

External update on influx of Syrian refugees

21 October 2014

UNHCR Representation in Turkey

Operational Context

AFAD is planning for a new camp in Suruç for 30,000 Syrian refugees. UNHCR is in contact with AFAD top see how UNHCR can support in meeting the needs for the camp.

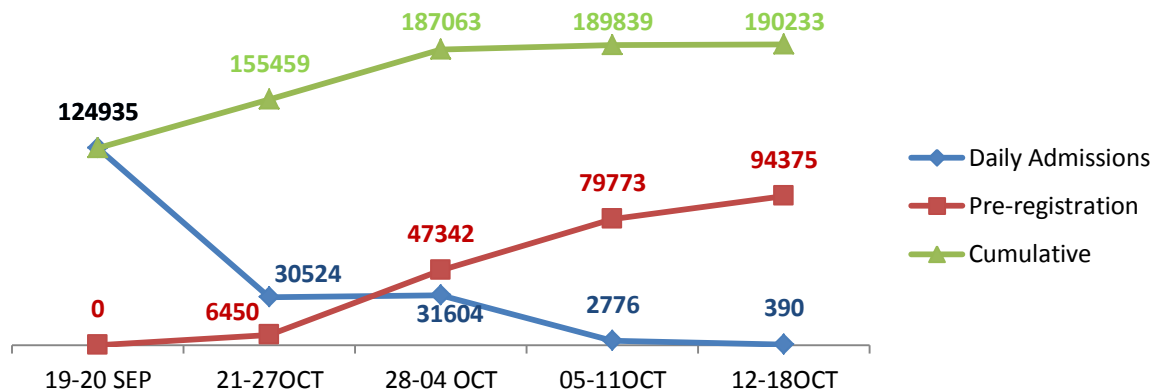
A significant challenge to the response to the recent refugee influx in Suruç is the high mobility of the population as well as the transitional nature of the current shelter arrangements. Some organizations are therefore considering designing mobile services: DRC is planning for two mobile Child Friendly Spaces and IRC is also considering to offer mobile services.

UNHCR continues to speak with refugees at the Suruç bus station and it seems that there is a decrease in the number of Syrians going to other cities since the first days of crisis. Currently the majority of those leaving the region are male family members who state that they will look for work in Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Istanbul.

Of the over 190,000 Syrian refugees who crossed into Turkey, 10,172 to date have continued their journey into Iraq's northern Kurdistan region (KR-I) according to UNHCR Iraq. The refugees continue making the 400km trip to the Ibrahim Khalil border checkpoint between Turkey and Iraq's Dohuk governorate to be admitted into refugee camps there.

Arrivals

According to AFAD 8 Syrian refugees were admitted on 15 October and 48 refugees on 16 October. There were no admissions on 17 October, 161 on 18 October while no Syrian refugees crossed the border to Turkey on 19 October. AFAD also reported that according to information received by the military authorities and confirmed by the Sub-Governorate of Suruç, the total number of individual Syrian refugees admitted to date is 190,233. AFAD published a comprehensive note on its activities in the region in which a recount of the daily admissions was presented showing a significant difference from the number of 173,885 persons it had previously reported.



Pre-registration and Registration

AFAD and DGMM officials informed UNHCR that, on 18 October, 94,375 Syrians have been pre-registered by GDMM.

UNHCR visited the Mobile Coordination Centre across Suruç Sub-governorate where biometric registration is done by the police. AFAD officials reported that 8,662 Syrians have been fully registered as of 19 October. The registered refugees are receiving a paper version of the foreigners ID card which allow for them to receive medical treatment in the area hospitals.

Protection

UNHCR met 65 women and men refugee representatives from YIBO on 16 October to discuss the current roles of the refugee committee, the current situation of refugees sheltered at YIBO School and to learn about the challenges and needs. The representatives are charged with organising food distribution, look into hygienic matters and organise the toilets cleaning, communicate the needs of the community to the managers of the centre and help solving problems within the community. The committee members informed UNHCR that the distance between the residential areas and the installed toilets is another source of concern, especially for women and children at night. They usually wake up a man to accompany them whenever they fell insecure. The committee has suggested bringing the toilets closer to the residencies.

The committee members are especially concerned about the education of their children and they suggest using one of the empty administration buildings as a space for educational activities. They have already identified a few volunteer teachers and are able to provide a list of the number of children at school age.

The committee also informed UNHCR that the last distribution of clothes did not properly address their needs. The boxes contained different sizes of clothing that did not fit all beneficiaries. The committee suggests having a common area where all boxes are received and then the committee will organise the distribution to families based on their sizes. There is need for shoes and clothing for children, baby formula, walking-sticks for the elderly, special diet for the diabetics and transport support to the registration centres.

Syrian children refugees at YIBO Photo: UNHCR/G Savas



Humanitarian coordination

UNHCR chaired the second ad-hoc Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting on 14 October in Şanlıurfa. The general situation of Syrians in Suruç region, gaps in assistance and updates from the first meetings of 01 October were presented. The attendees agreed that an updated needed items list from the Sub Governorate is essential for tracking of what has been done so far and to close gaps as fast as possible.

UNHCR held a meeting on 16 October in Ankara with the new IPs that are planned to be dealing with UNHCR CRIs distribution. Another meeting will be held on 21 October to develop the strategic operational plan, including on the identification of most vulnerable PoCs and other related aspects.

Shelter

AFAD and GDMM officials informed the Suruç Municipality about the need to improve waste collection at concentration points at the Onbir Nisan Command Post shelter. There are AFAD and IMC WASH containers with showers and latrines at the center. Syrian refugees at Onbir Nisan have raised their concern to UNHCR about the lack of transportation to health facilities. UNHCR learned that only emergency cases are being transferred to the hospital. AFAD staff is aware of the problem and is seeking a solution.

UNHCR visited the newly built municipality run shelter “Arin Mirxan”, where there are 294 tents (rub hall family type) with plans for 110 more. The foundation works for the setup of 35 latrines and 35 showers is underway.

UNHCR visited the village of “Ayhan” and met with its mukhtar. The village has around 1,800 inhabitants and around 450 Syrians (70 families) are hosted by locals as reported by the mukhtar on 16 October.

AFAD reported on 17 October there are 5,100 Syrian refugees hosted in the buildings and tents at the YIBO shelter. AFAD informed UNHCR that the area system currently in use in the camps in Turkey will also be applied to YIBO. AFAD started to set up 30 additional tents expected to be ready on the 21 October. Latrines, showers and electricity are also being set up.



A semi constructed building in Onbir nisan district, where 7 families of 35 persons are living since one month Photo UNHCR/ G. Savas

On 15 October AFAD notified UNHCR about the arrival of seven wash containers donated by IMC. There are 8 latrines and 4 showers in each container. IMC reported that they will be installing the containers over the next 10 days. The containers will be set up at the following locations: 2 containers at YIBO, 2 containers at Onbir Nisan Gendarmerie Post and 2 containers at Bulgur Factory. IMC also informed UNHCR that they plan to provide an additional 3 containers at the Wheat Market.

Health

A Health Sector coordination meeting between IMC, MSF, RI, IMC, IBC, UNICEF and UNHCR took place in Gaziantep on 14 October 2014. The WHO briefed participants on the situation in Suruç and each NGO provided an update on their activities. During the meeting, the Urfa Provincial Directorate of the Ministry of Health (MoH) informed the attendees about the 30 mobile vaccination teams set up in Urfa. The team have vaccinated 18,000 children (0-15 y/o) against polio and 6,000 children (9 months-15 y/o) against measles in the province; and notified on the presence of two mobile health teams in Suruç town and two teams in YIBO and Onbir Nisan Gendarmerie post. The MoH shared a list of drugs that are needed for the Syrian refugee population in Suruç with the participating organisations.

The Deputy Head Doctor of the Suruç State Hospital informed UNHCR on 15 October about an AFAD instruction that medical expenses and polyclinic visits of refugees who are not registered or pre-registered will not be covered, except for emergency cases.

The doctor at Onbir Nisan Temporary Accommodation Centre informed UNHCR that there are 6 doctors and 6 nurses permanently working at this centre in shifts. The doctor stated that the most common illness is fever amongst children due to malnutrition and dehydration. There are no available ambulances for emergencies, health staff either calls emergency services or use their mobile health bus to transport the patients. The doctors reported on 20 October that there is sufficient stock of medicine for child diseases, but they are lacking medicine for adults, including antibiotics and painkillers.

Distribution of Assistance

An updated list of needed items in the Suruç region from the Crisis Desk and confirmed by AFAD Coordinator and Sub Governor was published on 19 October. The list contains foam mattresses, pillows, food packages, hygiene kits (toothpaste, toothbrush, washing powder, shampoo, nail cutter, hair brushes, soap, razors, washing-up liquid, etc.), baby hygiene kits, baby formulas, cleaning tools (bucket, brush, mop, basin, etc.) and hygiene napkins. UNHCR is checking the items on the list with its own records and is following up with partners agencies.

AFAD Coordinator informed UNHCR that only pre-registered Syrians will receive core relief items; however AFAD is implementing this rule during the first round of distribution. Syrian

refugees are receiving their first delivery, but being warned that for the next round they will have to be at least pre-registered.

Eleven teams of social workers from Social Aid and Solidarity Foundation and from Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Policies are currently conducting an assessment with families prior to the distribution of relief items. UNHCR accompanied this exercise and monitored the distribution of mats, jerry cans, blankets, hygiene sets, soap, and cracked wheat packages in the village of "Ziyaret" to 50 Syrian refugee families.

The AFAD Coordinator informed UNHCR that the Sub Governorate, the Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality and TRC provide hot meals at the two AFAD temporary accommodation centers, the Bulgur Factory, the Wheat Market, the Onbirmisan District, the Culture Centre and Wedding Hall. On 14 October 63,000 hot meals had been offered to 21,000 Syrian refugees.



Syrian refugee family at Yeniyan Village
UNHCR/G. Savas

UNHCR Airlifts

The eighth and last airlift of emergency relief items has landed on 14 October early morning carrying blankets, kitchen sets and mats. In total the 8 airlifts have brought 107,525 high thermal blankets, 13,540 plastic sheets, 130,000 mats, 15,000 kitchen sets and 5 pre-fabricated warehouses.

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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