



# UNHCR SYRIA REFUGEE FACT SHEET MAY 2013

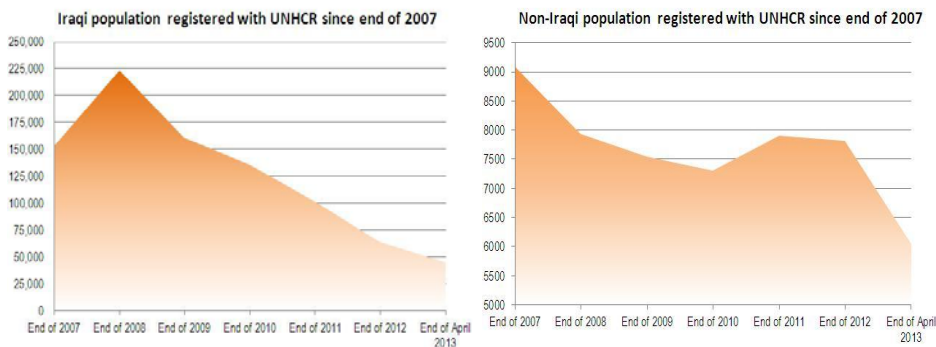
## Countries of origin of population registered with UNHCR (end of April 2013)

Country of origin	Refugees	Asylum-seekers & others	Total	% of total population
Iraq	43,977	954	44,931	88.2%
Somalia	1,439	43	1,482	2.9%
Afghanistan	1,137	167	1,304	2.6%
Sudan	523	575	1,098	2.2%
Others	411	1,678	2,089	4.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,487</b>	<b>3,417</b>	<b>50,904</b>	<b>100 %</b>

## Registration and file in-activations (end of April 2013)

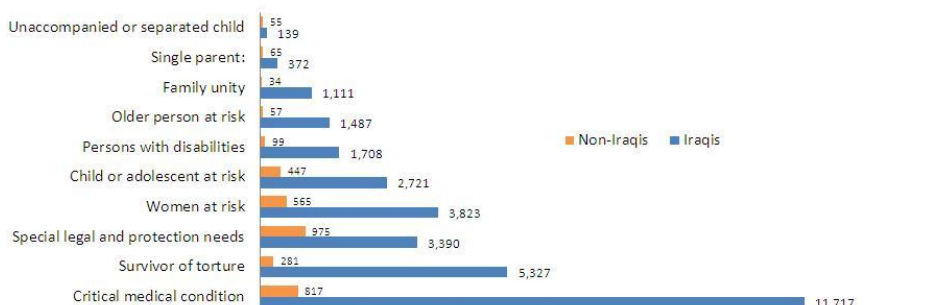
Nationality	New Registrations (April)	New Registrations (Total 2013)	Re-activations (April)	Re-activations (Total 2013)	New registrations and reactivations (Total 2013)	In-activations and other closures (Total 2013)
Iraqis	52	215	58	419	634	17,394
Non-Iraqis	68	325	4	60	385	2,018
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>19,412</b>

*The files of refugees who have had no contact with UNHCR for at least 6 months are inactivated. Following assessment of their situation, their files may be re-opened if they approach UNHCR again.*



Demography	Female	Male	<18
percentage of registered population (End of April 2013)	51.9%	48.1%	38.5%

35,221 Individuals with special needs (As of end of April 2013)



*Kindly note that one individual can have more than one special need.*

### - An overwhelming majority of Iraqi refugees

88.2% of refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Syria are from Iraq. 60.5% come from the region of Baghdad alone and 69.5% sought refuge in Syria five or more years ago. 38.3% of the 14,568 Iraqi families registered are female-headed households.

### - Several thousand non-Iraqi refugees

UNHCR provides protection and assistance to 6,044 non-Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers. Their situation remains precarious however as UNHCR documentation, which is frequently the only document they have, does not always suffice by itself to legitimate their presence in Syria.

### - An urban refugee operation

Apart from a few refugee families living in Al Hol camp in north-eastern Syria, all persons registered with UNHCR live in urban areas, mainly Damascus and its suburbs.

### - A high proportion of refugees with special needs

35,221 individuals (or 69% of the overall refugee population) have special needs and require targeted support, including 32,909 Iraqis (73.2% of the Iraqi registered population) and 2,312 non-Iraqis (38% of the non-Iraqi registered population).

## Operational priorities

1. Maintain and consolidate a **favourable protection environment**, including through timely registration and documentation;
2. Address individual **protection needs**, notably victims of sexual and gender-based violence and children at risk;
3. Meet the **basic needs** (food, shelter, etc.) and ensure access of refugees to essential services, especially health and education, with particular consideration for the most vulnerable;
4. Find and implement **durable solutions**, mainly through **resettlement**, and foster refugees' empowerment.

**UNHCR presence and staffing - April 2013**

- 1 Country Office in **Damascus**
- 1 Field Office in **Aleppo**
- 1 Field presence in **Hassakeh**
- 1 Field presence in **Homs**
- 1 Field presence in **Tartous**

**347** UNHCR staff: **28** international staff and additional workforce and **319** national staff and additional workforce.

**Partnerships**

**Syrian counterparts:**

The Syrian Government, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the Syrian Women’s Union (SWU), the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch (GOPA), Al Nada, the Palestinian Red Crescent and The Syria Society for Social Development (SSSD). SARC is UNHCR’s main implementing partner and a key operational counterpart.

**Seven international NGOs** registered with SARC, work in:

**Education:**

Première Urgence (PU), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Secours Islamique France, Help (Germany) and Action Against Hunger (Spain)

**Vocational Training:** L’Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD, France) and DRC

**Health:**

International Medical Corps (IMC)

**Community Services:**

DRC

**6 UN and international organizations:**

UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNRWA, WHO and IOM.

**Latest Developments**

- **Inactivation exercise:** A major inactivation exercise carried out during the month of April in all UNHCR offices in Syria resulted in the inactivation of 17,992 files of refugees who have not shown-up for three consecutive cash for food distribution cycles between 1 November 2012 and 30 April 2013 nor contacted/approached the Office for any other services offered by UNHCR. The majority of inactivated cases are for Iraqi refugees (90%). This brings the total number of persons actively registered with UNHCR to approximately 51, 000 individuals.
- **Cash for food assistance for Iraqi asylum-seekers:** From 7 - 19 May, UNHCR distributed cheques to Iraqi asylum-seekers to cover food assistance for the months of March and April. The total number of beneficiaries from this distribution cycle reached 71 families (or 137 individuals) and the total value of distributed cheques amounted to 685,000 Syrian pounds.
- **Awareness sessions in Damascus:** In collaboration with UNHCR, the Legal Counseling Centre of the Syrian Women’s Union (SWU) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), three awareness sessions were organized in Damascus during the month of May benefitting a total of 49 refugees. Lawyers from UNHCR, DRC and SWU conducted the sessions which focused on protection and legal-related issues such as trafficking, harassment against women and documenting personal status events. 278 refugees have benefitted from 9 awareness sessions since the beginning of 2013.

**Durable solutions**

Resettlement is the main durable solution pursued by UNHCR in Syria. Since 2007, 34,939 refugees, including 32,444 Iraqis, departed on resettlement to 17 countries, including two-thirds to the USA. Most resettlement programmes have experienced significant delays in view of the prevailing situation in the country. UNHCR does not promote voluntary repatriation to Iraq but assists refugees who make a free and informed decision to return, after individual counselling.

Resettlement in 2013				
Nationality	Submissions April 2013	Submissions Total 2013	Departures April 2013	Departures Total 2013
Iraqis	224	551	553	1,295
Non-Iraqis	1	9	63	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>1,393</b>

Voluntary repatriation in 2013				
Nationality	Assisted returns April 2013	Assisted returns Total 2013	Own returns April 2013	Own returns Total 2013
Iraqis	52	320	204	800
Non-Iraqis	2	7	21	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>903</b>

Resettlement of Iraqi refugees (cumulative from 2007 to end of April 2013)		
Country	Submissions	Departures
Australia	4,955	2,395
Belgium	39	29
Canada	6,968	5,003
Denmark	20	11
Finland	1,164	663
France	102	94
Germany	2,948	2,046
Ireland	24	14
Luxemburg	38	25
Netherlands	733	255
Norway	498	225
New Zealand	438	246
Portugal	39	22
Sweden	768	486
Switzerland	74	40
UK	513	188
USA	43,832	20,702
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,153</b>	<b>32,444</b>

**UNHCR budget and funding level**

UNHCR Syria funding requirements for its regular programme (refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless) amount to USD 84.5 million. Out of this budget, Services for persons with specific needs, including financial assistance (USD 28.3 million), Food security (USD 19.3 million), Health (USD 10 million) and Education (USD 6.4 million) are the largest activities.

Syria represents 29.8% of the Iraq Situation total funding requirements (USD 283.7 million). The Iraq situation budget covers the financial needs of UNHCR operations inside Iraq and in the region for activities benefitting Iraqis of concern to UNHCR. As of the end of April, a total of USD 29.6 million has been recorded for the Iraq Situation (10.43% of total requirements).

**Countries supporting the UNHCR Syria refugee programme in 2013**

