

# External Update on influx of Syrian refugees

UNHCR Representation in Turkey

30 September 2014

## UNHCR Response

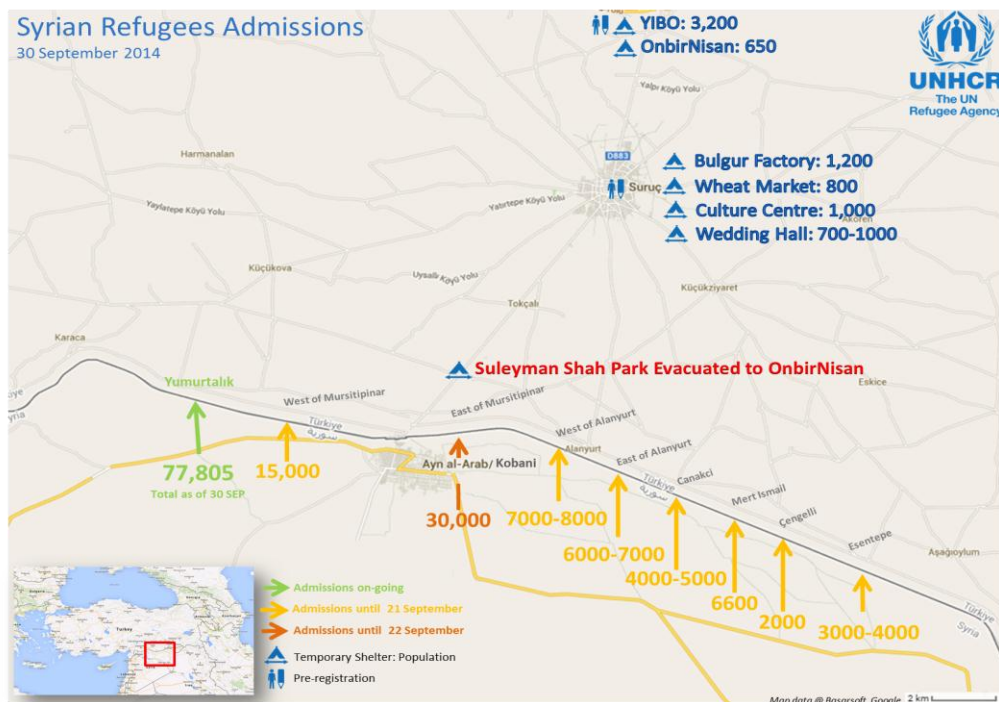
The fifth airlift has landed on 30 September early afternoon carrying 27,000 mats.

UNHCR met with the coordinator of AFAD for the Suruç region and the AFAD warehouse coordinator to discuss the distribution of UNHCR donated relief items. The objective of the meeting was to make sure the distribution mechanisms in place guarantees an accurate and effective distribution of items to all persons of concern.

## Arrivals and Returns

AFAD personnel working at the Yumurtalık crossing border reported that 6,350 Syrians were admitted on 29 September and, as of 30 September early afternoon, 1,038 refugees were reportedly admitted. According to the data shared by the authorities the total number of arrivals through this crossing point is currently 77,805. The current total newly arrived refugees as estimated by the authorities is 159,695.

The Deputy Governorate informed UNHCR that around 5,000 Syrians re-entered Turkey on 29 September. This group of people had already been formally admitted in the country, but decided to return to Syrian to collect personal belongings.



## Registration

On 30 September by noon the total number of pre-registered refugees reached 30,656 persons.

## Shelter

Following the explosion of mortar shells on Turkish territory AFAD has decided to move all refugees staying in the Suleyman Shah Park shelter, which is located close to the border, to a new shelter area at a Gendarmerie post in OnbirNisan (which is the same location as the YIBO Boarding School), close to Suruc. The new building has 59 office rooms and 15 tents will be put up in the yard. At the end of the afternoon three tents had already been set up and this evening the new shelter

should be ready. The evacuation will take place on the evening of 30 September or in the morning of 1 October.

At YIBO, AFAD officials declared the number of refugees been sheltered at 3,200.

Thirty new families arrived at Avesta Wedding Hall on the night of 29 September raising to 700-1,000 the estimated number of refugees staying at this location. While the sanitation issues are being addressed at the Wedding Hall, women and men are offered the possibility of taking showers at the hamam in separate groups.

### **Protection**

On 29 September, the UNHCR met with refugees from different age groups through the Suruç area to find out more about their needs and explore possible ideas on psycho-social activities.

At Suleyman Shah Park UNHCR met with refugee women in tents and in common areas. All women the team met confirmed that they fled because of fear of ISIS. A common fear that was expressed by refugees is that ISI will attack Turkey as well. They all expressed that their main wish was to be able to go back to their home as soon as possible. They feel generally secure in Turkey mostly because they remain close to their family and acquaintances. Education for children is the main concern expressed by parents. Health facilities are accessible and known by the refugee women. Clothes are requested, especially for children.

All women expressed the need for activities for their children, while a few expressed their interest in learning Turkish. UNHCR encouraged the women interviewed to take their children to UNICEF's Child Friendly Space's activities. The Team underlined that the Youth Worker is both an Arabic and Kurdish speaker and competent to work with children including those with special needs.

At YIBO School, the team met with a group of boys between 5-9 years. Most of the boys stated that they were still going to school while in Syria, until they had to flee to Turkey. Teenagers UNHCR spoke with asked about the establishment of a school and about accreditation of their Syrian education. The UNHCR Team informed them about the policies of access to education for Syrian children in Turkey.

UNHCR also met with a group of elderly men staying at YIBO School. When asked about their main concerns, a few men complained about the unequal distribution of food and not being able to queue, and therefore not having regular access to food. UNHCR Team will discuss this issue with the AFAD Management at YIBO. The men also mentioned the need for clothes for all age groups.

#### **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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