

# INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

22 - 28 August 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 5 September 2013.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 1.4 million refugees have fled Syria in 2013 alone. Children make up over half of the refugee population and there are now more than **one million** Syrian refugee children in the region.
- In collaboration with government counterparts, UN agencies and partners, UNHCR is updating its contingency plan in refugee-hosting countries in light of recent events.
- Humanitarian response partners are prioritizing **winterization** plans, including the provision of plastic sheeting, stoves, fuel vouchers, blankets and other needed items.
- Iraq - An estimated **47,000 Syrians** have crossed into Kurdistan Region since 15 August. The severe heat along with access to adequate shelter, food, water and sanitation continue to be among the most critical concerns among the new arrivals.
- Lebanon - The **volatile security** situation across the country continue to impact programmes and hinder humanitarian access to some areas, mainly in northern Bekaa and Wadi Khaled.

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## REGIONAL FIGURES

**1.97 million** refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

**1 million** refugee children

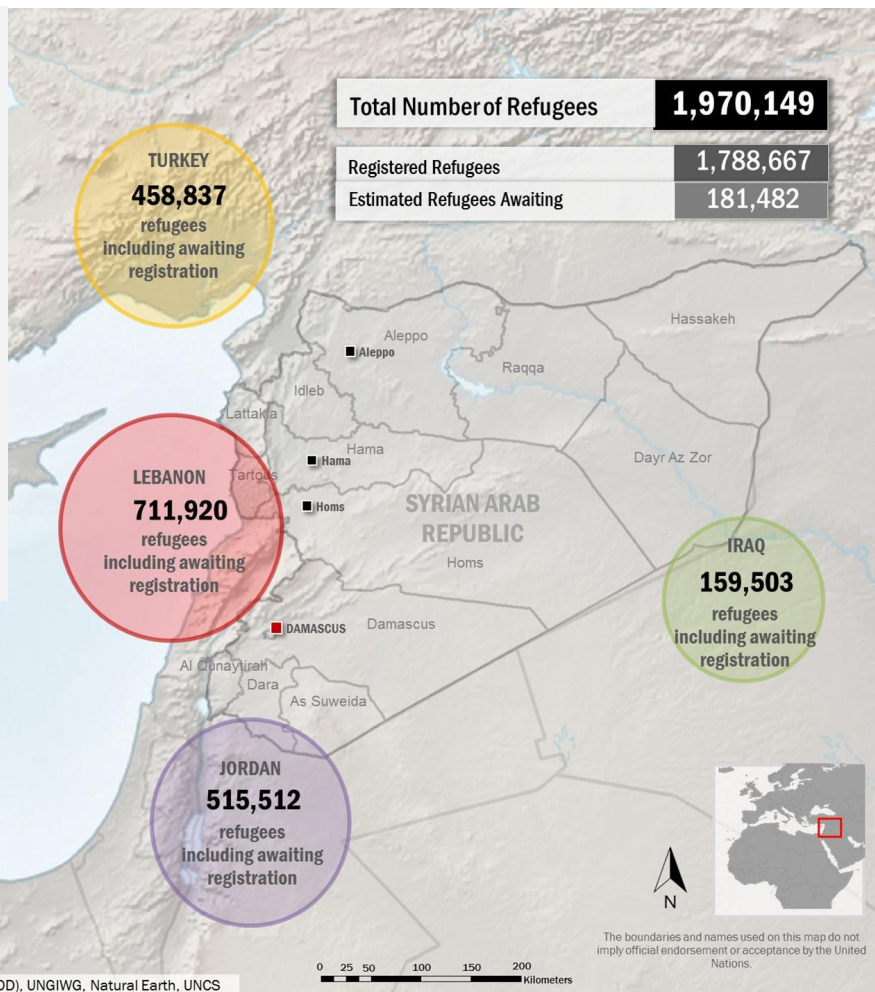
**51.6%** of the refugee population are under 18 years of age

**167,000** refugee children have received psychosocial assistance

**42 metric tons** of high energy biscuits,

**15 metric tons** of special nutritional bars and

**340** UNNCR tents airlifted by WFP to Iraq to respond to the mass influx



### Iraq: Responding to 47,000 new arrivals

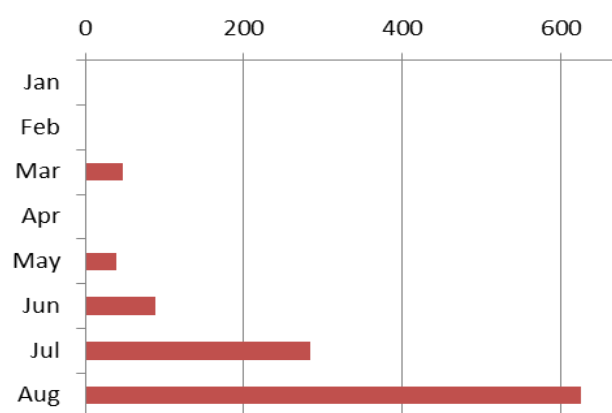
- An estimated 47,000 Syrians are reported to have crossed into Kurdistan Region through Peshkhabour and Sahela border crossings since 15 August 2013. The new arrivals are accommodated in three temporary locations in Erbil (Kawergosk, Qushtapa and Basirma) and in schools, a mosque and a public library in Sulemaniyah.
- The severe heat along with shelter, food, water and sanitation continue to be among the most critical concerns among the new arrivals.
- **Shelter** - The Governor of Erbil has given approval for the Kawergosk site to be developed into a longer-term camp with a capacity of 20,000 people. This is in addition to Darashakran camp, which will also have a capacity of 20,000 and will be ready to accommodate refugees in the coming weeks. Kawergosk is currently accommodating some 15,000 people and tents have been distributed to all families.
- **Food and core relief** - A WFP-chartered flight delivered 42 metric tons of high energy biscuits and 15 metric tons of special nutritional bars, in addition to 340 UNHCR tents to Erbil. As of 27 August, UNHCR has dispatched some 4,225 family tents, 2,051 core relief item kits, 158 mobile latrines, 161 showers and six water tanks among other items to various locations accommodating new Syrian arrivals.
- **Child protection** - UNHCR, UNICEF, IRC and ACTED are working to assist separated and unaccompanied children at the border. Over the week, more than 20 refugee children who were temporarily separated from their parents during flight and at the border were identified and reunited with their families. More than 150 separated and unaccompanied children who fled their country without their parents were identified and assisted. In addition, five children were reunited with relatives in Domiz camp.
- **WASH** - UNICEF is increasing the accessibility of fresh water in Kawergosk camp and other transit sites by procuring and delivering additional water tanks.



The Kawergosk camp will soon have capacity to host 20,000 people. UNHCR

### Egypt emerging trend: Increasing requests for refugee file closures to enable departure

- UNHCR continues to receive and register Syrians in Egypt but there has been a recent spike in the number of Syrians closing their files in order to depart the country. During the week of 19-25 August, 358 individuals closed their files, compared to 284 cases in the whole month of July.
- Most of the Syrians closing their files have cited anxiety, insecurity and diminished livelihood opportunities as reasons for wanting to depart Egypt. Since the beginning of July, approximately 280 Syrians have been arrested, of which around 140 are currently in detention. Others have been released or deported. The majority of the arrests occurred over the past two weeks for not having residency permits, not adhering to the curfew, attempting to leave the country illegally, or on suspicions of violence.
- UNHCR has assigned lawyers to provide legal assistance for a number of cases. However, UNHCR has been experiencing a decreased level of access since the state of emergency was imposed on 14 August.
- UNHCR is drafting standard operating procedures to expedite the requests for file closures and is operating hotlines for inquiries. In tandem with the Syrian community, UNHCR is also distributing flyers urging all Syrians to abide by Egyptian laws and regulations, including refraining from participating in political activities and demonstrations. Syrians have also been advised to carry their passport and UNHCR registration card with them at all times and ensure their residency permits are up to date.



Monthly file closures processed by UNHCR for Syrian refugees in 2013.

## One million Syrian refugee children

- The number of refugee children in the region has now reached one million. Children make up more than half of all refugees fleeing the Syria conflict and some 740,000 are children under the age of 11.
- **Achievements** - More than 1.3 million children in refugee and host communities in neighbouring countries have been vaccinated against measles this year with the support of UNICEF and its partners. Nearly 167,000 refugee children have received psychosocial assistance; more than 118,000 children have been able to maintain their education inside and out of formal schools.
- **Challenges** - UNHCR and UNICEF have highlighted child labour, early marriage and the potential for sexual exploitation and trafficking as threats to refugee children. More than 3,500 children in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq have crossed Syria's borders either unaccompanied or separated from their families.

## Governments and partners working together to ensure access to education in new school year

• With the new school term starting in late September, back-to-school campaigns are being implemented across the region. Partners are working with government authorities to establish new schools and introduce double shifts to meet the needs of Syrian students.

• **Jordan** - A back to school campaign was launched on 12 August to increase school enrolment. Campaigners have reached more than 35,720 households in camps and host communities. UNICEF and the Ministry of Education conducted a 3-day field capacity assessment of 78 of the most crowded schools in five governorates. Recommendations made include implementing double shifts at 29 schools and providing prefabricated classrooms to ten schools.

• **Lebanon** - Humanitarian partners are finalizing the education programme for both

Syrian and Lebanese children for the coming academic year. The Ministry of Education, UNHCR, UNICEF and partners are working to introduce afternoon shifts – an approach that has successfully been piloted in Aarsal last year - in 70 public schools in Lebanon. Currently, 16,369 students are attending the summer education programmes in schools, community centres, and informal tented settlements to prepare for the beginning of the new school year. Summer programmes include Accelerated Learning Programmes, basic non-formal education for literacy, reading and numeracy and remedial classes to ensure school readiness for Syrian children.

• **Egypt** - Over 12,000 Syrian students are enrolled in public and private schools supervised by the Ministry of Education. Syrian students were previously given the same access as Egyptians to public schools. For future enrolments, the Government of Egypt has announced that Syrians students will fall under the same general provisions for foreigners. For enrolment in public schools, the applicants will need a UNHCR letter advising that the child is registered as a refugee and the results of an assessment by UNHCR and partners citing a family's lack of financial resources to enrol their child(ren) in private school.

• **Iraq** - Three new schools are under construction in Domiz camp. Upon completion, 1,500 Syrian refugees children can be enrolled to receive formal education from grades one through to nine, covering children aged 6-15. Government authorities, UNICEF and partners are also working to establish schools and spaces to provide activities for children at the sites recently established to cater to the new arrivals in the Kurdistan Region.

• **Turkey** - In preparation for the new academic year, AFAD will be providing a prefabricated school with in Adiyaman Camp. UNICEF, UNHCR and UNFPA are working on the development and roll-out of libraries in the camps, including the supply of books. A back-to-school shoe distribution campaign was launched on 15 August to distribute 80,000 pairs of shoes to children in all camps through the Turkish Red Crescent Society. The distribution of shoes was provided to encourage children to attend school and provide additional protection as the weather gets colder.



Children playing in a UNICEF/Save the Children Child Friendly Space in Za'atri camp, Jordan.  
UNHCR | J. Kohler



## Shelter: New camps and improved measures to address the needs of the most vulnerable

- **Lebanon** - Response partners have developed a tool to help identify persons who are at risk of being evicted from their accommodations. By more rapidly identifying persons at risk of eviction, agencies will be better able to develop strategic responses to improve tenure security, including negotiating on their behalf or finding alternative shelter if necessary.
- **Turkey** - Local officials in Sanliurfa informed UNHCR that the camp in Viransehir is completed and ready to receive refugees. The camp has a reported capacity of 18,000 persons.
- **Jordan** - More than 4,200 refugees are living in the Emirates Jordan Camp, reaching its capacity. An expansion of the camp will commence in the coming weeks to accommodate an additional 5,000 people. A new camp, Azraq, is nearing completion and is scheduled to be opened in early September. The camp will be managed by the Government of Jordan's Syrian Refugee Camp Department and supported by UNHCR and other response partners.

### Refugee Voices: DRC's response for new arrivals in Lebanon

*Mohammad fled his hometown in southwestern Syria with his wife, Zeina, and four young children four months ago. He is now living in a collective shelter in South Lebanon. "We only came with the clothes that we were wearing that day. It was too risky to take any luggage with us," Mohammad says.*

*In partnership with Shield, a local NGO, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) assessed and assisted his family with a newcomer's kit consisting of mattresses, blankets, a kitchen set and a hygiene kit before they were able to register with UNHCR.*

*"I feel lucky to have a shelter for my family but it's really difficult to cope with this situation as I am still unemployed", Mohamad added. He is relying on the humanitarian assistance and on the generosity of his neighbors. "My neighbor is a doctor and provided us with some antibiotics for my children".*

*DRC reaches more than a third of newcomer families to Lebanon every month through this project.*



*Mohammad's three daughters, South Lebanon. DRC | A. Grozdev*

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](mailto:kinga@unhcr.org), UNHCR Regional Reporting Officer | [kinga@unhcr.org](mailto:kinga@unhcr.org)