

# INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

6 - 12 June 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 20 June 2013.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Since January 2013, there have been 200,000 new refugees every month, seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and North Africa. This number is expected to increase to **3.5 million refugees** by the end of this year.
- More than **\$2 billion of extra funding** is needed to protect and meet the basic needs of those who have fled Syria (including 100,000 Palestine refugees), those still expected to flee, and 1.8 million people from communities that are hosting refugees.
- With the summer approaching, the provision of adequate and **safe water**, appropriate **sanitation facilities** and **hygiene** promotion are increasingly prioritized as prevention and control measures to minimize potential risks of disease outbreaks.
- Three out of four refugees are living outside camps in urban or rural settings. Rent has been consistently identified as a primary need among non-camp refugees across the region. UNHCR has launched a cash assistance programme in **Iraq**, initially reaching 700 extremely vulnerable families in the Kurdistan Region, which currently hosts more than 95 per cent of Syrian refugees are residing. Cash based interventions for Syrian refugees are currently also in place in **Jordan** and **Egypt**.

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## REGIONAL FIGURES

**1,629,761** refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

**700,000** refugees provided with food assistance by WFP

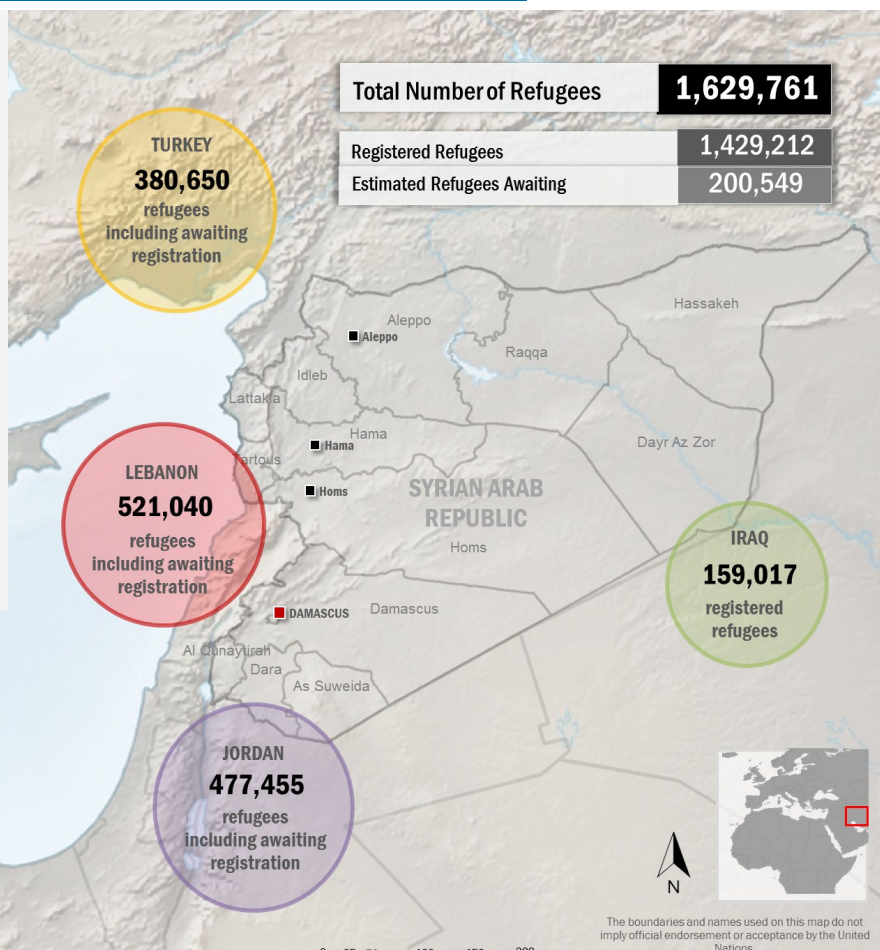
**77%** of refugees live outside camps in host communities

**831,178** refugee children affected

**168,128** refugee children targeted for psycho-social support by UNICEF

**72%\*** funding gap in the Regional Response Plan

\* As at 7 June 2013.



\* Morocco, Algeria and Libya

Sources UNHCR Regional Datawarehouse, Common Operational Dataset (COD), UNGIWG, Natural Earth, UNCS

0 25 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Refugee population as of 12 June 2013, based on available data. For updated figures, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>

## Insecurity adds to growing complexity of the regional refugee response

- **Iraq** - A number of incidents have been reported on the route to Al Qa'im camp. Road missions have been suspended and staff movements reduced in view of the volatile situation. Provincial elections at Anbar Governorate are scheduled for 20 June 2013 and may further affect security.
- **Lebanon** - The security situation in Tripoli and in northern/eastern border villages remains highly volatile with rockets and shelling hitting a number of towns, impeding humanitarian access in both regions and restricting activities and the availability of services. Clashes between the rival neighbourhoods of Bab Al Tabbaneh and Jabal Mohsen, Tripoli, are ongoing despite several attempts at a ceasefire. The Tripoli registration centre was closed on 7 June due to the tense and precarious security conditions. Agencies remain in regular contact with local authorities and refugees to ensure refugees and hosting communities are safe.
- **Turkey** - The national media reports that the Minister of Customs and Trade has stated that the Akcakale border gate had re-opened after closing for security reasons in early May. Local officials informed that the border gate of Yayladag in Hatay province remains closed.

## Providing adequate shelter in camps remains critical to overall response

- **Turkey** - On 11 June, the Disaster and Emergency Management Agency of Government of Turkey (AFAD) reported that the container site in Malatya - Beydagi is operational and has capacity for more than 10,000 people with 2,083 containers. Two more new camps, in Mardin-Midyat and Malatya-Beydagi, are scheduled for this week, bringing the total number of camps for Syrians in Turkey to 20 across ten provinces.
- **Iraq** - Ground preparations at the new Darashakran Camp in Erbil Governorate is nearing completion. The camp is expected to be open in time for the new school year in September.
- **Jordan** - The Government of Jordan has authorized the construction of a camp near the town of Azraq in northeast Jordan. UN and NGO partners are working to complete construction on the camp, which is expected to have the capacity to host up to 130,000 people by the end of 2013. The majority of the internal road network in Azraq is complete and the construction of basic services areas is expected to start in the coming days.
- **Lebanon** - Syrian refugees continue to face great difficulties in finding suitable and affordable accommodation. Many are living in cramped and substandard shelters, or face eviction due to their inability to pay the rent as families, over time, deplete savings. Shelter agencies provided rent to the most vulnerable families while trying to negotiate with the landlords for the decrease of rent fees and find a durable solution. So far in June over 90,000 refugees received shelter support. Response partners continue to work on renovating shelters to improve living conditions.
- An increasing number of refugees are in scattered tented settlements in eastern Lebanon. Informal tented settlements are defined as a site with at least ten tents (accommodating around fifty people) that are less than 100m apart from one another. In the Bekaa alone, there are some 240 ad-hoc tented settlements, six times the number recorded in January.
- UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) are also working to identify sites where temporary shelters (t-shelters) – quickly-built prefabricated single family dwellings could be built. Pilot t-shelters will be initially built in the Bekaa valley with a view to replicating them in other areas in Lebanon.



*Domiz refugee camp near Dohuk in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is critically crowded. Construction of the new Darashakran camp in Erbil for Syrian refugees is underway. UNHCR | B. Sokol*

## Registration a vital intervention for ensuring protection and delivering life-saving assistance

- Lebanon - Waiting periods for registration were further reduced to reach an average of 22 days at the end of May while the number of people awaiting registration continued to decrease by 8,000 persons per week on average.
- In the South, UNHCR and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) began providing transportation to recently arrived refugees from the border town of Chebaa to the registration centre in Tyre. More than 1,000 refugees (200 families) were able to register as a result of these efforts. Preparations are underway to extend the initiative and reach out to refugees residing in the areas of Hasbayya, Marjeyoun, Bint Jbeil, and villages around Tyre.
- UNHCR's Bekaa registration centre established a call centre in May to increase hotline capacity and improve the scheduling of appointments. The Tripoli registration centre was relocated to better accommodate the large number of refugees who come forward to register on a daily basis. A child-friendly space was introduced by UNICEF at the new centre to provide children with a play space while mothers can breastfeed privately.
- On June 4, a new registration call centre opened in the Bekaa to further facilitate registration for an increasing number of refugees. The new system has led to a 100 per cent increase in scheduling capacity for registration appointments. Registration staff are also rolling out a number of additional technical improvements to further accelerate the process including the introduction of additional hotlines.
- Iraq - A significant decrease has been observed in the number of new arrivals. According to interviews conducted by UNHCR, the decrease in arrivals is attributed to the closure of Peshkapor, the Kurdistan Region's border point with Syria.
- Turkey - The Sanliurfa Coordination Centre opened and some 6,000 have been registered by Sanliurfa Coordination Centre and issued individual identification cards, enabling them to access free medical services. To facilitate increased registration, local authorities plan to open branch offices in every town in the province. A further 40,000 non-camp refugees have been registered at the Gaziantep Coordination Centre and registration appointments given to 25,000.

## Cash assistance for the most vulnerable urban refugees in Iraq

- Iraq - Significant gaps between income and expenditure have been identified among refugees living outside of camps. Rent has consistently been identified as the primary need amongst non-camp refugees across the region NGOs estimate that 50 per cent of refugees living outside the camps are vulnerable as a result of high costs of living.
- UNHCR's cash assistance pilot project reached 700 extremely vulnerable Syrian refugee families living in urban communities in the Kurdistan Region. The pilot phase targeted 250 families in Erbil, 300 in Dohuk and 150 Sulaymaniyah. Cheques were distributed to extremely vulnerable



*Syrian refugees Alaa, aged 21, and her mother Mariam, 49, seek financial assistance at the offices of Islamic Relief in Cairo. Alaa arrived in Egypt five months ago. She lost all of her possessions when her home in Damascus was destroyed during the fighting. UNHCR/S. Baldwin*

families based on a calculation of US\$ 200 for the head of household and US\$ 25 for each additional family member. The cash assistance exercise is also being used to gauge the interest of the urban population in relocating to a camp. Furthermore, issues such as education, livelihood prospects as well as medical needs are also being assessed during the house visits. The pilot project is implemented by UNHCR through its partner Qandil and with the assistance of Harikar (Dohuk) and Civil Development Organization (Sulaymaniyah).

## Targeted SGBV interventions in Lebanon and Iraq

- **Lebanon** - Throughout the month of May, agencies exerted significant efforts in encouraging particularly vulnerable women in need of support to come forward and share their problems. DRC reported an increase in the number of women who suffer from domestic or sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). High levels of distress and trauma have exacerbated this trend. In addition, women who arrive in Lebanon without their husbands also reported feeling particularly vulnerable. Agencies started distributing dignity kits that include hygiene items, headscarves, torches and other protective items to help these women feel more secure and dignified. Agencies have also reported the presence of separated children.
- UNICEF is supporting three community centres to provide for women and girl survivors and those at risk of SGBV in North Lebanon and the Bekaa. In the past fortnight, 195 women and girls have received psychosocial support, counseling, life skills based education, parenting skills, nutrition and awareness raising services at the three centres, bringing the cumulative total to 1,402.
- **Iraq** - The first SGBV sub-working group was held on 26 May in Baghdad. Response partners discussed the objectives, terms of reference, SGBV mapping exercise, strategy and fact sheet development.

## Assisting refugees with legal counsel and support

- **Lebanon** - About 13 per cent of registered Syrian refugees have entered Lebanon through unofficial border crossings and do not have documents recognizing their right of residency in Lebanon. The number of Syrians without recognized right to reside in Lebanon is expected to increase further as the crisis continues to develop. In addition, Syrians who have entered legally are required to renew their residency coupons after 12 months and many will not have the financial means to pay for the renewal.
- UNHCR and International Relief and Development began providing legal assistance to Syrian refugees to assist particularly vulnerable refugees with the prohibitive cost of the renewal of their residency permits. During the first week of implementation, 83 persons were reimbursed for the renewal of their residency permits. Refugees have also been counselled on procedures including passport renewals, transferring entry stamps to passports and registering newborns.
- NRC community centres and outreach activities provide information and education services, to refugees and the communities hosting them. NRC's information, counselling and legal assistance programme is also providing immediate information and counselling about how to access service providers for refugees from Syria, establishing and participating in referral pathways for protection issues and providing legal assistance on legal status, civil documentation (such as birth certificates) and related matters.
- **Egypt** - Syrian refugees are now issued with a six-month visa on arrival, versus three months previously. Additional capacity is required to monitor the protection environment of refugees, particularly at entry and exit points. In response, UNHCR conducted two workshops on International Protection of Refugees for 42 immigration and police officers working in Alexandria Port, Salloum and Taba entry points, and in Alexandria, Borg Al-Arab, Hurgada and Sharm Al-Sheikh airports. The workshops focused on UNHCR's mandate, international protection considerations, the principle of non-refoulement, the rights and duties of refugees in Egypt and specific case studies on Syrian 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](mailto:kinga@unhcr.org)