



SYRIAN REFUGEES

INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL UPDATE

18 September 2014

KEY FIGURES

3 million

Syrian refugees have fled to neighbouring countries and North Africa

1.8 million

Refugees and vulnerable members of impacted communities are receiving food assistance in 2014

1.2 million

People have been provided with access to safe drinking water in 2014

795,000

People have benefited from shelter assistance in camp and non-camp settings in 2014

700,000

People have benefited from the distribution of basic household and core relief items in 2014

FUNDING

USD 3.7 billion

requested for the situation



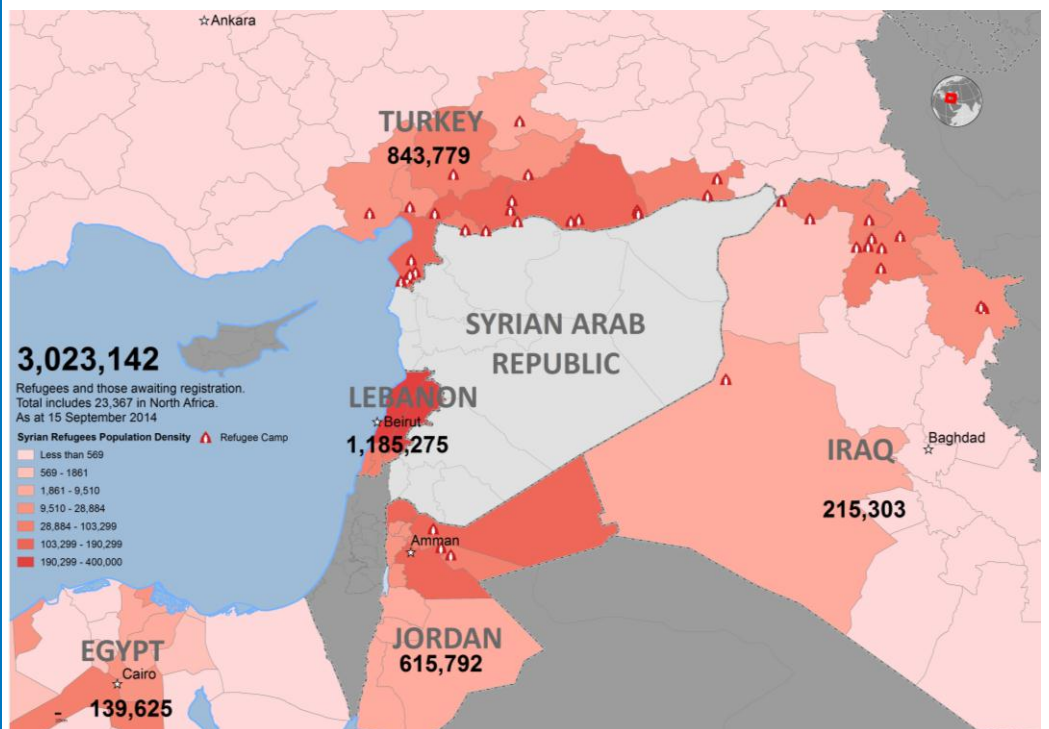
PRIORITIES

- 2015-2016 planning
- Winterization for 1.5 million vulnerable refugees including the distribution/ replacement of winter relief items, upgrades to shelter and seasonal cash allowances

HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP is scaling back food assistance for Syrian refugees across the region from October as a result of funding shortfalls. Both the number of beneficiaries and the value of food vouchers will be reduced. As an example, monthly food assistance to around 440,000 Syrian refugees living in towns and villages in Jordan will be reduced from \$34 to \$16.
- UNHCR and UNDP are co-leading the inter-agency planning process for the 2015-16 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). The 3RP builds upon the Comprehensive Regional Strategy Framework and will articulate a plan to meet immediate refugee protection and assistance needs, strengthen resilience and, through these efforts and linkages to national plans, support regional stability.
- Tension between refugee and local communities across Lebanon are heightened following recent fighting in the border town of Arsal and the killing of captive Lebanese service personnel by armed groups. The Government of Lebanon agreed on 11 September to establish pilot camps to accommodate approximately 20,000 Syrians along the Syria-Lebanon border.
- The current situation in Iraq is impacting on access to services for all population groups including Syrian refugees. In addition, direct access to Al Obaidy camp and Syrian refugees in urban areas in Al Qa'im, Anbar Governorate of Iraq, has been restricted since mid-June due to insecurity. Local partners continue to run services for refugees and distribute assistance.

A total of **3 million** people of concern



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Insecurity and violence continue to spread in Syria and across the region. The Syria operation is now the largest in UNHCR's 64-year history. Close to 90,000 Syrians have been registered on average each month this year.

Humanitarian needs remain enormous. Government services and local communal services are under strain due to the increased demand, impacting service quality for both refugees and nationals, and threatening social cohesion and stability.

Some 400,000 refugees are accommodated in refugee camps, and outside of camps, it is estimated that 38 per cent live in sub-standard shelter. More than 1.5 million refugees need support to prepare for the winter, and 1.7 million refugees currently require food assistance.

Over 150 agencies and aid groups, together with the governments of neighbouring countries, are working together to protect Syrian refugees and assist them with meeting their basic needs, improve access to education and medical care, and provide basic goods such as tents, food and safe WASH facilities.

Humanitarian partners project that there will be 3.59 million refugees by December 2014 and annual budget requirements of \$3.74 billion, which remains 56 per cent unfunded. Donors have contributed more than \$4.1 billion to successive regional response plans since 2012. However, \$2 billion more is needed by the end of 2014 to meet the basic needs of vulnerable refugees.

Protection

LEBANON

- The final flight for the 2013 German Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP) departed safely on 9 September 2014, with 196 people on board. This brings the total number of individuals who have departed under the HAP programme to 3,796.
- In recent weeks, UNRWA conducted a headcount and comprehensive vulnerability assessment of all Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) recorded with the Agency in Lebanon, to facilitate better planning and utilisation of resources. Results of the assessment indicate that there are 42,000 individuals in Lebanon.

JORDAN

- 14,348 PRS and their families have approached UNRWA for assistance in Jordan. Most PRS in Jordan live in poverty and their precarious legal status creates difficulties for civil processes, access to services and employment.

EGYPT

- During 2014, around 959 Syrians have been arrested for attempting to irregularly depart Egypt, including some 430 children and 241 women. However, as part of a positive trend, Egyptian authorities have been conducting regular releases of individuals from detention shortly after their arrest. Those released have immediate relatives in Egypt. Authorities are issuing three-month residency permits to Syrians who are being released. UNHCR's partners, Caritas and Resala, have been providing emergency assistance to detainees in the form of food, blankets and medical care.
- UNHCR and Save the Children are implementing a project on secondary movement to raise awareness on irregular departures. The project, coupled with activities that include livelihoods and co-existence elements, aims to further discourage irregular departures by boat.
- On August 26, CARE Egypt has conducted a special session on art therapy with a group of 46 participants as part of four consecutive psychosocial sessions conducted on weekly basis in Obour. The sessions offer participants the space to share their concerns and identify a way to deal with their daily stress and frustration in order to avoid using violence against their family members.

 Education
LEBANON

- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), in cooperation with UNICEF, UNHCR and partners, will facilitate the enrollment of 30,000 Syrian students in the first school shift in the new school year. UNHCR and UNICEF will also facilitate the enrolment of 9,000 vulnerable Lebanese students in need of education support.
- UNHCR and UNICEF, in close coordination with MEHE, are committed to running a second school shift in the afternoon, a practice that was successfully launched last year in Lebanon. The second school shift will accommodate 57,000 Syrian students.
- UNICEF, UNHCR and humanitarian partners are identifying alternative premises to be equipped to offer the non-formal education programme in coordination with local institutions and communities.
- 7,530 PRS students are enrolled in UNRWA schools in Lebanon. Sixty-seven per cent attend special classes for PRS and will gradually join the 33 per cent already attending regular classes. PRS students completed all final school exams by 21 July. Iftar gatherings funded by UNICEF were held in 19 UNWRA schools attended by PRS and PRL across the country. Special recreational activities called 'Play and Learn 2014' were attended by 55 PRS.

JORDAN

- UNICEF estimates that some 88,000 Syrian refugee children in Jordan will be in need of more flexible and specialised alternative education by the end of 2014 that caters to their specific education and psychosocial needs.
- NRC in Jordan provides children aged 7 – 15 years with informal learning opportunities that are aimed to quickly bring the children to a level where they can transition to formal schooling. Syrian refugee children receive a condensed three month curriculum of Math, Arabic, English and Science, in addition to a variety of recreational activities restoring a sense of normalcy to their daily lives.
- 528 students (age 12 to 18) registered with RI Informal Education program during August 2014. RI is providing Informal Education activities which include literacy (Arabic and English), numeracy, and computer science lessons, recreational activities (sports and arts). These activities aim at improving drop out children's life skills and securing a better future. These activities are part of the Remedial Education Program implemented in partnership with UNICEF.
- To make the learning experience for children inside the camps fun, safe and comprehensive, Relief International (RI) added to its libraries in RI centers 3,512 donated books on topics including science, languages, stories and life skills. 60 boys and 100 girls from the remedial program and 40 boys and 70 girls from the informal program visit these libraries daily.
- Some 100 youth in the EJC became the latest graduates of NRC's informal skills and post-basic training programmes. In the two-month programme female and male youth were provided with the chance to engage in a variety of recreational and life skills support including sports, arts and creative learning. NRC runs similar programming in Zaatari and soon in Azraq camps, with more than 400 youth attending daily these types of youth programming as well as informal technical training courses including in tailoring, male hair-dressing, beautician arts, electrical wiring, welding, office management as well as the only certified IT course in Zaatari.
- Admission to UNRWA schools in official and unofficial UNRWA camps is open to PRS and Syrian children; 2,121 PRS and Syrian children are enrolled in UNRWA schools, an estimated enrolment rate of 85 per cent of PRS children in all schools, including 54 per cent girls. Since February, 287 new children have enrolled and 44 students graduated from grade 10 in June. The children are integrated in regular and remedial classes and follow the Jordanian curriculum. UNRWA expects the number of students from Syria enrolled in UNRWA schools to reach about 2,900 by the end of the year. UNRWA monitors drop-outs and offers targeted solutions to encourage families to enroll their children.

EGYPT

- UNHCR and Catholic Relief Services will provide education grants for the academic year 2014/2015 for registered Syrian students enrolled in kindergarten, primary, preparatory, and secondary levels in public, refugee community schools, or schools of intellectual education and special needs.
- The first project of the "School Yard Project", which seeks to enhance community support and co-existence through the provision of a safe educational environment, was implemented in Gamasa, New Damietta. The Gamasa

Experimental School is the only public school located in Gamasa and is already operating at full capacity prior to the arrival of Syrian refugees to the area. The “School Yard Project “combines the development of the schools’ playground; designed and built on site, the upgrading and development of classrooms and school facilities, along with cultural/art workshop activities conducted with students, families and school staff and additional material support to the school. The design of the playground is developed through a participatory approach that engages the school’s students, parents and teachers in the building process which is primarily conducted by local craftsmen.



Food Security and Nutrition

LEBANON

- As of 12 September, more than 834,833 people have accessed food through WFP e-cards, in addition to 2,689 newly arrived refugees awaiting registration.
- The WFP voucher was reported as the main source of food and income for 75 per cent of households receiving assistance, according to WFP’s Price Monitoring Report covering April- June 2014.

EGYPT

- WFP reached over 63,000 beneficiaries in Greater Cairo, 22,900 in Alexandria, 11,100 in Damietta, 2,700 in Mansoura, 600 in Marsa Matrouh and 500 in Tanta with the August food voucher distribution.
- WFP introduced bar code readers at food distribution sites to increase efficiency and reduce beneficiary queuing times.
- WFP has conducted a rapid assessment in Alexandria and Damietta to determine the number of both refugee and national primary school children. Data collection started on 17 August and finished on 21 August. The data will be used for WFP’s national school feeding programme but will also help improve targeting for Syrian refugees.



Health

LEBANON

- 26,000 individuals benefited from awareness sessions covering malnutrition screening, nutritional awareness, reproductive health, infant and young child feeding, contraception and family planning, and first aid.
- Prefabricated structures and medical supplies were provided in the town of Aarsal to ensure Aarsalis and refugees have access to primary health care after the existing facility was severely damaged in late August.
- A vaccination and basic services centre was opened at the UNHCR registration centre in Tripoli to provide healthcare services to refugees, including polio/measles immunization for children.
- UNRWA provides primary health care services, including medications, for PRS through 27 health centres throughout Lebanon. The Agency also covers the secondary health care costs of PRS and contributes towards hospitalization for emergency and life-threatening conditions. Additionally, UNRWA supports emergency room services at Palestine Red Crescent Society hospitals and partially covers these services at other hospitals it contracts for services.

JORDAN

- UNRWA continues to provide PRS with free primary health care in its 24 clinics across Jordan, as well as hospital referrals for emergency and life-saving care with almost full coverage. In the first half of August 2014, PRS received approximately 650 consultations. Overall, PRS have good access to health care, with 98 per cent reporting they receive medical care when they need it.

EGYPT

- On 4 September, UNHCR and the Ministry of Health (MoH) signed an agreement for refugees and persons of concern of all nationalities to access acute and emergency care at six of its public hospitals in Greater Cairo.

- UNHCR and UNICEF, in coordination with the MOH, supported more than 100 MoH primary health care facilities in Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta and other Governorates with training and essential clinics equipment to support MOH in providing health care to Syrian refugees and local families.

Shelter and NFIs

LEBANON

- Humanitarian partners have started distributing weatherproofing kits as part of the winterization programme. More than 587 families received materials in Zahle and Baalbek.
- CARE International began its eight-month project in Mount Lebanon in May 2014. The eight month project aims to cover the basic needs/expenses of vulnerable families and limit the use of negative coping mechanisms by providing cash assistance to a total of 562 vulnerable families (2810 individuals) in the Chouf district of Mount Lebanon. Assistance consists of a grant of \$175/month for a period of five months according to the standards agreed on nationwide by cash assistance actors in Lebanon.
- UNRWA provides cash assistance, by crediting ATM cards issued to beneficiaries. In July, 41,171 beneficiaries received assistance totalling \$1.22 million for food and \$1.11 million for housing. Assistance for 2014 is based on \$30 per person for food and \$100 per family for housing on a monthly basis pending the availability of funds. UNRWA also carried out a targeted distribution of non-food items to vulnerable families in July. Kitchen, hygiene and bedding kits, jerry cans and other essential items were provided to 570 families.

TURKEY

- In the second half of August, IOM distributed emergency relief supplies to more than 250 Syrian households (nearly 3,000 people) living in Hatay Province. The assistance included blankets, mattresses, pillows, bed covers and diapers. More than 100 of the 250 households were new arrivals to the province. IOM distributions target both new arrivals and households previously determined to be in need of emergency relief items. Since the beginning of the crisis, more than 135,000 Syrians in Turkey have benefited from IOM's relief supply distributions.

JORDAN

- In coordination with UNHCR and WFP, NRC has been exploring opportunities to allow core relief items to be distributed in a way that offer refugees greater choice, flexibility, and transparency through a market-based cash/voucher approach. Recent surveys and focus group discussions conducted by NRC in Zaataria in July revealed that both women and men wanted a greater degree of control over assistance provided to them and the time when it's available so that they can better meet their household needs. A pilot project is planned for late-2014, with a full system roll-out by early 2015. Such activities fit with wider inter-agency strategies for camps to become more self-reliant and sustainable and decrease dependency on regular hand-outs and other types of emergency assistance.
- NRC continues to implement its integrated urban shelter programming in northern Jordan and has now supported Jordanian landlords to bring an additional 2,060 housing units on the market which are providing secure rent-free accommodation to more than 6,700 refugees for between 12 – 24 months. Jordanian landlords sign standard tenancy agreements in line with Jordanian law and NRC outreach teams monitor the implementation of the lease agreements over the course of the visits and follow up on any landlord-tenant relationship problems.

IRAQ

- DRC assumes camp coordination and camp management responsibilities in two of the camps (Basirma and Qushtapa located in the Governorate of Erbil), and supports non-camp refugees in urban communities of Duhok and Erbil. In all settings, DRC's assistance from January to August, 2014 has covered 9,274 refugees (60 per cent males and 40 per cent females) through one or more interventions. In Qushtapa Camp, DRC completed 144 shelter slabs and 36 kitchen areas as an immediate intervention to reduce the effects of the extremely hot summer and also help to insulate refugees from the cold, rainy and muddy conditions experienced during the winter period.

EGYPT

- UNHCR, Caritas and Resala are working together to assist vulnerable Syrian refugees meet their basic needs through the provision of monthly cash grants. In August, 30,589 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted in Egypt, and an additional 102 individuals received conditional cash grants.



Water and Sanitation

LEBANON

- 200 students benefited from the installation of latrines and safe water sources in Jbeil public school. This project comes as part of the humanitarian agencies' efforts to improve access to water and sanitation facilities in communities.
- In Nabatiyeh, South Lebanon, electrical equipment were installed in Ansar pumping station, benefiting both Lebanese and refugees living in the area.
- 19 chlorinators were installed in the most vulnerable municipalities of Beirut and Mount Lebanon to protect 114,000 Lebanese and 28,000 Syrian refugees from the potential spread of water borne diseases.
- Humanitarian agencies continue to prioritize water trucking and desludging latrines in Aarsal with more than 5,829 m³ transported in the past week and more than 1,318 latrines desludged.
- For the past five months CARE has been working on a WASH project in Mount and North Lebanon which will benefit a total of 5,100 Syrian refugee families and 1,350 families from the Lebanese host community. The project aims to increase water, wastewater and sewage network systems in at least nine municipalities as well as conducting plumbing repairs and rehabilitation in 300 households.

JORDAN

- As of the end of August, Relief International (RI) has trained 4,286 households inside Azraq Camp on best hygiene practices, and conducted 314 hygiene sessions in schools on topics including water consumption, tooth brushing, hand washing. These activities were part of RI-UNICEF WASH in Azraq Camp Project.
- RI's "WASH in 45 Schools in Mafraq and Irbid" project successfully completed rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 45 schools with Syrian students. These rehabilitation activities included cleaning internal sewer network, installing latrines and flushing system, and installing and repairing water fountains and pipes. Improving sanitation conditions at these schools will decrease WASH related diseases, provide safer drinking water, and help Syrian refugees' as well as vulnerable Jordanian children in north Jordan to receive the adequate WASH standards allowing them to have better learning environment.
- ACTED continued its WASH rehabilitations in schools throughout August. Rehabilitation works for six schools were completed, as well as 18 site-visits to check on repair and maintenance for schools rehabilitated in earlier months. Over the coming months ACTED will continue WASH rehabilitations in informal settlements and schools, and will also expand operations to rehabilitate community water infrastructures in North Jordan.

IRAQ

- Maintaining adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services are part of the critical camp management role of DRC. DRC distributed 912 UNICEF baby kits and 1,021 UNICEF adult kits; and 322 cleaning kits for household-shared latrines and showers. The implementation of hygiene promotional activities through community participation provides a means for refugees to earn income. A total of 65 refugees have been involved in cash-for-work activities, assisting in cleaning, promoting hygiene education, testing water quality and installing garbage collection points around the camps.

Working in partnership

- The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 163 participating organizations (including 107 appealing agencies)

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

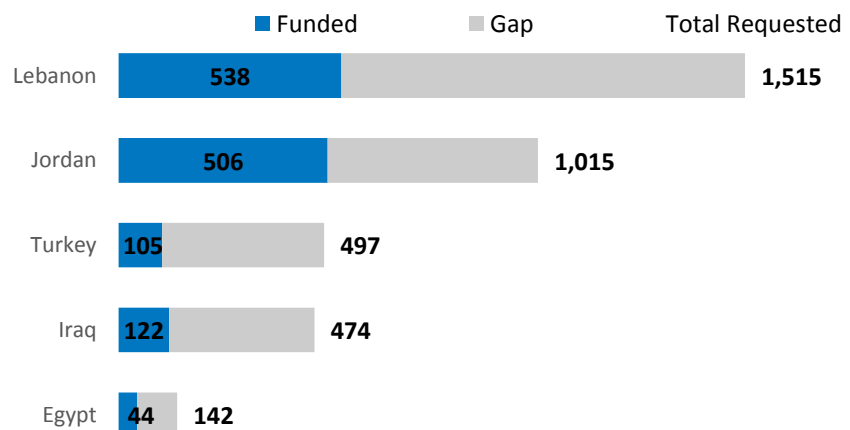
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Funding (in million USD)

A total of **\$1.65 billion*** has been funded.



*Includes \$337 million of regionally earmarked funds that has been received and is pending allocation by country.

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