

# External update on influx of Syrian refugees

## UNHCR Representation in Turkey

23 September 2014

### Arrivals

Over the past several days a large numbers of Syrians seek safety in Turkey. Since people started to flee on Friday 19 September, the authorities report that over 138,000 Syrians have crossed into Turkey.

UNHCR is continuing to support the response by the Turkish authorities, as it has already provided 20,000 blankets; 10,000 sleeping mats; 5,000 Jerry cans and 2,000 plastic sheeting in the first two days of the response. Turkish government authorities and UNHCR are preparing for the possibility of hundreds of thousands of more refugees arriving over the coming days, as the battle for the northern Syrian city of Kobani (or Ayn al-Arab) forces more people to flee.



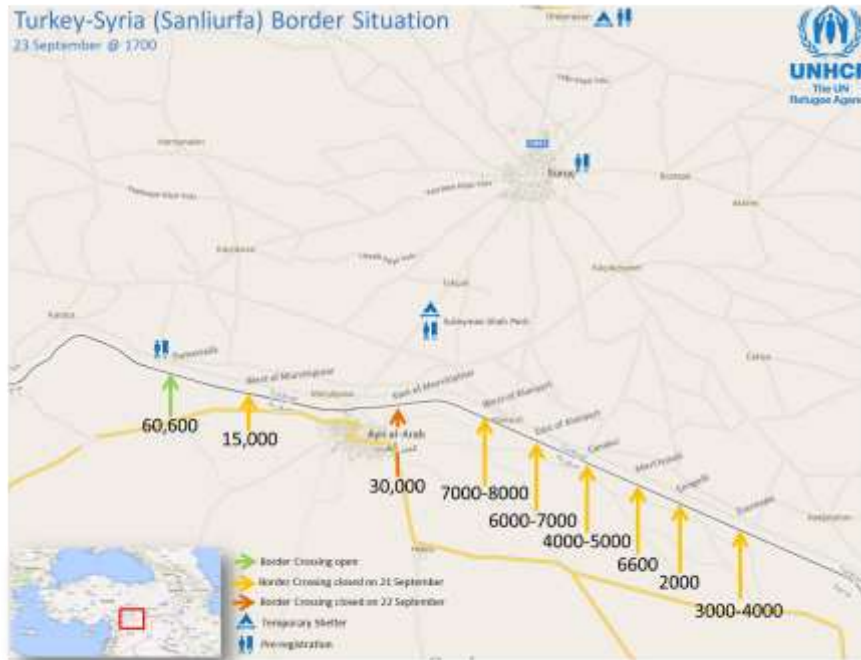
Through short profiling interviews with the refugees UNHCR has learned that while some fled because of fear of ISIS approaching, others personally witnessed attacks and atrocities. While there is not yet detailed information on the profile of the refugees, it is estimated that up to 80% of the refugees are women and children and that over 60% are

children. Up to 20% are elderly and disabled. Members of the Syrian Red Crescent reported that Kobani city seems almost empty, which has been confirmed by UNHCR's discussions with Syrian refugees; it is mostly men who stayed behind to protect their belongings and or fight ISIS.

### Crossings

More than 138,000 Syrians are reported to have arrived since Friday 19 September. Total arrivals per crossing:

- 1) Esentepe: 3000-4000 (closed on 21 September)
- 2) Çengelli: 2000 (closed on 21 September)
- 3) Mert Ismail: 6000-6600 (closed on 21 September)
- 4) Canakci - 4000-5000 (closed on 21 September)
- 5) East of Alanyurt: 6000-7000 (closed on 21 September)
- 6) West of Alanyurt: 7000-8000 (closed on 21 September)
- 7) East of Mursitpinar: 30,000 (closed on 22 September)
- 8) West of Mursitpinar: 15,000 (closed on 21 September)
- 9) Yumurtalık: 529 on 23 September (over 60,500 cumulative)



The only crossing point that is currently used, at Yumurtalık, was closed for a brief period of time due to security reasons. Reportedly, on the night of 22 September, YPG fighters approached the border and mines continue to go off on the Syrian side of the border. The border point resumed admissions on 23 September at noon for the 500-1,000

Syrians waiting and 592 people entered before it was closed again an hour later when Syrians waiting on the other side started to protest because their livestock died after waiting there for days.

### Reception and transit shelter

Hundreds of Syrians remain at the border on the Turkish side because of their livestock. An offer from the authorities of 16 TL per kg for the animals belonging to the 500 Syrians was rejected. As negotiations stalled, the authorities ordered two tankers of water for the livestock.

Families arriving continue to receive support upon arrival. New arrivals are receiving high protein biscuits and water after pre-registration because they are immediately transfer to Suleyman Shah Park where they receive further support, however several municipalities and Kızılay are also distributing food. IHH, a Turkish NGO, prepares two hot meals a day for 5,000 persons, half of them temporarily hosted in Suruç town centre.

AFAD is continues to seek a shelter solution for the estimated 50,000 refugees in need of shelter. Those who are identified to be in need of shelter are transferred to the either temporary accommodation centres at YIBO, in Onbornisan district, or at Suleyman Shah park, in Mursitpinar. Some families spoken to at YIBO boarding school mentioned they crossed four days ago, stayed with relatives in Malatya provinces, but returned to YIBO as they felt they could no longer be a burden their relatives with their needs.

### Registration

Syrians are advised to approach registration centres in the cities where they plan to go, with the copy of the pre-registration form. It is reported that they will be then registered and provided with Foreigners ID cards when their bio-metric registration is done. Pre-registration continues in 4 locations in the area:

- a. Registration desk at YIBO (Boarding school)
- b. Mobile Coordination Centre located at the yard of Namik Kemal School in Suruç town centre

- c. Mobile Coordination Centre located at Yumurtalık Crossing Point
- d. Registration Desk at Suleyman Shah Park where a temporary shelter is under construction.

Following the difficulties with pre-registration identified on the first days of the influx, Syrians not wanting to register to avoid to be sent to the camps and the lack of vulnerability assessments, UNHCR has advocated for mass information measures and vulnerability assessment of the new arrivals. Now, a team of 12 social workers, sociologists and psychologists of Sanliurfa Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Policies has been assigned to the pre-registration sites. They will conduct interviews with a detailed questionnaire, in Kurdish when necessary, to asses needs, offer psychological support and collect data on material needs for the wider response.

**Shelter**

AFAD set up 2 (transit) shelters to host 10,000 people each and people are being taken in already. UNHCR provided materials are being distributed. The transit shelter for 10,000 persons in Suleyman Shah Park in Mursitpinar (current capacity 5040), has WASH facilities and Core Relief Items provided by UNHCR. At YIBO



boarding school in Onbirisan, there are around 2,300 persons in buildings and tents and capacity to provide hot meals by IHH to 2,500. UNHCR sleeping mats and blankets are distributed to residents.

Temporary shelter at Yibo boarding school Onbirisan. Photo: UNHCR/ A.S. Baran

**UNHCR Response**

UNHCR organized coordination meetings in Gaziantep en Ankara with other UN Agencies and NGOs as part of its role as lead and coordinating UN Agency for the refugee response. In the meetings the agencies and NGOs discussed identified needs and activities planned in response.

UNHCR is organizing an airlift of key core relief items from its Global Management Stockpiles in Dubai and Copenhagen. The 1<sup>st</sup> flight out of 5 is expected in Adana Airport on Wednesday or Thursday. Comprising of five flights first one confirmed

tomorrow on the 24 September to land in Adana.

Overall with the items that UNHCR is procuring in emergency procedure the UNHCR support will encompass:

- 540,000 blankets (winterization)
- 275,000 sleeping mats
- 43,000 kitchen sets
- 20,000 plastic sheets
- 31,000 jerry cans (part already handed over)

**AFAD needs assessment**

A coordination meeting was held in the afternoon (23 September) co-chaired by Sub-governor of Suruç and the Head of AFAD's Response Department. The meeting is expected to be attended by provincial government institutions, UN agencies, national and international NGOs.

According to AFAD, among the urgently needed items remain: Food packages (dry food for the families who reside with their relatives), food, diaper for babies and bedridden, baby formula, medicine, blankets, mats / beds, hygiene kits, cleaning materials, tents, portable WC and showers and winter clothing.

UNHCR is checking on the (season's) appropriateness of 6,328 sets of clothes for children it has in stock and planning is on-going of a major procurement for winter clothes for camp and off camp based refugees which will be extended to cover in part the needs of the new-comers. Equally UNHCR is considering the procurement of diapers for babies and adults, as well as hygienic kits for up to 200,000 people.

**UNHCR needs assessment**

Despite the confirmed additional donation by the US of 20.8 million USD (pledged before the new emergency) increasing the overall earmark under the RRP6 to 25.36% from 21%, the funding gap is still close to 75%. The overall unmet needs are however much more substantial now in view of the newly arrived 138,000 Syrian refugees (23 September) whose requirements goes beyond the RRP6.

**Donor Countries of UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme for Turkey:**



**Other Donor Countries contributing to UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme in alphabetical order including un-earmarked funding:**



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