

# INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

7 - 13 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

- Over 96% of the 2.2 million registered Syrian refugees have fled to the immediate region to **Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq** and **Egypt**. Humanitarian partners are currently working together to develop the 2014 Regional Response Plan for Syrian refugees to provide targeted assistance to over 1 million persons of concern.
- Regional Directors and Representatives of over 20 UN agencies met in Amman in response to a growing consensus within the international community that the protracted Syria crisis urgently requires a robust development response of scale to complement humanitarian responses already underway. It was agreed that a collective resilience-based development response to the Syria crisis will be launched to complement ongoing humanitarian efforts to provide life-saving relief.
- Another 281 Syrian refugees departed to Germany from **Lebanon** as part of the German Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP) in October, bringing the total number of refugees departing to Germany on this programme to 388. Through this programme, 5,000 Syrian refugees will have temporary residence in Germany until they are able to return home in safety and dignity or until they find other durable solutions. The next flight is scheduled to depart in mid-November.

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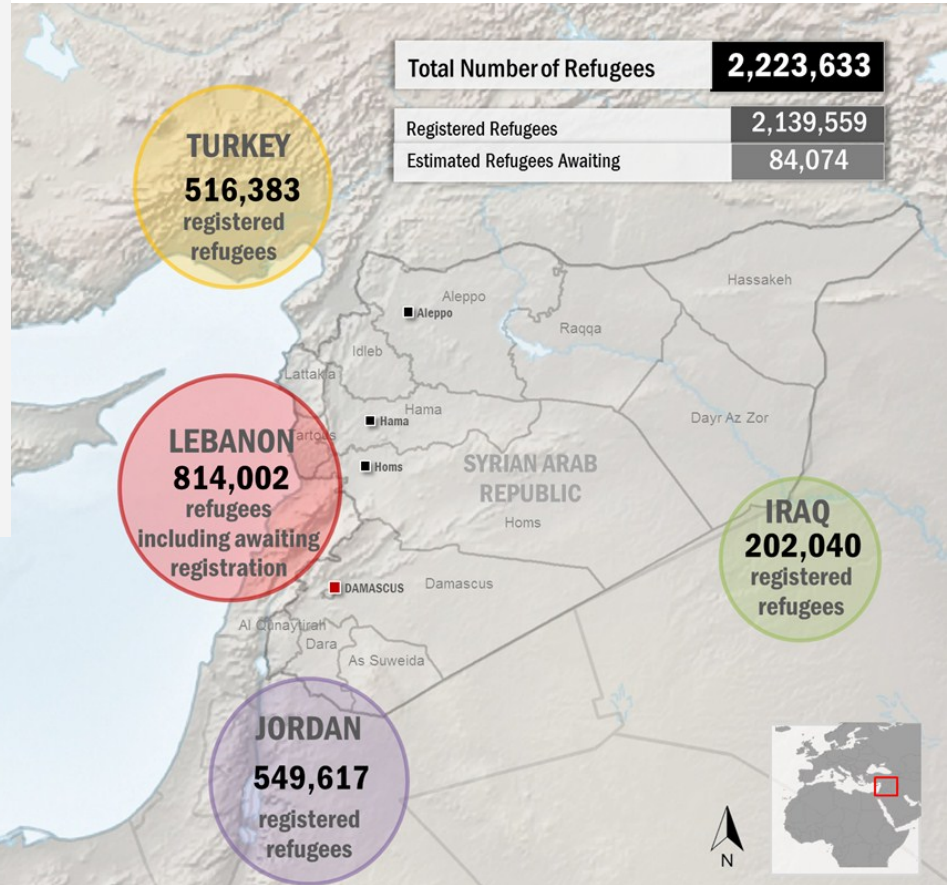
## REGIONAL FIGURES

**2.2 million** refugees fleeing Syria have sought protection in neighbouring countries

**96%** of Syrian refugees are hosted in the immediate surrounding region

**1.2 million** Syrian refugees are under 18 years of age

**80%** of Syrian refugees are living outside camps in urban settings amongst host communities across the region



## Humanitarian partners implementing a US\$138 million regional winterization plan

- UN agencies and Regional Response Plan (RRP) partners are coordinating to implement a plan that meets the needs of the most vulnerable amongst the more than 2.2 million refugees who have fled their homes due to the continuing conflict in Syria.
- In total, RRP partners are providing assistance to all Syrians residing in camps and over 40 per cent living outside of camps. It is estimated that the overall Syria RRP winterization programme is valued at some US\$ 138 million.

### Assistance in camps

- All Syrians living in camps in the region are benefitting from winterization measures by RRP partners. A range of activities will be implemented including a supplemental distribution of core relief items (CRIs), materials to increase the insulation of tent covers, stoves and fuel for heating. Site planning engineers are working with partners to improve drainage channels to prevent tents from being saturated with water and mud. The most vulnerable children are being provided with clothing and appropriate waterproof footwear. Health partners are scaling up surveillance and response capacity to detect winter-borne illnesses including influenza, respiratory diseases and mitigate the impact of chronic low temperatures. Measures are being put in place to prevent and respond to incidents to fire, including fire-fighting materials strategically placed in camp locations as well as the mobilization of fire brigade equipment and personnel where possible.

### Assistance to the most vulnerable refugees in host communities

- Priority groups targeted for assistance include those who live in sub-standard shelters, those who live in areas with severe climatic conditions, and the most vulnerable who may have the most difficulties to cover their accommodation, utility and heating or fuel costs. Weatherproofing is being provided to families living in sub-standard shelters – such as unfinished buildings, informal settlement or makeshift collective centres – through the distribution of plastic sheeting, renovations and repairs that increase the shelter's durability and ability to withstand winter conditions. Families unable to cover their basic household needs are being assisted with relief items, stoves, fuel or cash. In many cases, assistance is a mixture of in-kind items or the cash equivalent. Partners are working together to agree on common vulnerability criteria and the identification of refugees most in need and coordinating to implement and distribute winterization assistance.



*A Syrian refugee family looking out of their apartment window in Mafraq, northern Jordan.*  
UNHCR | J. Kohler

## UNRWA launches card distribution system in Lebanon

- Some 50,000 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon and can now receive their cash assistance directly from any ATM across the country. The new card system distributes assistance to refugees in a dignified, cost-efficient and convenient manner while minimizing security risks associated with cash-in-hand distribution.
- Since the system was launched, approximately 13,000 PRS families have received ATM cards from UNRWA. UNRWA cash distributions in Lebanon cover PRS food and housing needs, and will also cover winterization assistance.



## Relief International: enabling the successful inclusion of refugee children into formal education

- Jordan - Relief International (RI) is currently implementing a remedial education program operating within Za'atri camp, King Abdullah Park and Cyber City. These activities are helping to provide educational support to Syrian refugee children and youth enrolled in the education system within the camps. Activities are designed to provide additional support for classes within the formal system to better prepare the children to succeed and advance within the Jordanian curriculum. As of the end of August, this program has reached 3,346 children through ongoing educational support and informal education activities. In addition, RI is pursuing negotiations to continue its remedial education program activities Mafrq and Ramtha. RI has plans under discussion and negotiations with UNICEF to continue WASH activities in North Jordan with a focus on WASH Infrastructure Rehabilitation at the household level, as well as at the municipal level. These activities will continue in Mafrq, Irbid, Ramtha and expand into Northern Ghor.
- Lebanon – RI's education program in Lebanon currently includes accelerated learning programs (ALP) in fifteen schools across Tripoli, Beirut and Mount Lebanon. As of September 2013, RI has provided ALP classes to 2,012 Syrian and 321 Lebanese children, with a grand total of 2,333 beneficiaries. By the end of November 2013, RI expects to have assisted out-of-school Syrian children to become enrolled in the formal education system as a result of their participation in the accelerated learning program, which focused on the foreign languages, maths and science. In addition, RI has incorporated a WASH component that focuses on infrastructure rehabilitation and construction to improve WASH facilities in these schools, as well as hygiene promotion sessions for both school personnel and parents. RI is currently in the process of expanding this program to include an additional ten schools under the education and WASH assistance program.



*Above: Syrian and Lebanese students taking part in one of RI's Accelerated Learning Programs in Northern Lebanon. Relief International*

*Below: An RI team member with vulnerable refugees during a field visit in North Jordan. Relief International*



## UNESCO: Enhancing the skills and knowledge of Syrian refugees in Iraq

- With the aim to improve the poor living conditions of Syrian refugees in Iraq, UNESCO is launching an Entrepreneurship Training Course that will provide 75 youth with the required knowledge, skills and attitudes to self-manage micro-businesses, and to better cope with requirements and standards of the current employment market.
- In coordination with the University of Duhok, UNESCO is also providing 24 Syrian refugee youth with an advanced internationally certified IT training.
- In addition, UNESCO is prioritizing projects and activities that aim to improve access to secondary and vocational education, literacy, ICT, entrepreneurial and life skills in both urban areas and camp settings. Planned activities include secondary schools construction and rehabilitation, provision of teacher and master trainer training, catch up classes for out-of-school children, temporary schools, and psychosocial support in line with the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE).

## Refugee Voices

- Lara is a 17 year old Syrian teenager who was forced to flee her home country with her family three months ago. She found refuge in Northern Lebanon and is now enrolled in a drawing class at the DRC-supported Halba Community Centre in Qubayat. *"I never took drawing classes and thanks to the teacher, my skills improved a lot. It is the only way I can express my feelings"*, she says.
- DRC operates in eight Community Centres across the country by providing various activities such as sewing, hair dressing, beauty therapy and language classes to both Syrian and Lebanese beneficiaries.



DRC | A. Grozdev

## CARE Refugee Volunteers in Jordan: "Without hope you cannot live"

- Syrian volunteers are an integral part of CARE's effort to support Syrian refugees in Jordan. Despite their own losses, fears and struggles they use their talent in the service of fellow refugees. Five days a week, they greet refugees who seek financial and social support in CARE's refugee centres.
- Hadi, one of the volunteers, says about volunteering with CARE, *"We had great hopes and dreams. But then we had to leave our homeland and our dreams behind. Volunteering for CARE gives us hope. We need to help each other. We need to give each other hope. I love people and they need to know that someone cares about them. Sometimes even a smile makes a difference. It's hard to help people when you feel you need help yourself. But the world cannot forget about the Syrian people."*

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)