

Update No. 1

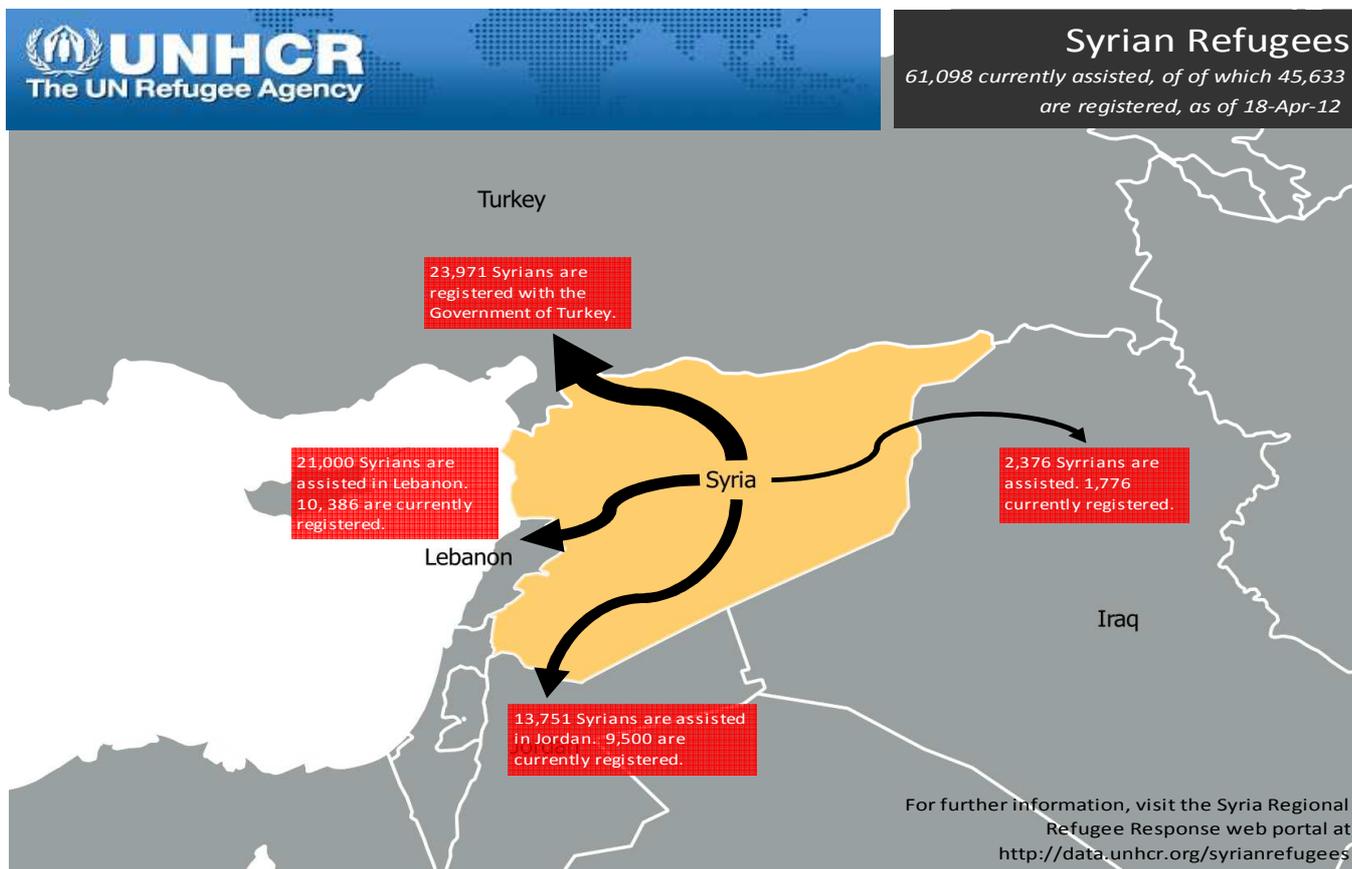
Syria Regional Refugee Response

Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey

18 April 2012



This weekly update provides a snapshot of the United Nations and its partners' response to the influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. The response is led by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and is undertaken in full coordination with host Governments. The next update will be issued on Thursday, 26 April 2012.



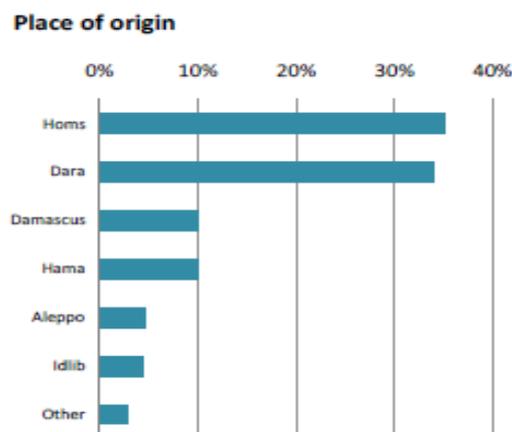
I. HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of Syrian refugees receiving assistance in the region has currently reached 61,098 (*Lebanon: 21,000; Jordan: 13,751; Turkey: 23,971; Iraq: 2,376*), out of whom 45,633 persons have been registered. UNHCR is continuing to register refugees in the neighbouring countries.
- Borders remain open for Syrian refugees crossing into neighbouring countries.
- A UNHCR airlift in Turkey landed in Adana on 10 April with 1,600 tents and 13,860 blankets.
- WFP is responding to the surplus number of Syrians in Jordan, with hot meals planned for those in various designated facilities.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) rehabilitated the homes of some 20 host families in Lebanon through the provision of cash grants.
- UNICEF has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Lebanon to cover the cost of Syrian children attending public schools.
- Regular coordination meetings take place in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

II. JORDAN

Highlights

- The total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR currently stands at 9,500. They are primarily located in the cities of Amman, Ramtha, Mafraq, Irbid, Zarqa and Ma'an. 4,251 Syrians are currently awaiting registration, while some 30,000 have been identified by local organisations as in need of assistance.
- The Ramtha facility, which was opened by the Government of Jordan, has a growing number of refugees in recent weeks.
- UN agencies concluded a joint needs assessment with the Government of Jordan to get a better understanding of vulnerabilities within the Syrian community. Data collection is taking place in areas with a high concentration of Syrians. Joining UNHCR were staff from WHO, WFP, UNESCO and UNICEF. Results will be shared with partners shortly.
- In Jordan, Syrian refugees who have registered with UNHCR mostly originate from Dara'a, Homs, Damascus and Hama.



Protection/Security

The number of refugees at the Ramtha facility has remained high but steady in recent weeks, with 1,200 individuals on average arriving per week, mainly from Homs and surrounding villages. UNHCR is working closely with the Government to ensure protection in an effective manner.

Assistance/Outreach

UNICEF is assisting vulnerable Syrian children with psychosocial and remedial education in the Ramtha facility and in Ma'an, and is also working to improve sanitation and hygiene. Caritas, distributed NFIs to 388 registered individuals in Mafraq, followed by a smaller number in Karak. UNHCR, through Caritas and the Jordan Health Aid Society, is providing out-patient curative, preventative and health promotion services including maternal and child health services. WFP has made arrangements to provide hot meals for Syrian refugees at the Ramtha facility. In addition to the provision of emergency cash assistance, the first 20 cases of Syrian refugees have been approved for financial assistance through the ATM system.

Coordination

Close cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Planning and International Coordination, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health, as well as the Ministry of Education is ongoing. UNHCR chairs an inter-agency task force consisting primarily of UN and NGO partners.

III. LEBANON

Highlights

- UNHCR and the Lebanese Government's High Relief Committee (HRC) have jointly registered and assisted more than 21,000 Syrian refugees in northern Lebanon.
- The number of Syrian refugees currently registered with UNHCR and HRC stands at 10,386, with an additional 10,614 refugees being assisted but not yet registered, bringing the total Syrian refugee population to 21,000. The Syrian refugee population is concentrated in north Lebanon, with over 9,500 in the Wadi Khaled area and an estimated 3,000 in Tripoli. Latest assessments show approximately 7,500 Syrians in the Bekaa Valley.

Protection/Security

Some 21 wounded Syrians were admitted to hospitals in recent weeks.

Assistance/Outreach

UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council(DRC) continue distributing food and NFIs to all registered Syrian refugees in north Lebanon. Some 1,500 people were provided with food and hygiene kits, fuel, sanitary napkins and baby diapers. UNHCR assisted some 1,500 people (293 families) in the Bekaa, through the DRC, with the help of local municipalities and charities. Four child-friendly spaces were established in Baalbeck, Brital and Bar Elias to cater for refugee and local children. UNHCR and the International Medical Corps (IMC) are identifying additional Primary Healthcare Centers in the Bekaa that can provide health assistance to refugee families in the area.

Coordination

A coordinated response and positive working relations with the Government's HRC and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) were established at the outset to the benefit of the refugees and hosting communities in the northern governorate. A common database is in use by the HRC and UNHCR, and referral mechanisms have been established to enable refugees to access assistance through specialized partners. In other parts of Lebanon, where the HRC is not present, close coordination with the local municipalities is underway. Weekly inter-agency coordination/sector meetings take place in Beirut.

IV. IRAQ

Highlights

- UNHCR registered a total of 1,776 individual Syrian refugees, and 600 are awaiting registration.
- The increasing number of Syrian nationals are temporarily accommodated in various locations in Dohuk in the north. The local authorities established a camp in Domiz, in Fayda sub-district in Dohuk. The new camp is progressively being equipped with essential services.
- Local authorities and UNHCR identified children of school age to ensure their timely enrolment in the existing schools in the Domiz old camp site. In the meantime, UNICEF has been requested to assess all educational needs.

Protection/Security

Along with UNHCR, the Iraqi Government's Department of Migration and Displacement ensures Syrian new arrivals have access to the territory and are protected against refoulement. In Erbil and Suleimaniya the Syrian arrivals are hosted by the local community, live in urban settings or assisted by already existing Syrian families.

Assistance/Outreach

The new Domiz camp is being equipped with essential services to host an increasing number of refugees. Following the opening of the camp, 37 families were provided with NFIs by UNHCR and IOM. The Health Department sends a team to the camp and provides medical assistance to 50 cases per day. Many have been diagnosed with skin diseases and allergies. Domiz camp has 60 water tanks, each with 1,000 litres storage capacity.

Coordination

A coordinated response with the local authorities has been put in place in preparation for any future influx of Syrians. UNHCR has discussed with the Ministry of Interior in Erbil and the Governor of Dohuk the best way to provide assistance and protection to new arrivals and to those already hosted by the community. UNHCR continues to lead and coordinate the response with UNCT members in Erbil. In collaboration with the Government's Emergency Cell, regular updates are provided on the situation of the Syrian arrivals, and coordination of the assistance and response in the Domiz camp is assured.

V. TURKEY

Highlights

- The overall number of Syrian refugees in Turkey now stands at 23,971 persons.
- Syrian refugees from the seven camps in Hatay are being moved to the new camps in a. *Gaziantep* (Islahiye); b. *Kilis* (Oncupinar) and c. *Sanliurfa* (Ceylanpinar). The population in Hatay camps was thus reduced to 7,277, while the Gaziantep camp now hosts 5,787; Kilis hosts 9,207 and Sanliurfa hosts 1,626 refugees.

Protection/Security

The Government undertakes registration and extends temporary protection to all new Syrian arrivals. Refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly Iraqis and Somalis, who fled to Turkey and are seeking or in need of international protection, are placed into the individual refugee protection system under the auspices of UNHCR and of the Government of Turkey.

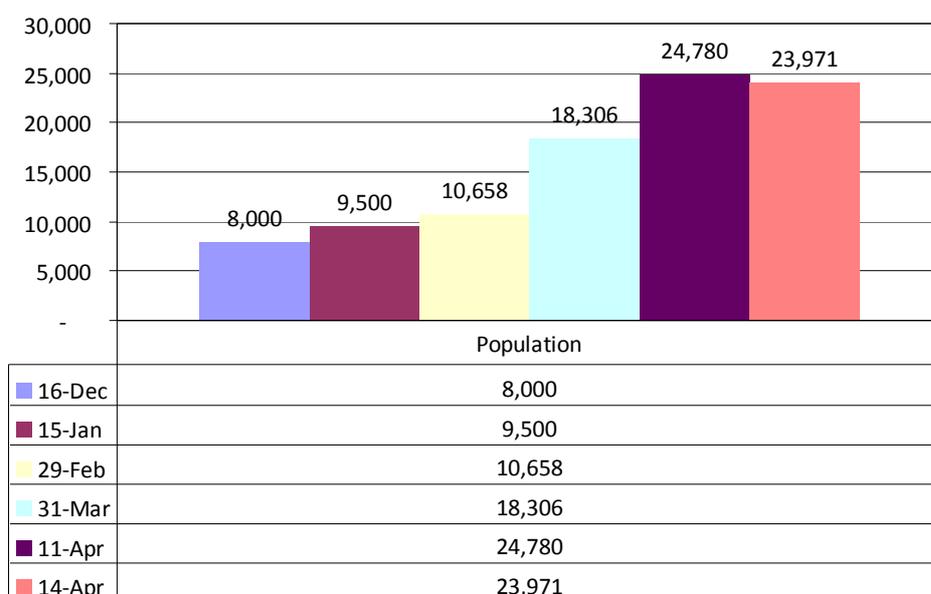
Assistance/Outreach

New arrivals are rapidly settled at the newly established tent sites, prepared by the Turkish authorities and set up by the Turkish Red Crescent. Food, accommodation and medical assistance have been provided to the camp populations without interruption.

Coordination

The UN Country Team is closely following the humanitarian situation in the border areas and camps, led primarily by the Turkish Government and it stands ready to provide further support to the Government.

Syrian Refugees Arriving in Turkey



VI. INFORMATION SHARING: LAUNCH OF THE WEB PORTAL

In recent weeks, UNHCR launched a web portal as part of the Regional Response Plan for the Syria Situation. This site - <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees> - provides up-to-date information on the response to the Syria refugee situation. Humanitarian partners, donors, media, and the public now have access to information about the demography and distribution of the refugee population in host countries, needs assessments, funding and an emergency response map featuring refugee locations, border crossing points, and assistance distribution.

END

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