

# INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

14 - 20 November 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.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 13,000 Syrians have fled their homes since 15 November and made their way over the border into eastern Lebanon. Humanitarian partners have been on the ground in Lebanon since last Friday working with the Ministry of Social Affairs and local authorities to cope with this influx. UNHCR and humanitarian partners have contingency plans in place for such sudden movements. There are concerns that on-going violence in the vicinity of Qarah could force more to flee to Lebanon's Bekaa region.
- Darashakran, a new camp in the Kurdistan Region of Northern Iraq, has begun receiving refugees. More than 4,300 people have already relocated from temporary sites. The camp has a current capacity to host 10,000 people with a planned capacity of 20,000.
- The refugee population during the winter of 2013-14 is at least four times the size it was a year ago. UNHCR and humanitarian response partners are providing winter packages that include thermal blankets, heaters/stoves, money for fuel, plastic tarpaulin and assorted winter clothing and footwear.
- Since the beginning of the year until 31 October, 10,689 persons fleeing Syria are reported to have arrived along the coast of Italy from ports including Egypt and Turkey.

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## REGIONAL FIGURES

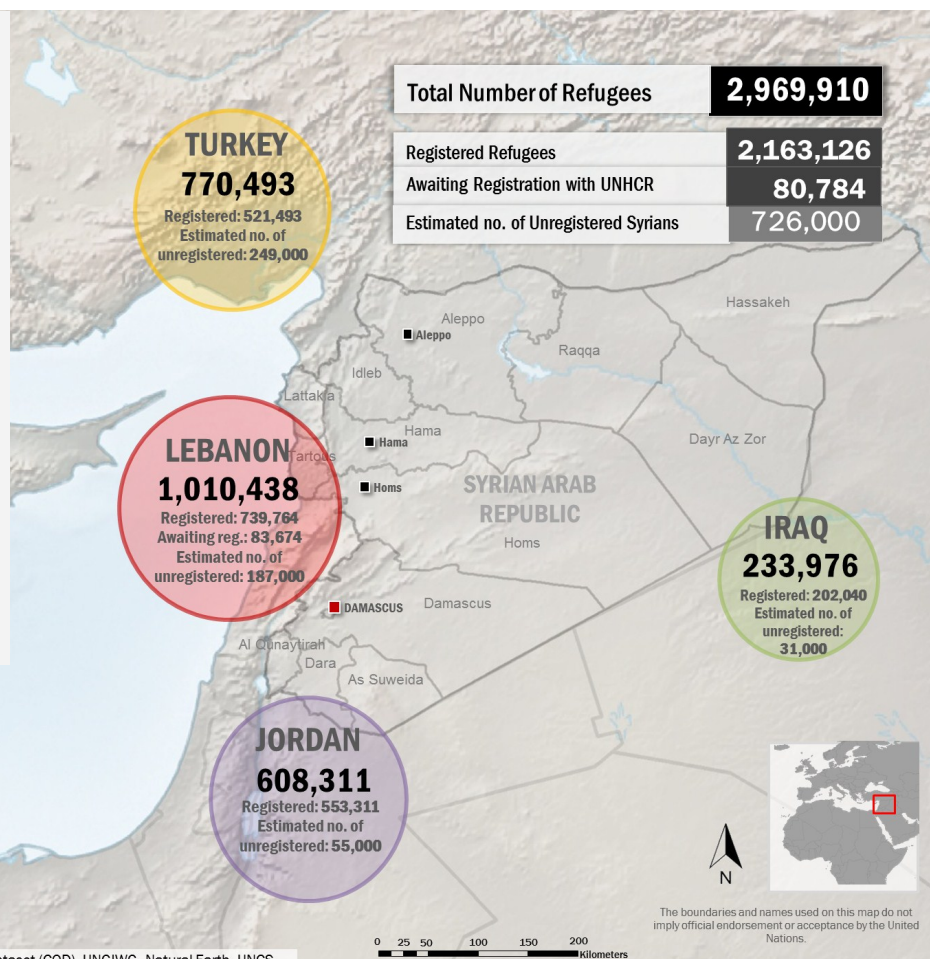
**2.9 million** refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries including estimated unregistered refugees

**5,100** refugees registered daily on average in 2013

**1.6 million** Syrian refugees have been registered so far in 2013 alone

**1,119,711** refugee children estimated to be affected by the crisis

**49,500** Palestine refugees in Lebanon and **10,166** in Jordan have approached UNRWA for assistance



## Polio response gears up across the region following confirmed cases in Syria

- The Ministry of Health in refugee-hosting countries with WHO, UNICEF and partners are working together in response to the recent confirmation of polio cases in Syria with national vaccination campaigns that will benefit both Syrian refugee and host populations.

- Jordan – A national immunization campaign for measles, rubella and polio is scheduled to begin on 20 November for six days as part of the national campaign. The 2-21 November national immunization campaign, supported by the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF, WHO, IOM, UNHCR and partners, for measles, rubella, polio and Vitamin A continues in all 12 Governorates. As of 17 November, some 928,911 children under five years old have been provided with the Oral Polio Vaccine (104 per cent of target); and 2.9 million children and adults up to age 20 have received the measles/rubella vaccinations (88 per cent of target).



*MOH, IOM and UNHCR in Khalda Registration Centre, Amman, where on average 150 children and youth are vaccinated daily. UNHCR | T. Kattan*

- Lebanon - In response to the recent confirmation of polio cases in Syria, a nationwide vaccination campaign was launched on the 8th of November aimed at immunizing over 750,000 Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian children under the age of five. The first round of vaccines will run until the 12th of November 2013 and are provided by the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF and BEYOND. Additionally, polio vaccinations are mandatory at all four official border crossings from Syria.
- Turkey - The MoH Turkey is planning a “house to house” polio vaccination campaign, reportedly in the second half of November. The campaign will target about 1 million children under 5 years of age against polio in 7 provinces along the border with Syria and about half a million children in other provinces. It will be held over three rounds to all children under the age of 59 months (any nationality) commencing first in the border provinces where there are camps located moving out to the rest of the provinces where there are camps.
- Egypt – Partners are coordinating with the MoH’s Expanded Programme of Immunization to ensure the coverage of refugees in the National Polio vaccination campaign scheduled for 17-20 November for all children under 5. UNHCR has also developed an action plan to promote the campaign among refugee communities and support coordination between NGO health partners, community leaders and health authorities at district and governorate levels.

## Increasing capacity of health care providers to meet the needs of host and refugee populations

- Jordan - UNHCR will provide critical medical equipment to 13 hospitals and 31 health clinics across Irbid, Mafraq, Jerash and Ajloun in a US\$ 1.6 million initiative. According to the Ministry of Health, 287,328 Syrians residing in various governorates received treatment in government health structures from January to June 2013. UNHCR is also planning to equip the burns unit at Princess Basma Hospital later in the year, which will be the only hospital in Northern Jordan where burns can be treated.
- Lebanon - refugees receive treatments, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests by Amel Association, International Medical Corps, Makhzoumi Foundation, Save the Children, UNHCR and UNICEF. Over 10,000 individuals have received mobile and centre-based primary healthcare services and refugees continue to be admitted in supported hospitals and clinics in the North, Bekaa and the South. During the reporting period, an additional 1,500 under five children across twenty informal tented settlements received urgent medical assistance provided by UNICEF.
- Iraq - Construction of new health centre are also underway in Domiz camp. At the Gawilan site, partners are planning the construction of a primary health centre, scheduled for completing in December, and identifying respective areas of services and coordination to avoid overlap in service provision.



## UNFPA: Regional interventions to address gender-based violence needs of Syrian refugees

- All forms of gender-based violence (GBV) experienced by crisis-affected populations, especially women and girls, are significantly increasing and causing a threat to society in neighbouring countries. This includes sexual violence (rape and sexual exploitation), intimate partner violence and early marriage. The breakdown of traditional social or economic structures increases the vulnerabilities and can lead families to turn to early marriage or other problematic behaviours. There are concerns that domestic violence may be on the rise among Syrian people.



- UNFPA, with governments in the region, local organization and humanitarian partners, are using a rights-based approach to provide multi-sectoral response services such as medical care, psychological support, protection and legal support to survivors to survivors of gender-based violence and to prevent further incidents.
- Since 2011, UNFPA has supported hundreds of reproductive health facilities and mobile teams in neighbouring countries with related supplies, and established 31 women's safe spaces in Jordan, Iraq and Turkey. UNFPA has provided gender-based services including psychosocial support and psychological first aid services, made referrals for medical services, and implemented awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence, psychosocial support, basic skills, problem solving, and psychological first aid in refugee camps and hosting communities.

## Jordan: mitigating forced and early marriages and assessing the needs of LGBTI refugees

- UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and partners have established an Inter-agency Task Force on Forced and Early Marriage, in response to concerns about the risk of forced and early marriage among the Syrian refugees. The Group is co-chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF and will work to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and mitigate the consequences of forced marriage. Constraints that render interventions more complicated include the fact that early marriage is legal in Syria and is a common practice in the rural areas.
- Interventions and initiatives for the prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence include case management, including Best Interest Assessments and Best Interest Determination Panels coordinated by UNHCR with the participation of Family Protection Department and other actors involved in the provision of services; collection/analysis of Forced Marriage Data through registration and GBVIMS; close coordination government; awareness-raising campaigns on the negative consequences of early marriage; group counseling with religious leaders and refugee families; provision of cash assistance to mitigate negative coping mechanisms and ensuring access to education and other basic services.
- UNHCR in collaboration with ORAM, an NGO that advocates for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) refugees and asylum-seekers, organized on 13-14 November a training on LGBTI refugees and asylum-seekers for UN agencies and NGOs including International Medical Corps, International Relief and Development and International Rescue Committee. The training focused on building empathy with LGBTI refugees, identifying challenges faced by LGBTI refugees in Jordan (and opportunities for targeted response), UNHCR's Code of Conduct and how to interview and assess the credibility of an asylum-seeker's asserted sexual orientation or gender identity. The training will response partners in developing targeted programming in 2014.

## Save the Children: regional update

- Save the Children (SC) is carrying out a range of activities across the region to promote protection, education and the health and wellbeing of children. SC is working to provide children with school bags, uniforms, and other essential school materials, and pay school fees. They are also providing non-formal education for adolescents and Early Childhood Education for under-fives, in addition to running child-friendly and youth-friendly spaces that reach thousands of children; and carry out a range of child protection activities including resiliency activities and establishing, training and supporting community child protection committees. SC plans to reach 1.3 million beneficiaries in Syrian refugee-hosting countries by the end of 2015, including over 675,000 children.



*On Universal Children's Day, 20 November, approximately 600 children gathered at one of the 37 Child Friendly Spaces in Za'atri camp. Save the Children | R. Thompson*

- **Lebanon** – SC provides reproductive health and paediatric services to pregnant, new mothers and children. Its Cash for Work programmes gives families the opportunity to put their own skills to work in projects which benefit their communities. SC is also distributing vouchers to enabling families to purchase children's clothing, mattresses, blankets, heating fuel and stoves, as well as tools and materials needed for basic repairs and insulation for their homes to prepare for the onset of cold weather.
- **Jordan** – SC is carrying out a large scale infant and young child feeding programme and food distributions in Za'atri camp. An additional 160,860 people in host communities are also benefiting from food assistance through vouchers.
- **Iraq** – SC have distributed hygiene kits and conducted hygiene promotion awareness-raising sessions in Al Obeidy camp, Anbar Governorate, and are actively fundraising to be able to respond to the needs. SC have also led a massive clean-up campaign in Domiz camp in the Kurdistan Region.
- **Egypt** – SC is running Child Friendly Spaces in Greater Cairo, in addition to supporting a school with furniture, education kits, school books, uniforms and training teachers on the differences between the Syrian and Egyptian education contexts.

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](mailto:kinga@unhcr.org)