

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

17 - 23 January 2014



This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 155 partners across the region.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon visited **Iraq** on 13-14 January, accompanied by the High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, and the Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos. The Secretary General expressed strong solidarity to all Syrian refugees on behalf of the UN and the international community. He also thanked the Kurdistan Regional Government for its kind generosity in hosting more than 200,000 Syrian refugees.
- The Geneva II conference took place on 22 and 24 January in Switzerland. Delegations from the Syrian government and opposition participated in talks to pursue a political settlement to the crisis.
- Extraordinary measures by UNHCR to expand registration capacity has reduced the waiting period in **Lebanon** to 25 days, the lowest average in 12 months, and eliminated waiting periods in all other countries. Lebanon remains the largest Syrian refugee-receiving country, hosting over 890,000 people - 36 per cent of the regional total.

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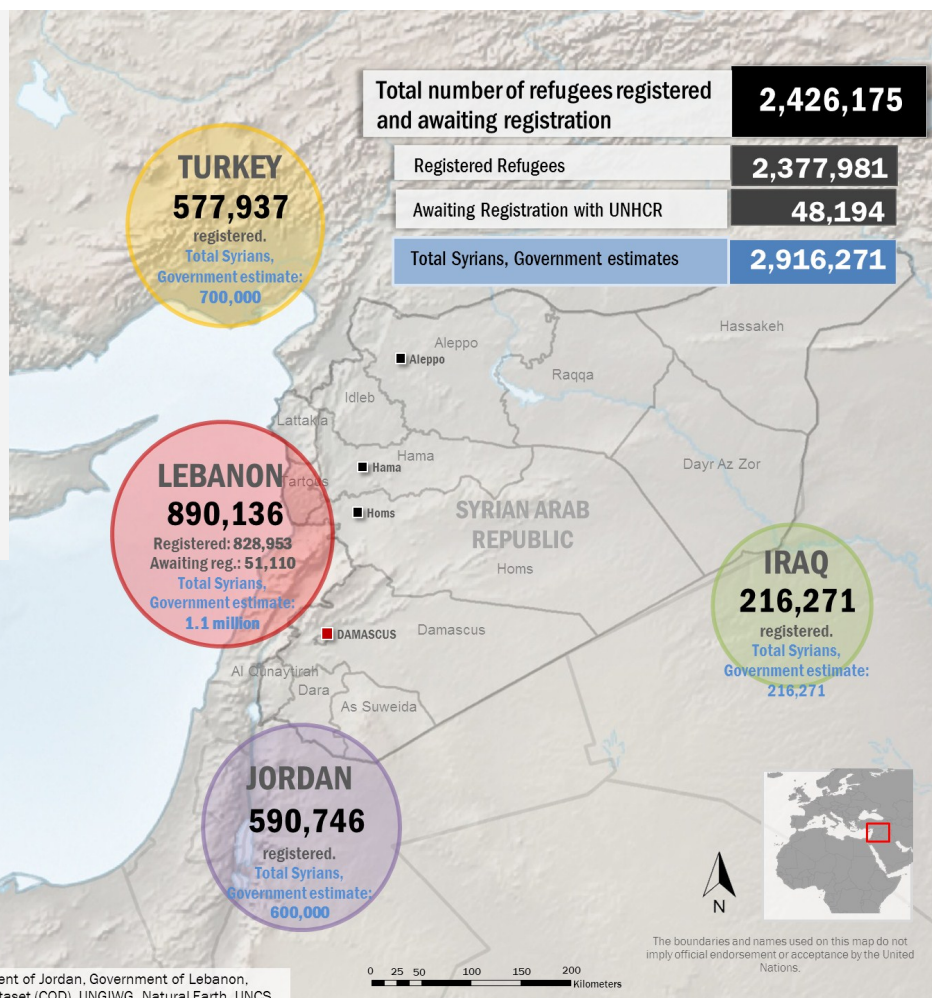
REGIONAL FIGURES

2.4 million refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

83% of refugees reside outside of camps in urban and rural communities

1.3 million refugees are under 18 years of age, **305,000** Syrian refugee children supported to enroll in formal education

1.38 million refugees assisted with food in December 2013



UNHCR: TARGETED CASH ASSISTANCE SCALED UP FOR NON-CAMP REFUGEES

- **Turkey** - UNHCR has begun distributing cash assistance to vulnerable non-camp Syrian families in five provinces (Kilis, Gaziantep, Nizip, Reyhanli and Yayladagi) through partner Kimse Yok Mu, a local non-governmental organization. Assistance is delivered through a bank card.
- Cash assistance will be rolled out to other Turkish provinces hosting large number of non-camp Syrian refugees. UNHCR is finalizing the Standard Operating Procedures for cash-based assistance in Turkey to ensure quality and consistency in implementation.
- UNHCR is currently implementing cash assistance programmes in all five main Syrian refugee-receiving countries in the region. In 2013, more than 199,500 vulnerable families (over 800,000 individuals) benefitted from monthly or one-off cash assistance provided by UNHCR, to the value of over US\$ 75 million.
- Over 83% of Syria refugees in the region reside in urban or rural areas amongst host communities. High costs of living, lack of job opportunities and rapidly dwindling resources are making life increasingly difficult for refugees living outside camps.
- In response, humanitarian partners are seeking to maintain and support local services to meet the needs of refugees and the local community, who are experiencing the strain of accommodating and supporting the continuous influx. Partners are working to identify the most vulnerable and target them with income generation, assistance programs, documentation and other programs to assist people in meeting their basic needs.
- Cash grants give vulnerable households some reprieve in extremely difficult circumstances. With the number of refugees potentially eligible for cash assistance increasing rapidly, programs are being scaled up across the region to meet urgent needs.

MEDAIR: SUPPORTING REFUGEES WITH CORE RELIEF ITEMS AND ASSISTANCE

- Medair has been working to respond to the needs of families in Lebanon and Jordan. Shelter kits and non-food items have been distributed and winter assistance is being provided through structural repairs for families living in substandard apartments.
- **Lebanon** - Medair has distributed nearly 6,000 kits in 2013. An additional 2,000 shelter kits and 2,700 winterization kits will be distributed by the end of March 2014. Medair also works in 60 informal settlements to improve the sanitation and drainage throughout these communities. Engineers have specifically designed



Medair | M. Fraga

- projects for each site to control sanitation issues through drainage ditches, sandbagging, rubbish collection, and soakaways. Due to the informal nature of the settlements in the Bekaa, Medair has been using GIS technology to map and collect data on all settlements in the Central and West Bekaa. Maps are shared via UNHCR coordination mechanisms and made available to other humanitarian actors and stakeholders. In collaboration with UNCHR, Medair is conducting a formal flooding assessment and piloting several methods to raise tents in low-lying areas to mitigate flood damage.
- **Jordan** - Medair has been providing refugee families with cash for rent and is modifying the project to provide unconditional cash for winter assistance in the coming months. In response to the risk of malnutrition, Medair, working with JHAS, is screening 60 per cent of all mothers and children in the northern Jordanian governorates for malnutrition. The screening is accompanied by education on the importance of breastfeeding, surveillance for communicable diseases, and clinic treatment and support.

ENHANCING LINKAGE BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

- Increased convergence between the humanitarian and development interventions is anticipated as the Syria crisis becomes increasingly protracted. The 2014 Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP6), which addresses the needs of both Syrian refugees and affected host communities, contains an increased focus on social cohesion and community support interventions.
- Promoting resilience and capacity building is an important element of the RRP6, for which the requirement is some US\$ 151 million in the first six months alone. It is designed to complement longer-term development interventions upon which stabilization processes in the region will largely depend.
- Existing coordination mechanisms such as the Host Community Task Force in Lebanon and the Host Community Support Platform in Jordan will be used to identify opportunities for promoting coordination and integrating the support provided to national and local authorities by humanitarian and development agencies.
- Humanitarian agencies have already delivered useful support to Government counterparts, local municipalities and communities in critical areas such as water and sanitation, health, education, small scale infrastructure, solid waste management, equipment and budget support.
- Lebanon - a number of immediate measures corresponding to Track 1 of the Government's National Stabilization Roadmap interventions, which are designed to provide direct support to government institutions and communities most impacted by the refugee influx, are included in the RRP6.
- Jordan - The World Bank Group has provided emergency assistance to strengthen social services. Two emergency projects to help the country bolster strained services to Jordanians have been approved: \$150 million in emergency aid to support Jordan's health care system as well as helping households facing rising prices for food and housing; and \$50 million in grants to local municipalities to strengthen service delivery.

ACTED: PROVIDING EMERGENCY AID TO OVER ONE MILLION REFUGEES

- Throughout 2013, ACTED provided emergency aid to some 200,000 refugees every day, supporting over one million refugees, host communities and local authorities in three countries.
- **Jordan** - ACTED reached over 150,000 refugees and Jordanians living in both refugee camps and in Jordanian communities with life-saving support. When Zaatari Camp was at its peak, hosting 120,000 refugees, 4.2 million litres of drinking water were provided daily and over 900 daily workers were employed each week to clean public spaces. Essential hygiene items were distributed to all families and ACTED worked with individuals, communities, and schools on hygiene awareness. Outside camps, ACTED worked in the governorates of Mafraq, Irbid, Ajloun and Jerash supplying refugees and Jordanians with winter supplies, shelter rehabilitations (with a focus on water and sanitation), hygiene items and cash support.
- **Iraq** - In the Kurdistan Region, some 12,000 Syrian children living in Domiz Camp were provided with child protection services. ACTED also worked on the site planning and development of over nine new camps across the region after the sudden influx of refugees in August 2013. Since then, ACTED manages two camps in Erbil, Darashakran and Kawergosk. In preparation for winter, some 30,000 refugees in five camps were supplied with food and basic house items in the Erbil and Suleymaniyah Governorates.
- **Lebanon** - ACTED supported 1.14 million Syrians and Lebanese in the Mount Lebanon and Akkar regions, ensuring over 20,000 people had access to shelter, water, and cash assistance, particularly during the harsh winter. Additionally, ACTED reached over one million people through the provision of equipment, infrastructure, and technical training to local authorities in refugee hosting communities – enabling them to rehabilitate schools, municipal infrastructure and provide basic WASH services.



Children playing with plastic sheets following ACTED/UNHCR distribution of core relief items in Kawergosk camp, northern Iraq. ACTED | G. van der Esch

STOPPING THE OUTBREAK OF POLIO IN THE REGION

- Given the detection of wild poliovirus in Syria, the frequency of population movements across the region and the immunization level in key areas, the risk of further international spread of polio is considered to be high. A comprehensive outbreak response led by WHO and UNICEF is being implemented across the region to stop the circulation of the virus by the end of March 2014.
- The Strategic Plan for Polio Outbreak Response targets more than 22 million children aged under five years in seven countries and territories, including in the five main Syrian refugee-hosting countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The primary goal is to ensure that oral polio vaccine is urgently delivered into all communities.
- A surveillance alert for the entire region has been issued, and efforts are ongoing to strengthen surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis, the most common sign of acute polio. Extensive social mobilization activities are being scaled up, to further build on a history of strong community participation for immunization services across the region.
- A critical challenge will be to access all children and the outbreak response will be conducted within the broader humanitarian response effort to the Syrian crisis including in refugee camps and host communities. Effective coordination with governments, international humanitarian organizations, UN agencies, national Red Crescent societies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and broader civil society forms a critical aspect of the plan.



Darashakran camp in the Kurdistan Region, Northern Iraq.

UNHCR | L. Viede

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 155 participating organizations, including 105 appealing agencies:

ABAAD | [ACTED](#) | ActionAid | [Action contre la faim](#) | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | [Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance](#) | Al Majmoua | [AMAN](#) | AMEL | [Arab Medical Union](#) | Arc en Ciel | [ARDD-Legal Aid](#) | Association de Charité Humanitaire | [Association Justice et Miséricorde](#) | Association of Volunteers in International Service | [BBC Media Action](#) | Beyond Association | [British Council](#) | CARE International | [Caritas](#) | Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center | [Catholic Relief Services](#) | Central Association for Kindergarten Supervisors League | [Centre for Victims of Torture](#) | Civil Development Organization | [Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli](#) | CONCERN | [Cooperazione Internazionale](#) | Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services | [DRC](#) | Family Guidance and Awareness Center | [FAO](#) | Finn Church Aid | [Finnish Red Cross/Iraqi Red Crescent Society](#) | Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura | [GIZ](#) | Global Communities Partners for Good | [Gruppo di Volontariato Civile](#) | Handicap International | [Heartland Alliance International](#) | High Relief Commission | [Hilfswerk Austria International](#) | Human Relief Foundation | [Humedica](#) | ILO | [Institution for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation](#) | International Alert | [International Catholic Migration Commission](#) | International Children's Continence Society | [International Medical Corps](#) | International Orthodox Christian Charities | [International Relief and Development](#) | International Rescue Committee | [Internews](#) | INTERSOS | [IOM](#) | Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project | [Iraqi Youth League](#) | Islamic Relief Worldwide | [JBA](#) | JEN | [Jesuit Refugee Service](#) | Jordan Health Aid Society | [Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization](#) | Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development | [Jordan Red Crescent](#) | Jordan River Foundation | [Jordanian Women's Union](#) | KAFA | [KG](#) | KnK | [KURDS](#) | Lutheran World Federation | [MADA](#) | Madrasati Initiative | [Mines Advisory Group](#) | Mahmoud Mosque Society | [Makassed](#) | Makhzoumi Foundation | [Medair](#) | Medical Aid for Palestinians | [Médecins du Monde](#) | Mercy Corps | [Mercy USA](#) | Ministry of Public Health | [Ministry of Water and Irrigation](#) | Movement for Peace | [Muslim Aid](#) | NAJMAH | [National Center for Culture and Arts](#) | NICCOD | [NRC](#) | Operation Mercy | [Organization for the Development of Women and Children](#) | Oxfam | [PEOPLE IN NEED](#) | Plan International | Polish Center for International Aid | [Psycho Social Training and Services Institute in Cairo](#) | PU-AMI | [Public Aid Organization](#) | QANDIL | [Questscope](#) | Rassemblement Democratique des Femmes du Liban | [Relief International](#) | Refugee Education Trust | [Refugee Egypt](#) | Resala | [RESCATE](#) | RESTART | [Royal Health Awareness Society](#) | Safadi Foundation | [SAWA](#) | SCI KR-I | [SCI](#) | SCJ | [Search for Common Ground](#) | Secours Islamique France | [Seraphim GLOBAL](#) | SHEILD | [Solidar Suisse](#) | Solidarités International | [Soins infirmiers et développement communautaire](#) | St. Andrew's Refugee Education Service | [STEP](#) | TADAMON | [Taghyeer](#) | TDH | [TDHI](#) | THW | [TRIANGLE GH](#) | UAE Red Crescent | [UNAMI](#) | UN Women | [UNDP](#) | UNESCO | [UNFPA](#) | UN-Habitat | [UNHCR](#) | UNICEF | [UNOPS](#) | Un Ponte Per | [UNRWA](#) | WAAJC | [War Child UK](#) | War Child Holland | [WARVIN](#) | WFP | [WHO](#) | World Rehabilitation Fund | [World Vision International](#) | Young Man's Christian Association | [Y-PEER](#)

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