

# SYRIA REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

## Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey

25 October 2012

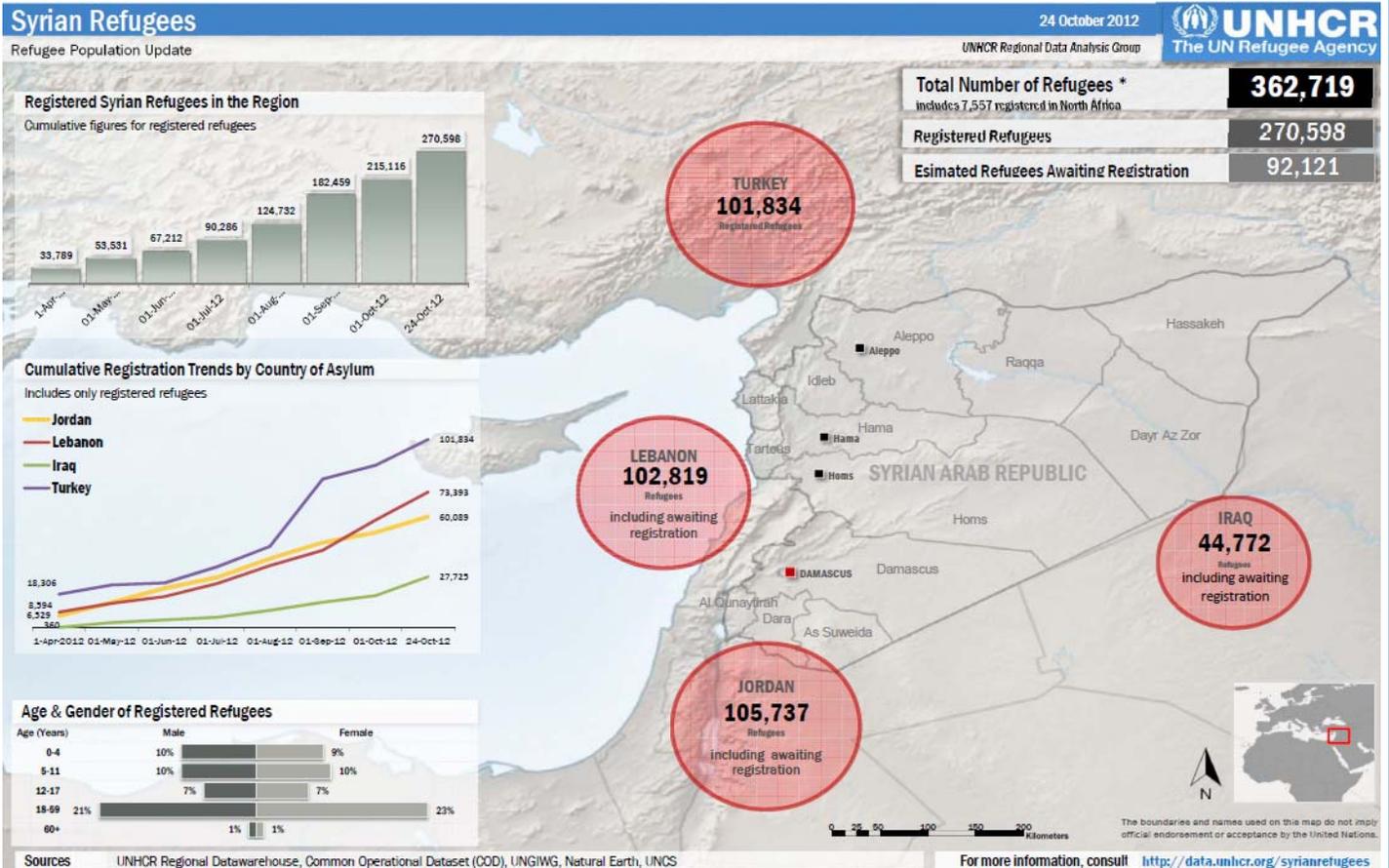


This update provides a snapshot of the response of the United Nations and its partners to the influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and beyond. The response is led by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in full coordination with host Governments, UN agencies, and NGO partners. This report covers the period from 6 to 25 October 2012.

### Highlights

- In urban areas in Jordan, UNHCR has so far registered 60,089 Syrian refugees, another 32,160 refugees having received appointments for registration in Amman. UNHCR is aware that a number of refugees have chosen to leave Za'atri camp either to live among host communities or to return to Syria. UNHCR is therefore working closely with the Jordanian authorities in order to ascertain the exact number of refugees still living in the camp. For now, UNHCR maintains the overall estimated number of Syrian refugees registered and/or awaiting registration both in urban and in camp areas in Jordan at around 105,000 individuals.
- A car bomb attack in a neighbourhood of Beirut on 19 October and the subsequent violence that erupted in some parts of the country caused UNHCR to temporarily suspend its registration activities across the country. Activities were able to resume fully on 23 October.
- After Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon have now also seen the number of Syrian refugees (registered and awaiting registration) in each country go over the 100,000 mark, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa to 362,719 individuals.

### Syrian refugees registered and/or receiving assistance as of 24 October 2012



\* Please note that the figure in Jordan is currently being revised following a verification exercise in the camp of Za'atri. According to the Government of Jordan, there are currently more than 200,000 Syrians in Jordan.

## Jordan

The first communal kitchens in Za'atri camp opened on 9 October. Each kitchen, designed with the participation of refugees, will allow 12 families to cook for themselves, and are provided with multiple gas cookers cook tops, work benches and sinks. Of concrete and masonry construction, these kitchens provide a durable and lasting solution in addressing the daily needs of refugees. It is envisioned that 250 kitchens will be operational at Za'atri. A refugee kitchen committee will oversee their use and manage the maintenance, including repairs and replenishment of fuel.

To date, some 17,000 Syrian children have registered in schools. While 13,000 have already started attending, some 4,000 children are on waiting lists. In order to reduce the overcrowding in public schools, UNICEF has completed the installation of 15 prefabricated classrooms in Ramtha.

### Protection

In addition to the open dialogue between UN organisations and the Government of Jordan with regard to the protection of Syrian refugees, UNHCR is conducting regular training and awareness-raising sessions on international refugee protection for government personnel involved in the refugee response.

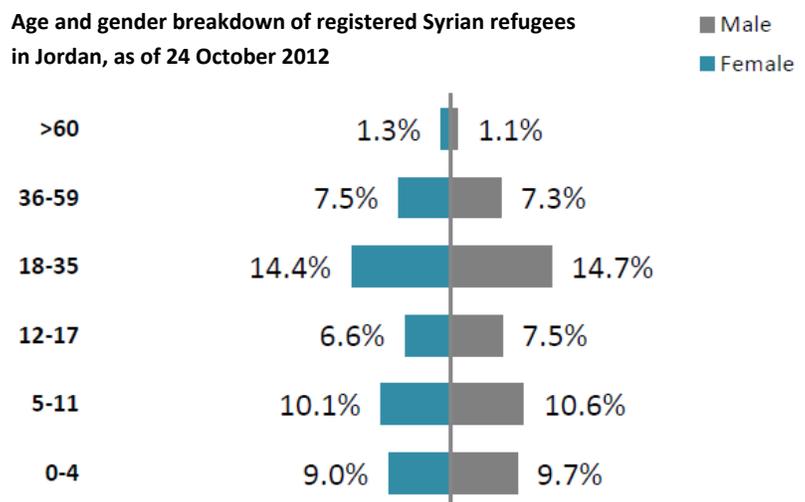
NGO Intersos and UNHCR are working on a community mobilization project in Za'atri. Fourteen men and twelve women have been elected as community representatives in order to facilitate overall coordination with humanitarian organisations in the camp and ensure refugee participation in the design and implementation of camp activities. Sector committees are also being established by the refugee community starting in the areas of Education and Culture, Youth and Food.

Since March 2012, the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Working Group has provided psychosocial services to over 13,000 children and family members, and specialised services for 1,600 children and their families in need of specific assistance.

Over 2,000 information booklets on child protection and GBV services covering five governorates have been distributed. So far 750 frontline workers, local authorities and health professionals have been trained on children and women's protection issues and 4,000 community members have been reached through outreach and awareness-raising activities.

UNFPA in partnership with the Nour Al-Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the Institute for Family Health (IFH) have organised awareness sessions on GBV for 136 men at the Women and Youth Space in Za'atri where 57 women and 10 men also benefited from support group activities. Tent-to-tent visits are also regularly taking place for the purpose of screening potential instances of GBV. 44 young girls and 50 young men are participating in educational and recreational activities conducted in the UNFPA Women and Youth Space of the camp.

Age and gender breakdown of registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, as of 24 October 2012



### Education

Since the Ministry of Education (MoE) and UNICEF opened Za'atri camp school on 4 October, the number of Syrian boys and girls attending school has steadily increased from 1,700 to 2,400 (grades 1 to 11). The temporary learning spaces currently comprise 14 tents (28 classrooms), utilized in two shifts per day. UNICEF is also working to provide additional temporary learning spaces for up to 3,000 children. Thirty Syrian teachers are teaching refugee children in collaboration with Jordanian education staff and mobilize the community to ensure a safe learning environment.

Save the Children International (SC) provides access to protective, inclusive and participatory Early Childhood educational programs for children under the age of 6. This includes the development of local institutions' and community-based organizations' capacity and the provision of age-appropriate educational materials and support for Syrian children.

UNICEF and SC have carried out small-scale renovation works in 50 public MoE schools across Jordan, enhancing the physical learning environment as well as the infrastructure. The program also includes strengthening school staff capacity to engage children in psychosocial support and life skills activities through sports in areas with high concentrations of Syrians refugees.

SC has established and furnished six Youth Friendly Spaces for refugees aged between 12 and 24 in host communities and three such spaces inside Za'atri to provide informal education programs to adolescents and youth, focusing particularly on those who have dropped out of school. SC has provided structured trainings on basic interpersonal skills, employability skills, financial literacy, and voluntary saving and lending approach training.

## Shelter, Site Coordination and Management

Thanks to several donations made towards the humanitarian response in Jordan, over 2,800 prefabricated shelters will gradually be set up in provide accommodation for refugees for the winter season.



Prefabricated living container shortly to be set up in Za'atri camp to accommodate vulnerable refugee families this winter ©UNHCR 2012

The inter-agency base camp of the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) has opened providing office space for operational partners working in Za'atri Camp. IHP also constructed the UNHCR registration compound, with a team of seven volunteers.

### Food

Since October, joint UNHCR-WFP food distributions in Za'atri are implemented by SC providing dry food rations and complementary food packages consisting of tuna, canned meat, chick peas, white kidney beans, tomato paste, tea, halva, and cheese.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Za'atri camp now has 90 functional WASH centres (51 female and 39 male units), that is 450 showers and 450 latrines. Mobile latrines are now only used for disabled persons and in the UNICEF/MoE school (until permanent latrines are built). All completed WASH units will be upgraded for winterization to include roofs, and water heating systems.

A team of 13 hygiene promoters continue to provide awareness-raising activities in Za'atri camp on water preservation, personal hygiene and preventive measures to avoid waterborne diseases. So far 527 sessions have reached some 2,770 people.

Daily residual chlorine tests are carried out in all water points and in water delivery trucks and water is delivered three times a day. Over 1 million litres of water are supplied daily to the camp. Consultations with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation continue, to discuss waste water treatment options and to speed up the installation of mobile waste water treatment plants in Za'atri. The drilling of the first of two boreholes in the camp perimeter has begun and rehabilitation work on three boreholes in Ramtha and Mafraq continues. Yarmouk Water Company contractors are half-way through the construction of a new pipeline which will deliver 60 m<sup>3</sup> per hour to the camp from the Za'atri well-field. An agricultural well was connected to the camp to deliver additional safe drinking water to the camp water supply system.

### Health

Health services have been provided to 1,638 patients in Za'atri camp by Jordan Health Aid (JHAS, UNHCR's main implementing partner in Health), along with the services by different health partners (including Médecins du Monde; the Moroccan Field Hospital; IFH, UNFPA, International Medical Corps, the International Orthodox Christian Charities and International Rescue Committee). The most common conditions at the primary healthcare level are fever, diarrhoea, upper respiratory infection, and allergies.

UNICEF is providing support for the Ministry of Health's vaccination campaign and routine vaccination. UNICEF is also organising training for the upcoming SMART nutritional survey, in collaboration with WFP, WHO, UNFPA and UNHCR.

# Lebanon 102,819 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR

UNHCR has registered over 10,000 Syrian refugees over the past three weeks, the majority having come from Homs, Qusayr, Damascus, Zabadani, Rural Damascus and Tal Kalakh to settled in the vast majority in North Lebanon and Bekaa.

A car bomb attack in a neighbourhood of Beirut on 19 October and the subsequent violence that erupted in some parts of the country caused UNHCR to temporarily suspend its registration activities across the country. Activities were able to re-sume fully on 23 October.

Continued shelling from Syrian territory into Lebanon is affecting both refugees and host Lebanese living in border areas, sometimes prompting families to flee to neighbouring villages. While there have not been any serious injuries to date, humanitarian agencies are concerned about the risk populations in these areas are repeatedly being exposed to and the traumatic effect it will have on them.

## Protection

International Rescue Committee (IRC) issued a report acknowledging the high risk of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) among Syrian refugee women in Lebanon. Over the past few months, UNHCR, UNICEF, Save the Children International (SC), International Medical Corps (IMC), Caritas Migrant Centre and UNFPA developed a response plan thanks to which survivors of sexual violence are identified and referred for medical services with different partners, in accordance with specific technical guidelines. The response also includes training on SGBV information management with partner and Ministry of Social Affairs staff. Implementation of this Information Management System will commence in north Lebanon shortly.

Humanitarian agencies are concerned by reports of the arrival of unaccompanied Syrian children. Faced with obstacles to cross at official border points, a growing number of parents are entrusting their children to strangers to get them to safety in Lebanon in exchange for money.

The Lebanese government has decided to waive the fee for Syrians wishing to renew their residency coupons. This follows a recent General Security Office decision to allow Syrian nationals to renew their six-month residency permit inside Lebanon at any GSO centre in Lebanon. The GSO also stated that Syrian refugees who enter through unofficial border crossings would be held for no longer than 24 hours, for the sole purpose of being assisted in sorting out their documents.

## Non-Food Items (NFIs)

In the Bekaa Valley, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and World Vision (WV) have started the distribution of winter blankets, while other agencies are also contributing heating stoves, winter clothing, shoes and fuel stoves will target over 15,000 Syrians (3,120 families) enabling them to not only cook warm foods but also help heat their homes. Distribution of other NFIs, such as hygiene and baby kits, as well as World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers continue across Lebanon.

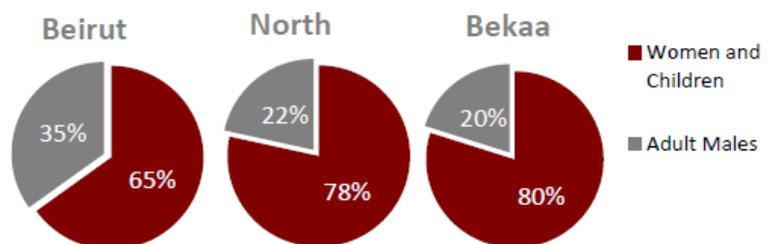
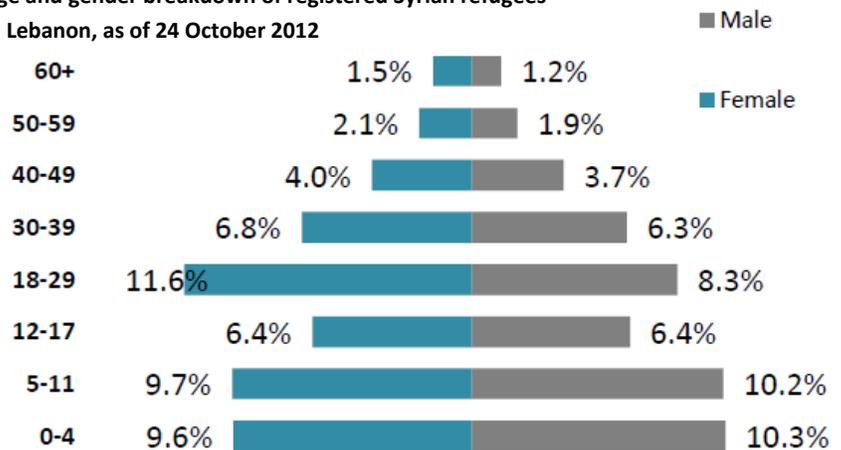
In Tripoli, Caritas Migrant Centre is assisting new arrivals with food and non-food items while also conducting home visits to assess additional needs, such as providing cash to landlords to host families struggling to pay rent and the provision of clothing, shoes and mattresses for families arriving with none.

## Education

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) continues to ensure that refugee children are enrolled and accepted in its public schools. It has also agreed to provide books to both Lebanese and Syrian children. Tuition fees, school uniforms and supplies will continue to be provided by UNHCR and partners.

The MOEHE has also confirmed that it will provide health personnel, trained by UNHCR, UNICEF and Save the Children International (SC), to monitor vulnerable children. This will ensure that children with specific needs are identified and referred to the appropriate partners for assistance.

Age and gender breakdown of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon, as of 24 October 2012



## Health

A growing number of Syrian refugees are approaching UNHCR and International Medical Corps (IMC) for psychosocial assistance. The majority of cases are people suffering from depression and anxiety, effects of the trauma caused by conflict and displacement. Services are available for psychological and psychiatric counselling.

Primary healthcare continues to be provided in Bekaa through medical mobile units (MMU) and through Primary Healthcare centres for those in the North. Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) will shortly have a new MMU operating in Baalbeck in coordination with IMC's MMUs already operating in the area.

In South Lebanon, local public health centres have granted refugees access to their services, however, these centres lack the resources and staff to fully assist all refugees in the South. Many live in remote areas and have difficulty travelling to hospitals and centres for help. UNHCR and partners are coordinating to properly address these needs.

Additionally, UNFPA is providing reproductive health care kits and training primary health care workers on reproductive health and GBV to further develop the health programme in the South. International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is supporting pre- and post-natal care and delivery services in west Bekaa.

Funding gaps continue to challenge UNHCR and partners in covering all those in need. Dar al Fatwa stopped assisting with medication coverage in Bekaa and UNHCR and IMC are meeting with Islamic Relief and the Arab Medical Union in order to fill this gap. There is also a reported lack of ambulances which is problematic for transporting urgent cases in Bekaa. UNHCR is now liaising with specialized partners to address this pressing need.

## Shelter

UNHCR, DRC, and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and other partner winterisation plan in Lebanon is aimed at: ensuring the growing refugee population has accommodation; that the accommodation provides sufficient protection from the cold; and that refugees have enough fuel, warm clothing and other non-food aid items to get through the winter. The shelter programme is particularly costly and a shortage of funds will seriously affect the coverage agencies are able to provide.

## Iraq 44,772 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR

**Over the past three weeks, over 5,000 Syrian refugees arrived in Iraq. Iraq's 44,955 Syrian refugees are being accommodated in Domiz camp (hosting approximately 15,000 individuals) in the Kurdistan Region and Al-Qa'im camps 1 and 2 (hosting 7,000 individuals), among host communities and in public buildings. Duhok remains host to the largest number of Syrian refugees, followed by Erbil and Suleimaniya. Refugees originate mainly from Hassaka, Qamishli, as well as Kurds previously living in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Aleppo.**

### Protection

With enhanced registration capacity in place, UNHCR is now able to register over 1,500 new refugees a week in Domiz camp, with similar efforts being deployed in Erbil and Suleimaniya.

As agreed with the Residency Directorate, UNHCR staff is being deployed to the protection assistance centre in Erbil in order to help refugees receive residency permits. As of mid October, over 9,000 Syrians in Duhok had been issued residency permits, for which refugees must hold a UNHCR Registration Certificate. Meanwhile the Residency Department in Erbil had instructed security services to allow refugees to move freely within governorates.

In Domiz camp, additional measures to strengthen safety have been put in place through the hiring of 22 refugee guards and social monitors by the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) which handles camp management.

### Shelter and Infrastructure

The construction of road connecting camps 1 and 2 in Al-Qa'im has been completed and the child-friendly space is now ready to be used by children living in both camps. The erecting of new family tents is also nearing completion and the distribution of blankets in preparation for winter is underway.

Domiz camp remains congested in spite of intensive works to accommodate the large numbers of new arrivals. A new transit area has been set up with a capacity of 220 family tents and the construction of 50 septic tanks is underway, as well as planning for water supply and waste water disposal by UNICEF. Land situated 2 km from Domiz has been allocated to provide space for an additional 4,000 single refugees. The Government has agreed to UNHCR's request of additional electricity inside tents, cooking areas, bathrooms and latrines.

In Ninewah, northern Iraq, construction works have started on the new refugee camp of Kasak. Located 50 km from Mosul, the camp should start by accommodating some 100 families with the possibility of further extension. Food, an electrical generator and medical services will be provided by IRC while UNICEF will be responsible for establishing water tanks and other sanitary installations.

## Food and Nutrition

Food distribution in Al-Qa'im is ensured by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) which is in discussions with WFP on future joint distributions.

In Domiz camp, WFP is planning to distribute food to over 10,000 refugees. The agency started receiving 162 metric tons of food. It is also preparing for the start of its voucher programme, the current funding level of which could support 10,000/15,000 refugees until the end of November 2012.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF has started the distribution of hygiene promotion kits Al-Qa'im camps where Syrian refugees have been hired to maintain bathrooms and latrines.

In an effort to bring sanitation facilities up to standard in Domiz camp, the Government has installed 120 emergency latrines; including 55 in the new transit area. Waste water drainage is also a source of concern since soil capacity to absorb water is limited.

## Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) is distributing NFI packages for all newly-arrived Syrian families in the camps of Al-Qa'im. Over 300 NFI kits, 600 blankets and 200 family tents have been received and are ready for distribution among Syrian refugees.

NFI distribution has resumed in Domiz camp while one-time cash assistance is being considered for refugees living in the urban host communities. So far 419 packages were distributed to over 1,700 individuals.

## Health

Al-Qa'im Health Directorate is providing medical assistance to the refugees living in Al-Qa'im camps and launched a vaccination campaign on 14 October 2012 against measles, polio and flu.

Domiz camp's health centre sees an average of 300 patients a day. Most cases suffer from upper respiratory tract diseases and acute watery diarrhoea, but no case of cholera has been detected in spite of an outbreak in the governorate. Patients in need of secondary and tertiary as well as those with chronic diseases are referred to hospitals in Duhok for evaluation and management.

The UNICEF/Department of Health campaigns against MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and DT (diphtheria and tetanus) for refugees aged between 7 and 24 years have so far reached over 5,000 refugees.

## Education

A total of 885 students are currently being schooled in Al-Qa'im with a new school shortly to be opened by UNICEF.

In Domiz which has an estimated population of 4,200 school-aged refugee children, UNICEF and NGO Harikar are working to increase school enrolment in the camp and expand the UNICEF-funded camp school to 24 classrooms which will accommodate 1,200 students in two shifts. UNHCR will cover 50% of the salaries of 25 teachers. In order to facilitate access to education for all Syrian students in Domiz, the Government has allocated a new plot of land to fit two additional schools of 24 classrooms each and a capacity to accommodate some 2,000 students.



Refugees playing football in Al-Qa'im camp, Iraq © UNHCR 2012

## Turkey 101,834 Syrian refugees registered by the Government and assisted in camps

Over the past three weeks, the Government of Turkey has registered close to 10,000 new refugees. Turkey's 101,834 Syrian refugees are hosted in 14 camps across seven provinces. Two additional camps in Sanliurfa-Akcakale and Gaziantep-Nizip are reported to be under construction with a capacity to host 16,000 persons.

According to Turkish local authorities there may be over 10,000 Syrians close to the borders of Hatay and Kilis, wishing to cross into Turkey or remaining in border areas which are considered safer and which provide access to the assistance distributed by the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) at 'zero point'.

While the security situation in Akcakale has returned to normal and schools have reopened, the authorities continued to report instances of Syrian shelling of rural areas along the Turkish border provinces of Yayladagi, Hatay and Akcakale. No casualties were reported.

It was officially reported by the Prime Ministry's Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (AFAD) that a fifth Relief Reception Centre was opened in Akcakale (Sanliurfa Province) on 7 October. The centre will provide basic humanitarian aid at zero point of the border to vulnerable women, children and elderly Syrians in need of assistance. Last August, four Relief Reception Centres were opened in Hatay (Cilvegozu and Yayladagi), Gaziantep (Karkamis) and Kilis (Oncupinar). Assistance is delivered by the Turkish Red Crescent in coordination with AFAD.

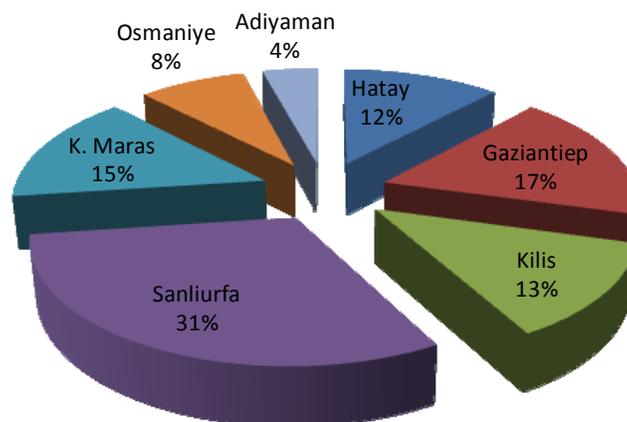
UNHCR and UNICEF conducted a joint mission to the container site in Kilis Oncupinar and the camp of Islahiye in Gaziantep. There they met with the authorities and observed the education needs of Syrian children in the camps which will be further discussed with the Turkish Government in order to assess the support that could potentially be provided by the UN.

On 14 October 2012, WFP introduced its "food card system" in cooperation with Turkish Red Crescent and AFAD. According to the WFP food card assistance program, refugees in the Kilis container site will be able to buy their own food from supermarkets in the camp. Each card will be loaded with the equivalent of USD 43 per person per month and will be valid only for nutritional food items. The programme which is starting in Kilis is set to be extended to other locations covering up to 25,000 refugees.

UNHCR is working in close consultation with the authorities regarding the winterization of the camps. The Turkish Red Crescent Society will shortly be starting the distribution of winter blankets, tarpaulins and electrical heaters to camp residents, with some UNHCR support.

According to the authorities, Turkey has no intention to go back on its 'open border policy'. New Syrian refugee arrivals will accordingly be admitted and referred to the most recent camps of Nizip in Gaziantep province and in Adiyaman, unless they have immediate family members in other camps. Both camps have already reached 50% of their respective capacity.

### Distribution of the Syrian camp refugee population according to the province



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