



SYRIAN REFUGEES

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL UPDATE

16 December 2014

KEY FIGURES

3.3 million

Syrian refugees have fled to neighbouring countries and North Africa

1.9 million

Refugees and vulnerable members of impacted communities are receiving food assistance in 2014

1.3 million

People have been provided with access to safe drinking water in 2014

860,000

People have benefited from shelter assistance in camp and non-camp settings in 2014

830,000

People have benefited from the distribution of basic household and core relief items in 2014

FUNDING

USD 3.7 billion

requested for the situation

Gap
47%



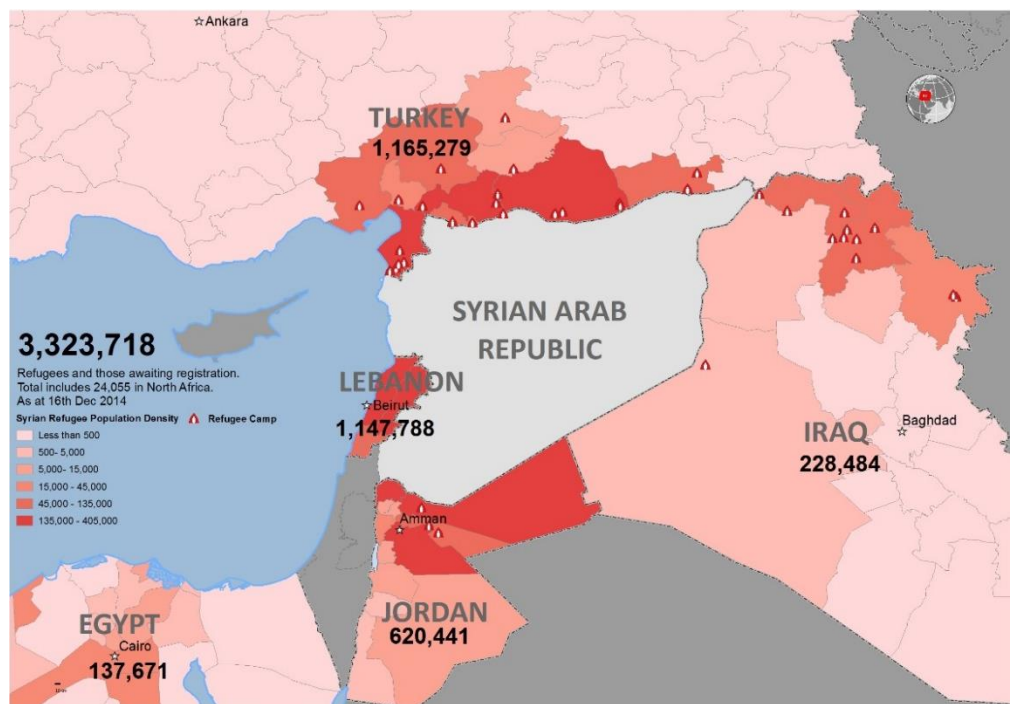
Funded
53%

PRIORITIES

- 2015-2016 planning
- Preserve protection space
- Winterization activities targeting some 2 million Syrian refugees across the region with winter relief items, cash assistance and shelter support.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 20 November, following a decision by the Cabinet, registered Syrian refugees in Jordan are no longer entitled to access free health services at Ministry of Health facilities. Syrian refugees are now charged the same fees as uninsured Jordanians. Whilst these fees are low, they are expected to increase hardship for many vulnerable refugees. UNHCR has been closely following up with the government and other agencies, and adopted a temporary assistance policy on 26 November to mitigate the immediate effects of the cessation of free health services.
- Since 13 November, when some 368 Syrian arrivals were recorded in Turkey, there have been no further recorded arrivals from the area of Kobane. The cumulative number of individuals who fled the area of Kobane to Turkey stands at 192,417 persons, according to Government figures.
- During November 2014, Syrians were the largest nationality group rescued at sea and disembarked in Italy, with close to 3,000 of the total number of 9,923 persons arriving by sea in Italy during the month. Of the total number of 163,368 people arriving in Italy by sea from January through 30 November 2014, close to 40,000 originated from Syria. During the same period last year, Syrian arrivals by sea totaled 10,852.
- A total of **3.3 million** people of concern



The Government of Turkey estimates that some 1.6 million Syrians are living in all the provinces in Turkey, including more than 220,000 people accommodated in 22 camps.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

As insecurity and violence continued to cause displacement within Syria and across the region, an average of 90,000 Syrians were registered in host countries in the region, resulting in an overall increase of Syrians registered as refugees by 1 million this year in countries in the regional refugee response.

Humanitarian needs remain enormous. Government services and local communal services are under strain due to the increased demand, impacting service quality for both refugees and nationals, and threatening social cohesion.

Some 3.3 million people are directly affected by the Syria crisis in Lebanon, where one in every four people is a refugee. By the end of 2014 there will be about 1.2 million registered Syrian refugees in the country. Lebanon has adopted restriction for Syrians wishing to enter Lebanon at its border crossings.

Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) estimates that the number of Syrians in the country has exceeded 1.6 million people, of whom some 220,000 are currently living in 22 camps across the south of Turkey. Since 19 September, more than 190,000 Syrians from the area of Kobane have fled to Turkey since ISIS launched an offensive to capture the border city. Of these, some 22,000 refugees are estimated to have continued on to Iraq's Kurdistan Region (KR-I).

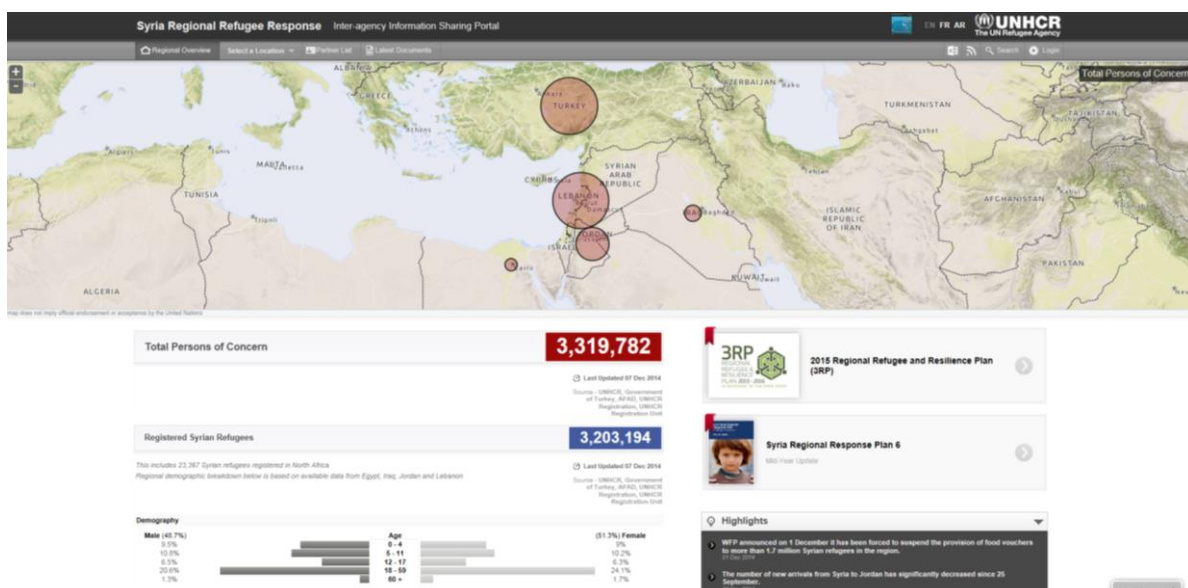
The arrival of Syrian refugees into Jordan has fallen markedly since early October. The Government of Jordan continues to extend protection to Syrian refugees within the country, but is increasingly concerned of the potential security implications of the crises in neighbouring Iraq and Syria.

In the region, some 400,000 refugees are accommodated in refugee camps. Outside of camps, it is estimated that 38 per cent live in sub-standard shelter. The provision of winterization assistance to the most vulnerable is an ongoing priority for humanitarian and government actors as temperatures continue to drop.

Over 150 agencies and aid groups, together with the governments of neighbouring countries, are working together to protect Syrian refugees and assist them with meeting their basic needs, improve access to education and medical care, and provide basic goods such as tents, food and safe WASH facilities.

Monthly sectoral dashboards are published on the [Syria Regional Response Data Portal](#), detailing sectoral priorities, achievements and needs by country and regionally.

Donors have contributed more than US\$ 4 billion to successive regional response plans since 2012. Planning for 2015 is well underway and the 2015-16 regional partnership strategy, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), is scheduled to be launched in Berlin on 18 December.



 Protection
LEBANON

- UNHCR and its partners are running [protection programmes for children and women at risk](#), including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, torture and trauma. So far in 2014, over 8,900 persons at risk have been identified and assisted with the support of various donors.

TURKEY

- Since 13 November, when 368 Syrian entered Turkey, there have been no further recorded new arrivals from the area of Kobane. The cumulative number of individuals who fled Kobane area to Turkey remains 192,417 persons, according to AFAD. So far, 52,314 of these recent arrivals have been biometrically registered. The sub-governor of Suruç estimates that there could be up to 40,000 vehicles and 1,000 persons on the Syrian side of the border with Turkey. Around 200 food packages are sent from Turkey on a daily basis across the border, across several border crossings points.

JORDAN

- In November, the cabinet of ministers approved the exemption of fines for registration of marriages for both Syrian refugees and Jordanians until 31 December 2014. Agencies have collaborated in disseminating this information through SMS, meetings, flyers and radio programs to encourage registration of marriages.
- UNHCR conducted two workshops on 17 and 18 November to raise awareness on LGBTI protection concerns facing refugees in Jordan. Discussions centred on definitions of key concepts, LGBTI rights in the Middle East and refugees currently living in Jordan.

 Education
LEBANON

- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon (MEHE) last month issued a circular announcing the opening of a second school shift in public primary schools for Syrian children. Classes will start at the beginning of 2015.
- UNHCR is working in close collaboration with MEHE in line with the government's "RACE" plan (Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon). The plan provides support to public schools under an agreement with the MEHE in conjunction with NGO partners who are registered with the Government of Lebanon.
- In coordination with CLMC, UNICEF has distributed school supplies worth US\$ 1.2 million to 985 public primary schools across Lebanon. These supplies will alleviate the financial burden on parents and contribute to the retention of students in schools. Supplies include stationary for students and teachers as well as notebooks; more than 4,000 "School-In-A-Box" kits containing supplies and material for teachers and students; and 354 Early Childhood Development kits and 12 recreation kits.

JORDAN

- UNICEF is conducting a comprehensive child focused assessment in Zaatari and Azraq camps with education, youth, child protection and other sectors. UNICEF initially plans to visit 13, 000 households in Zaatari in partnership with REACH.



Dr. Ahmed is a Syrian refugee who volunteers with UNHCR Lebanon. He visits neighbourhoods and settlements where Syrian refugees reside to provide people with practical information on what assistance is available and how they can access services. UNHCR

Health

LEBANON

- Over 10,800 primary health care consultations were conducted in the week ending 12 December, including treatments, referrals, medication, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, child health care and diagnostic tests. Partners included UNHCR, AMEL, CLMC, International Medical Corps (IMC), Makassed and URDA in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health through mobile or center-based clinics. Additionally, some 1,150 individuals were hospitalized this week with the support of UN and partners.
- Another 15,238 individuals benefited from awareness sessions provided by UNHCR, IMC, CLMC, IOCC and URDA. Sessions covered malnutrition screening, nutritional awareness, reproductive health, infant and young child feeding, contraception, first aid and health promotion for children.
- Around 1,386 social and mental health consultations were provided by IMC in various areas in Lebanon, through its outreach and centre-based services. A further 732 awareness materials and sessions were conducted on mental health, gender-based violence and early marriage. The National Immunization Campaign for Polio was held in November with the aim of reaching 580,054 children across Lebanon. MOPH results show that 556,851 children were immunized (96 per cent of the initial target).
- More than 1,000 children participated in recreation activities sponsored by UNICEF in partnership with Rotary International in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and Saida.

JORDAN

- As of 20 November, following a decision by the Cabinet, registered Syrian refugees are no longer entitled to access free health services at Ministry of Health facilities. Syrian refugees are now charged the same fees as uninsured Jordanians - approximately 35–60 per cent of fees charged to non-Jordanian citizens. The fees are very low and might be affordable to many Syrian refugees, but are expected to add considerable hardship for many more vulnerable refugees. UNHCR has been closely following up on the issue with the government and other agencies, and issued a temporary policy on 26 November to mitigate the immediate effects of the cessation of free services. The impact of this policy will be monitored and further adjustments in UNHCR's policy will be communicated.



Shelter and NFIs

LEBANON

- UNHCR and partners continue to provide winter support to refugee families to protect them from the cold and rainy winter. At least 6,280 refugees had their shelters weather-proofed through kits distributed by MEDAIR and Save the Children International in Central and West Bekaa. In addition, more than 1,370 refugees living in six informal settlements benefited from site improvements by MEDAIR.
- Almost 260 refugees benefitted from the rehabilitation of 20 small shelter units. The work was done by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in central and west Bekaa; Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF) in Chouf; and the International Committee for the Development of People in Chebaa and Burj al Shamali in the south.

TURKEY

- In response to the influx from the Kobane area, both AFAD-run temporary shelters (YIBO and Onbir Nisan) are operating at capacity. There are reportedly 462 tents with approximately 4,000 residents at the Suruç municipality-run Arin Mirxan Tent Site. Under the coordination of the Directorate of Family and Social Policies, four Kurdish-speaking social workers are assigned to this site. The vast majority of the population has been biometrically registered and are able to access health services. Local officials in Suruç informed that while the majority of the new arrivals who crossed into Turkey since 19 September are staying with their relatives or hosts in the surrounding villages, and a considerable number of people are also still living in Suruç town in private accommodations.
- From the outset of the Syrian refugee emergency in Turkey, UNHCR has been supporting the Government of Turkey's response in providing core relief items including blankets, sleeping mattresses, kitchen sets, jerry cans and cooking facilities, to meet the needs of the Syrian refugees residing both in camps and local communities. In addition, as part of winterization efforts, over 22,000 blankets and 11,000 mats have been delivered to Oncupinar and Nizip 1 and 2 camps, and 600 heaters have been delivered to Viranşehir camp

JORDAN

- The coordinated winterization response in urban and rural settings is now targeting more than 200,000 individuals with in-kind or monetised assistance. In camps, all refugees will receive winter clothes, blankets, and winter vouchers to purchase needed items during the winter months. More than 22,000 families have already received assistance in late November and into early December, while further 10,000 families are expected to be covered by the end of December. In Azraq camp, about 8,000 individuals received blankets clothes and NRC winter vouchers, while in Zaatari camp all refugees received items including winter clothes and dates from the Saudi National Campaign.
- UNICEF has provided winterization cash (18JD) to all children aged 0-12 years among 21,000 extremely vulnerable refugee families in urban areas; 14JD to all children aged 0-14 years in Azraq and Zaatari camps; and in-kind clothes kits to 17,800 children aged 0-16 years at the border, in urban and at camp reception.
- From late November into early December, reports of planned evictions of some informal tented sites have been received. On 2 December, an eviction of such an informal tented site took place at Al Hwejah in Mafraq, 15km

from the Rabaa Al-Sarhan registration centre. Approximately 120 persons present on the site were transferred through Rabaa Al-Sarhan to Azraq camp.

- In the second half of 2014, NRC began piloting a market-based cash and voucher approach in lieu of centralized NFI distributions and hopes to expand these activities further in 2015. A cash and voucher approach provides beneficiaries with greater choice and flexibility to meet their household needs. More generally cash-based programming can empower beneficiaries, particularly women within the household, can reduce negative coping mechanisms and have broader multiplier effects for both refugees and host community including the private sector than traditional in-kind assistance. NRC has published a short [policy brief](#) exploring NRC assessments related to a move to cash and vouchers, current analysis related to pilot activities in Zaatari and plans for future expansion including large-scale winterization activities in Azraq.



Water and Sanitation

LEBANON

- The proper discharge of wastewater throughout Lebanon is a persistent problem that pre-dates the Syrian crisis. According to a recent Minister of Environment (MOE) study, only 8 per cent of wastewater in Lebanon is treated. The remainder is discharged into open lands or watercourses. This urgent problem has been further aggravated by the influx of refugees. According to the MOE report, the 25 per cent increase in the population now in Lebanon has led to an 8 to 14 per cent increase in the amount of wastewater generated.
- Informal settlements are among the most insecure areas to live and suffer from extremely poor sanitation. UNHCR and humanitarian partners face huge challenges in improving sites. These include the fact that many are not constructed in suitable areas for such settlements. Often, they are situated on farmland with poor drainage. In addition, site improvements and installation of proper waste treatment is prohibited by some municipalities and landlords.
- UNHCR and humanitarian partners continue to advocate for measures to address these problems. Working with the Ministries of the Environment and Water and Energy, UNHCR is developing alternative waste solutions for implementation on a larger scale. These will provide needed improvements in Lebanon, benefiting all communities. They include installing bigger and more centralized holding and septic tanks; using biogas digesters (closed receptacles that will accelerate the fermentation of waste); connecting to local sewage networks; digging trenches to channel waste water appropriately; and substituting makeshift latrines with environmentally appropriate ones.
- In another development, by the end of November, UN agencies and partners had completed the installation and repair of 73 chlorinator systems, benefitting more than 500,000 Lebanese and 80,000 Syrian refugees across Lebanon.

JORDAN

- NRC published the results of the post-distribution monitoring conducted in October with the objective of better understanding to what extent the distribution of hygiene kits by NRC (on behalf of IMC) was successful, and to collect feedback on the quality and quantity of hygiene kit distributed. NRC interviewed 159 individuals, both males and females, who received the IMC hygiene items. With similar responses from both gender groups, the majority of the interviewees (70%) responded that the quality of the products was good but the quantity was not enough to cover the needs of the family (77%). No beneficiary reported having sold the items.

Working in partnership

- The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 163 participating organizations (including 107 appealing agencies)

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

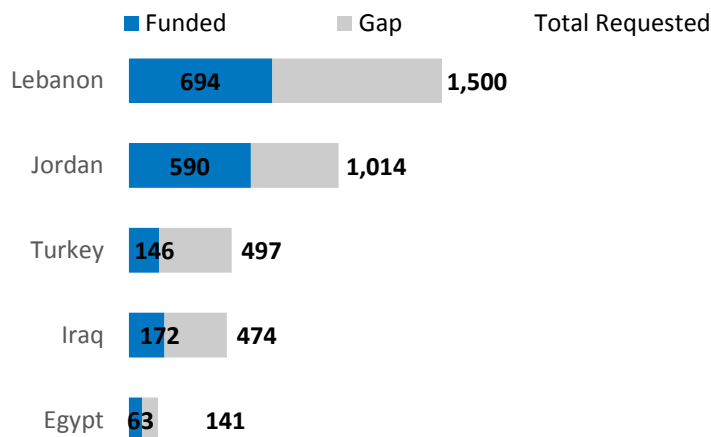
Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation.

Donors who have contributed to the situation:

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Funding (in million USD)

A total of **USD 2 billion*** has been funded.



**Includes USD 359 million of regionally earmarked funds that has been received and is pending allocation by country.*

Contacts:

Anna King, UNHCR Regional Reporting Officer, kinga@unhcr.org, Tel: +962 (0)79 899 8897

Links:

[Syria Regional Refugee Response Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal](#)
[UNHCR Syria Emergency Response](#)