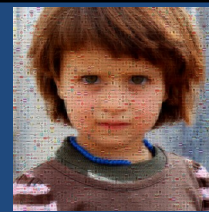


# INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

21 - 27 March 2014



This situation update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and 157 partners across the region.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Iraq reported its first case of Wild Polio Virus (PV1) on 10 February in a six-month old boy from Baghdad. The recent polio outbreak in Syria, where 25 cases of the Wild Polio Virus were confirmed, has heightened Iraq's vulnerability to the disease. Iraq is considered highly vulnerable given its proximity to Der Al-Zour province in Syria, where most of the PV1 cases were identified. The last Iraqi polio case was reported in January 2000. Health officials are stepping up polio immunization and surveillance.
- The Irish Department of Justice on 10 March established a humanitarian admission programme to allow people affected by the Syrian conflict to join close relatives who are lawfully residing in Ireland. The Syrian Humanitarian Admission Programme (SHAP) offers temporary residency for up to two years to vulnerable persons affected by the conflict in Syria.
- Derike Secondary School, the first secondary school in Iraq's Domiz Camp in the Kurdistan Region, has officially opened. The school was built by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and UNESCO, and is run by UNESCO in collaboration with UNHCR and the Department of Education.

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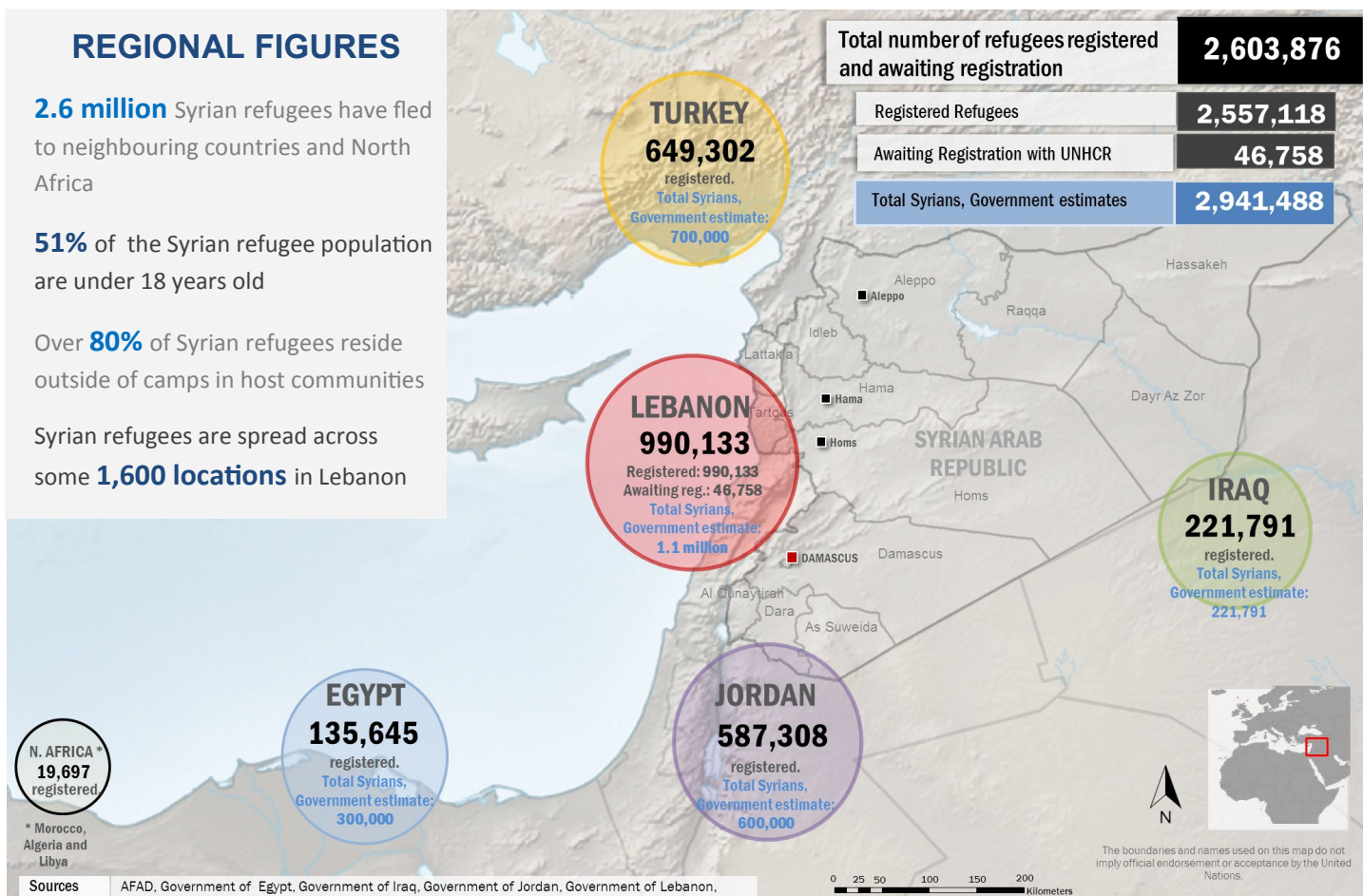
## REGIONAL FIGURES

**2.6 million** Syrian refugees have fled to neighbouring countries and North Africa

**51%** of the Syrian refugee population are under 18 years old

Over **80%** of Syrian refugees reside outside of camps in host communities

Syrian refugees are spread across some **1,600 locations** in Lebanon



## INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR REFUGEE AND HOST COUNTRIES

- Lebanon - Agencies nationwide continue to work to address the urgent needs of host communities in more than 1,690 locations across Lebanon through the provision of institutional and community support. Over 260 Community Support Projects (CSPs), which benefit both refugee and host communities, have already been initiated in various parts of the country.
- In March, the municipality of Chiah in Mount Lebanon benefitted from the provision of medical equipment to its primary health care centre. The new centre is expected to assist more than 150,000 Lebanese and 5,000 refugees residing in the area.
- An additional 100,000 Syrian and Lebanese people in other parts of the country have benefited from a number of institutional and community support projects. These include the provision of pick-up trucks, a garbage compactor and 120 garbage bins in the villages of Bcharre and Zgharta.
- Jordan - On 27 February, UNHCR and its partner ACTED undertook a joint assessment mission in Irbid to identify potential CSPs in the governorate. The mission visited the Aydoon area and Aydoon Park, and met with the Aydoon Charitable Society and the Al-Amal Society for Special Education. Identification of CSPs, which focus on peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities, is ongoing. Community Support Committees (with the participation of six Syrians, seven Jordanians, one Government official and one UNHCR focal point), implementing partners (International Relief and Development, Mercy Corps, ACTED) and local municipalities are contributing to the process.

## TURKEY'S REFUGEE POPULATION CONTINUES TO RISE AS ARMED CLASHES DRIVE SYRIANS ACROSS THE BORDER

- More than 100,000 Syrian refugees have registered in Turkey in the first quarter of 2014 as insecurity across the border continues to prompt population displacement.
- According to the official figures from AFAD, the Disaster and Emergency Management Agency of Government of Turkey, the number of Syrians registered and accommodated in camps has increased by six per cent since the end of December 2013, and currently numbers more than 220,000 people. The registered non-camp population in ten provinces has increased by 27 per cent over the same period and has surpassed 440,000 people.
- Syrian refugees residing outside camps are increasingly in need of assistance and are seeking shelter in refugee camps, many of which are already at capacity.
- In Gaziantep, the provincial AFAD Directorate is transferring non-camp Syrians living in dire conditions in the city centre to the refugee camps in the province. These Syrians are accommodated in rub hall tents and provided with food and medical assistance as needed as they await to be transferred to another camp that has capacity to receive new arrivals.
- In Ceylanpinar, camp officials informed the UNHCR field team that new arrivals continue to approach the camp for admission. As of 27 March, more than 80 people who were at the gate of the camp have been temporarily accommodated in the waiting area until they are registered and placed in tents. Many of these refugees have been unable to find accommodation in town. Some have stated that they came from Aleppo and crossed to Turkey through unofficial crossing points near Kilis. Camp officials are trying to arrange space in the camp by merging small families using more than one tent in order to accommodate the new arrivals.
- Officials also report that since the beginning of the crisis, more than 251,000 Syrian refugees have spontaneously returned voluntarily to Syria .



*Workers distribute lunch from food trolleys to refugees in the Akcakale refugee camp in southern Turkey, which houses more than 25,000 Syrians. UNHCR | A. Branthwaite*



## DRC: PROMOTING LIVELIHOODS IN IRAQ FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

- Iraq - The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) with the support of UNHCR is implementing a livelihood programme in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Employment through job placement and development of small businesses underpins DRC's longer-term strategy for Syrian refugees in the KRI governorates of Erbil and Dohuk. The overall objective of the project is that Syrian refugees living in urban settings have access to self-employment and sustainable livelihoods opportunities.



*DRC Livelihood Programme Manager visiting beneficiaries from job placement scheme. DRC*

- The project strives to achieve this by providing Syrian refugees and vulnerable households from the hosting communities with enhanced skills, knowledge, and capacity building through trainings and information sharing, access to job opportunities and help to set-up small businesses. Although this project aims primarily at achieving immediate economic benefits for Syrian refugees and help them meet their daily needs, the approach also focuses on the longer-term, sustainable self-reliance of the refugee population.
- During the last quarter of 2013 to early 2014, DRC provided livelihoods assistance to 548 families (70 per cent Syrians and 30 per cent vulnerable host communities). The assistance included business development trainings for 344 persons, out of which DRC provided small grants for 315 business plans. In addition, 204 individuals were placed in jobs at 25 local companies in Erbil and Dohuk. Based on a monitoring carried out in January 2014, 97 per cent of those on job placement have been retained as permanent employees. Recipients of small grants have begun their businesses in a diversified range of activities including bee-keeping, tailoring, butchery, hair dressing, blacksmith, carpenter, air-conditioner repair, bakery and small cafes/restaurants.
- In 2014, DRC has committed funding to scale up the activities started in 2013 and cover beneficiaries in both camp and non-camps settings. An additional 500 individuals will benefit from the job placement scheme and 600 new beneficiaries will be provided with business development trainings and grants to set up small businesses. Some 300 scale-up grants will also be provided to those who received business development services in 2013.
- In February and March 2014, DRC has started community mobilisation and beneficiary selection following strict vulnerability criteria in Qushtapa and Basirma Camps in Erbil Governorate as well as outside camps in Dohuk. Small business development trainings are currently taking place in both Erbil and Dohuk. The three-day training aims to provide participants with the skills to start and run a small business including customer service, reinvestment strategies, business record keeping, value adding and developing a simple business plan. Upon completion of the business trainings and successful completion of individual business plan, DRC will approve a business grant for each beneficiary.
- In order to promote community cohesion between Syrian refugees and host communities, and promote longer-term solutions for the refugee population, DRC strongly believes that refugees have to be seen as contributors to local development initiatives. Achieving this will also lead to a medium to long-term economic stability for the refugee population. As such, DRC's approach to livelihoods support for Syrian refugees in Iraq is built on the foundation of mutual respect and acceptance, that the host government and communities are able to continue to welcome Syrian refugees positively. DRC will achieve this by ensuring that both Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities benefit from the project; thus targeting 70 per cent of refugees and 30 per cent of host community members.

## GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNICATING WITH REFUGEES AND AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITIES

- UNHCR has drafted a [template for Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\) in communicating with Persons of Concern \(PoC\)](#). The template can be adapted at the country level within the Syria Refugee Response to describe the guiding principles, procedures, roles and responsibilities.
- The SOPs have a strong focus on Syrian refugees living in urban contexts, camps and/or other settlements/collective shelters, but can be tailored for other refugee and host populations.
- Of the 2.6 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, 80 per cent reside in the host community outside of camps, making outreach more challenging. Refugee literacy levels, media habits, information needs, and levels of trust in humanitarian agencies vary greatly throughout the region, creating the necessity for a coordinated Communication with PoC approach involving governments, UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders.
- The purpose of the template is to provide a reference for Sector Working Groups endeavouring to incorporate communication with PoC into their respective activities and projects.
- The template outlines ten steps for practitioners to develop a communication plan targeting refugees and affected host communities.



### Standard Operating Procedures

Communication with Persons of Concern



Template

The regional response for refugees fleeing Syria is the coordinated effort of 157 participating organizations, including 105 appealing agencies:

ABAAAD | [ACTED](#) | ActionAid | [Action contre la faim](#) | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | [Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance](#) | Al Majmoua | [AMAN](#) | AMEL | [Arab Medical Union](#) | Arc en Ciel | [ARDD-Legal Aid](#) | Association de Charité Humanitaire | [Association Justice et Miséricorde](#) | Association of Volunteers in International Service | [BBC Media Action](#) | Beyond Association | [British Council](#) | CARE International | [Caritas](#) | Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre | [Catholic Relief Services](#) | Central Association for Kindergarten Supervisors League | [Centre for Victims of Torture](#) | Civil Development Organization | [Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli](#) | CONCERN | [Cooperazione Internazionale](#) | Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services | [DRC](#) | Family Guidance and Awareness Centre | [FAO](#) | Finn Church Aid | [Finnish Red Cross/Iraqi Red Crescent Society](#) | French Red Cross | [Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura](#) | GIZ | [Global Communities Partners for Good](#) | Gruppo di Volontariato Civile | [Handicap International](#) | Heartland Alliance International | [High Relief Commission](#) | Hilfswerk Austria International | [Human Relief Foundation](#) | Humedica | [ILO](#) | Institution for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation | [International Alert](#) | International Catholic Migration Commission | [International Children's Continence Society](#) | International Medical Corps | [International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) | International Relief and Development | [International Rescue Committee](#) | Internews | [INTERSOS](#) | IOM | [Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project](#) | Iraqi Youth League | [Islamic Relief Worldwide](#) | JBA | [JEN](#) | Jesuit Refugee Service | [Jordan Health Aid Society](#) | Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization | [Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development](#) | Jordan Red Crescent | [Jordan River Foundation](#) | Jordanian Women's Union | [KAFA](#) | KG | [KnK](#) | KURDS | [Lutheran Word Federation](#) | MADA | [Madrasati Initiative](#) | Mines Advisory Group | [Mahmoud Mosque Society](#) | Makassed | [Makhzoumi Foundation](#) | Medair | [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#) | Médecins du Monde | [Mercy Corps](#) | Mercy USA | [Ministry of Public Health](#) | Ministry of Water and Irrigation | [Movement for Peace](#) | Muslim Aid | [NAJMAH](#) | National Centre for Culture and Arts | [NICCOD](#) | NRC | [Operation Mercy](#) | Organization for the Development of Women and Children | [Oxfam](#) | PEOPLE IN NEED | [Plan International](#) | Polish Centre for International Aid | [Psycho Social Training and Services Institute in Cairo](#) | PU-AMI | [Public Aid Organization](#) | QANDIL | [Qatar Red Crescent](#) | Questscope | [Rassemblement Democratique des Femmes du Liban](#) | Relief International | [Refugee Education Trust](#) | Refugee Egypt | [Resala](#) | RESCATE | [RESTART](#) | Royal Health Awareness Society | [Safadi Foundation](#) | SAWA | [SCI KR-I](#) | SCI | [SCJ](#) | Search for Common Ground | [Secours Islamique France](#) | Seraphim GLOBAL | [SHEILD](#) | Solidar Suisse | [Solidarités International](#) | Soins infirmiers et développement communautaire | [St. Andrew's Refugee Education Service](#) | STEP | [TADAMON](#) | Taghyeer | [TDH](#) | TDHI | [THW](#) | TRIANGLE GH | [UAE Red Crescent](#) | UNAMI | [UN Women](#) | UNDP | [UNESCO](#) | UNFPA | [UN-Habitat](#) | UNHCR | [UNICEF](#) | UNOPS | [Un Ponte Per](#) | UNRWA | [WAAJC](#) | War Child UK | [War Child Holland](#) | WARVIN | [WFP](#) | WHO | [World Rehabilitation Fund](#) | World Vision International | [Young Man's Christian Association](#) | Y-PEER

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)