

- Jordan - Medair began working in urban and rural communities that are hosting Syrian refugees in December last year by organizing an ongoing cash-for-rent project in several cities in northern Jordan, including Irbid, Jerash and Zarqa, that will be expanding to other cities. Medair is also implementing an Infant and Young Child Feeding Programme, which aims to increase community awareness and practice of health and nutrition behaviours, and to improve access to nutritional screening and referral for acute malnutrition treatment. Other goals of the programme include outbreak prevention and strengthening health system capacities to prevent, identify and respond to rapidly increasing public health needs.

Promoting public health and awareness through art

- Jordan - ACTED is currently working in partnership in Za'atri camp with AptART, an NGO aiming to promote awareness and prevention of issues affecting vulnerable children's lives through engaging them in art, with the support of UNICEF. ACTED and AptART are collaboratively painting murals around the camp to address hygiene-related issues such as water conservation, hand-washing, the importance of disease prevention, and the link between knowledge and health, as well as encouraging ownership over shared public spaces. ACTED is working on expanding the AptART project implemented in Jordan into Iraq.



A mural depicting the water conservation message, 'Don't waste water, water is life' in Za'atri camp, Jordan. ACTED | S. Robinson

Jordan: Za'atri camp one year on

- A year ago, Za'atri camp opened on 29 July 2012 with some 100 refugee families arriving the first night. Following a request by the Government of Jordan, UNHCR and its partners built the camp in nine days. The camp opened when Jordanian authorities and the humanitarian community realized they were unable to cope with the then "alarming" daily rate of 100 refugees that had been crossing the border. Mere months later, the refugee influx into the camp reached 2,000 refugees per day.
- Today, Za'atri is the second largest camp in the world – the majority of those in the camp are women and children. It houses part of the total number of 515,000 refugees in Jordan – ten-fold the refugee population it accommodated in July 2012. Marking one year since the Za'atri camp opened is a tragic reminder of the catastrophic consequences of the Syrian crisis that has forced thousands of Syrians to flee across the border into Jordan and beyond. At the same time it is an important testament to the generosity of Jordan, and the colossal efforts that its Government and people, with the support of more than 59 humanitarian organizations, to shelter, assist and protect thousands of refugees.

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](#), UNHCR Regional Reporting Officer | kinga@unhcr.org