

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

5 - 11 September 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 19 September 2013.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- A first group of 107 highly vulnerable Syrian refugees will be temporarily relocated from Lebanon to Germany under a Humanitarian Admissions Programme.
- The European Commission adopted new funding this week for a total of €58 million (US\$ 77 million) to address medium and longer-term needs of both refugees from Syria and Lebanese host communities, in particular through supporting childhood and education services, enhancing basic infrastructure and promoting economic recovery.
- Due to rapidly evolving concerns about the potential escalation in people leaving Syria, humanitarian response partners have re-examined contingency plans in neighbouring countries and are preparing for an immediate response in the event of a sudden refugee influx.
- Over 60,000 refugees have arrived and been placed in nine temporary and permanent refugee camps and transit centres across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq since 15 August.

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REGIONAL FIGURES

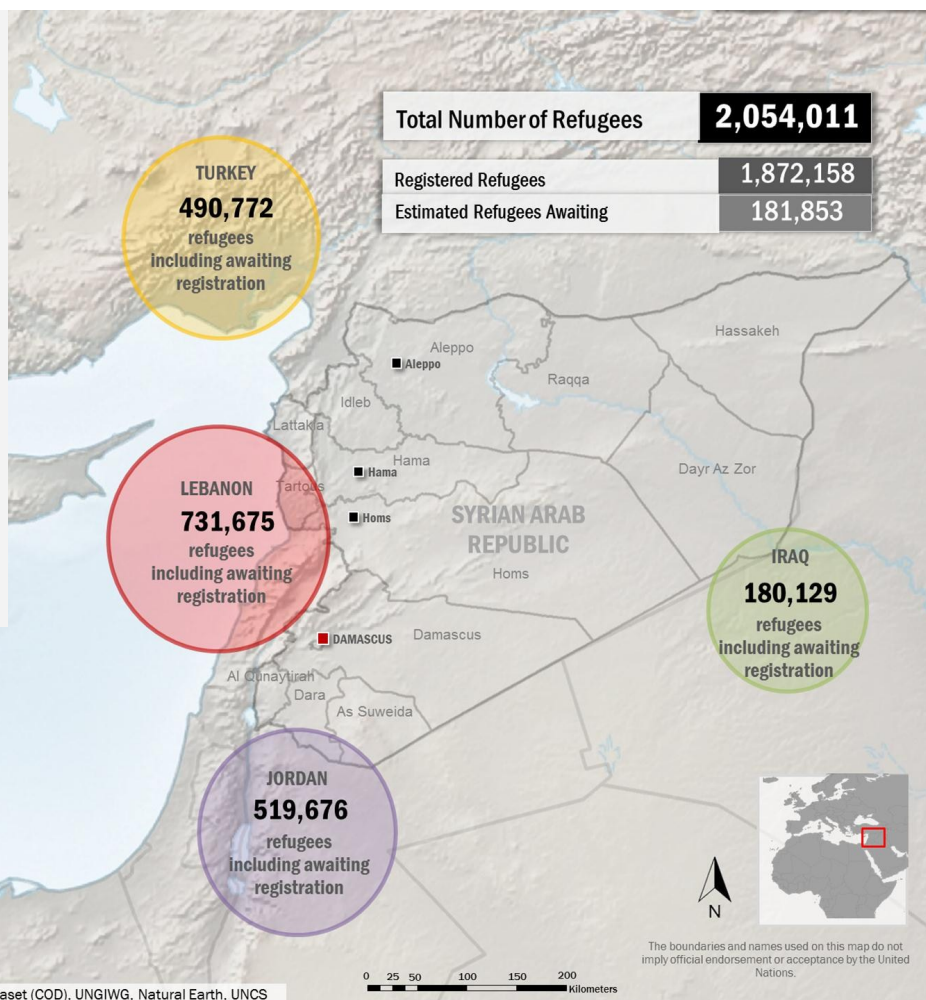
2 million refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

76% of Syrian refugee population are women and children

1.3 million Syrian and local children immunized against measles and other diseases

21 camps in **10 provinces** are hosting **200,000** Syrian refugees in Turkey

US\$ 1.7 billion funding gap in the Syria Regional Response Plan to meet the basic needs of refugees in 2013



Addressing the longer term development and stabilization needs of host countries

Increasing efforts to support host communities impacted by Syrian crisis

- Jordan - Over half a million Syrian refugees have arrived in Jordan since the beginning of the crisis, increasing the population by 11 per cent and placing enormous pressure on national resources, services and infrastructure. To support the kingdom in coping with the socioeconomic spillover effects of the Syrian crisis, the Government of Jordan this week launched a new partnership platform that will enable development actors and the donor community to scale-up measures to address Jordan's medium and longer-term development needs.
- The national platform will serve as the main forum for national and international partners to strategize, coordinate, monitor and evaluate support to local communities severely affected by the Syrian crisis.
- Socioeconomic impacts of the Syrian crisis on host communities include increased competition for job opportunities and higher living costs at the same time as wages are being driven down. The additional pressure of hosting a large number of refugees is straining scarce water resources and public services including health and education.
- For 2013, the Government has estimated the cost of accommodating Syrian refugees at US\$ 851 million, including \$380 million identified as immediate priorities.

EU adopts special measures to address pressing needs of refugee and local communities

- Lebanon - The European Commission this week adopted new funding for €58 million (US\$ 77 million) to alleviate the impact of the refugee influx from Syria by addressing medium and longer-term needs of both refugees and Lebanese host communities. The funds aim to improve childhood and education services for Syrian and Lebanese children, enhance basic infrastructure and support economic recovery.
- Lebanon is hosting more than 720,000 Syrian refugees, which comprises over 13 per cent of the population. All of Lebanon has been touched by the crisis in Syria, with refugees now scattered across 1,400 localities, most of which are in the poorest regions of the country. For 2013, the Government has appealed for US\$ 449 million to support the continuous influx.

Protracted crisis calls for comprehensive solutions

Particularly vulnerable refugees to relocate to Germany under Humanitarian Admissions Programme

- Lebanon - 107 highly vulnerable Syrian refugees are due to leave Lebanon under a Humanitarian Admissions Programme that was announced by Germany in March this year. The group is the first to be assisted by UNHCR in this process.
- The refugees will be offered cultural orientation courses – basic language training and basic information on Germany, including the school and health systems, as well as help in interacting with the local authorities. At the end of the two week period, the refugees will leave for locations across Germany.
- The programme gives relocated refugees full access to medical, educational and other social services, as well as the right to work during their stay. The residence permit issued for these refugees is for two years, with the option to extend if the situation in Syria remains unchanged.
- Germany's Humanitarian Admissions Programme provides for up to 5,000 places for Syrian refugees and is the biggest relocation programme currently in existence for the Syria crisis. UNHCR teams in the region are currently preparing additional referrals for this programme. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is involved in organizing travel, pre-medical checks, and other support.
- Resettlement of refugees, whether formal resettlement or expedited relocation as in the case with Germany's Humanitarian Admissions Programme – is a vital and potentially life-saving tool for helping particularly vulnerable refugees. Those resettled may be women and girls at risk, people with serious medical conditions, survivors of torture or others with special needs.
- UNHCR announced in June of this year in its 2013 Syria Regional Response Plan that it was seeking 10,000 places for humanitarian admission and 2,000 places for resettlement of Syrians in acute need. Since then, Germany and Austria have committed places for humanitarian admission and a number of other countries have come forward with offers of resettlement places, including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

IOM: providing livelihood assistance to Syrian refugees in Domiz camp

- Iraq - Since April 2012, IOM has provided livelihood assistance to 765 Syrian refugees in Domiz Camp where over 40,000 Syrian refugees have settled since March 2011. IOM in partnership with UNHCR provide livelihood and income generation activities in Domiz refugee camp. The livelihood project includes various activities such as the setting up of joint small businesses, on-the-job training, vocational training courses, job placements and in-kind grant packages.
- The provision of individual and community livelihood support through employment generation initiatives creates and enhances basic services in the camps and host communities. In addition, the incorporation of livelihood initiatives in emergency response is a key element of psychosocial support within the camps.
- Livelihood initiatives allow beneficiaries to engage in activities that have life-long benefits by focusing on developing useful skills for their future (re)integration. With improved skills, beneficiaries are able to achieve self-reliance and livelihood activities also assist in social integration between Syrians and their host communities.
- IOM's livelihood programs in Iraq assist Syrian refugees to gain some financial independence and stability. For many individuals it is the opportunity to learn new skills or to hone existing ones, which enable them to better support themselves and their families while they remain in Iraq.
- The program is having community-wide benefits with an increase in services provided across the camp. Some beneficiaries have expanded their businesses and are now able to employ other refugees on a full time basis.



Ahmed, a Syrian refugee living in Domiz camp, received training and tools from IOM that enabled him to expand his business and take on two employees. All in-kind grant beneficiaries receive business development services training to learn how to manage their businesses. IOM

DRC: community development and livelihood initiatives

- Lebanon - The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) aims to develop communities through activities such as vocational trainings, apprenticeship placement, recreational activities, and other small scale development projects. Last week, approximately 1,300 beneficiaries participated in activities at different community centres across the country.
- At the Halba community centre in North Lebanon, DRC recently offered a sewing workshop that was attended by 30 participants. Since children are heading back to school in a few weeks, the participants will design and sew the school uniforms for the Syrian refugee students in their local community.



Sewing workshop at the Halba Community Centre, North Lebanon. DRC | F. Faivre

Mass information: Outreach to beneficiaries in emergencies

Best practice response to a sudden mass influx

- Iraq - A mass information campaign for newly arriving refugees in Northern Iraq was put in place from very onset of a mass influx. A communication strategy had already been prepared, facilitating immediate implementation using the new UNHCR Mass Information Toolkit, which enabled field staff to produce publications on standard office computers without the need for special software or external designers.
- The mass information strategy in Northern Iraq is customized to match the profile, culture, media habits and information needs of the target audience, who possess relatively high literacy levels; are Kurdish and Arabic speaking; and display a high level of social cohesion and willingness to assist new arrivals.
- Some 150 refugee volunteers were recruited with the support of the Kurdistan Regional Government and UNHCR partner ACTED. The volunteers distributed info leaflets on Registration procedures and answers to Frequently Asked Questions in Arabic language.
- Once the volunteers complete their initial job of informing refugees face-to-face, mechanisms for ongoing refugee outreach through mass information activities will be established in all Syrian refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region.



Outreach workers informing a newly arrived family and distributing brochures. UNHCR

Increasing capacity in mass information strategy and implementation

- UNHCR conducted a series of mass information trainings in Lebanon. A total of 120 participants from humanitarian partner organizations received either basic training (outreach methodologies, use of the Mass Information Toolkit) or advanced training (devising and implementing mass information strategies) in six venues across the country.
- The workshops aim to build capacities in mass information among the humanitarian community all over the country in keeping with the reality that refugees are spread out in more than 1,400 locations.
- UNHCR is planning to conduct similar trainings tailored for the refugee populations in Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

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