

Highlights:

- Eight mobile registration centres are operational;
- Tension intensified along the Turkey-Syria border;
- 198 WASH containers procured by UNHCR have been delivered to the camps.

Eight mobile registration centres registering non-camp Syrians

Nour, 52 years old, fled Syria with her family in 2013. She is living together with more than ten family members in a three-bedroom apartment in Kilis. Her Turkish landlord has waived rental costs and even covers utility costs for them out of sympathy. Nour is grateful to her landlord as well as to her Turkish neighbours who given much support. Nour and her family were bringing a new member of the family for registration at the mobile registration centre.

In order to support the Government's effort to register Syrian refugees living outside of the camps across the country, UNHCR contributed 34 mobile registration centres to AFAD and GDMM, of which eight are now operational. These centres that have been procured with funding from donors including the US, Kuwait and Japan, have strengthened the outreach to the Syrian non-camp refugees who represent the large majority of the Syrian refugee population in Turkey. Currently, 443,183 Syrians have been registered outside of the camps, while 224,373 refugees have been registered in the camps.



Nour, 52, brought a new born baby from her family to the mobile registration centre for registration. Kilis, Turkey. 18 March 2014. UNHCR/J. Song (Name changed for the protection of the refugee.)

Tension intensified along the Turkey-Syria border

During this period reportedly there were threats of an attack against the Tomb of Suleyman Shah, a part of Turkish sovereign territory in northern Syria. In addition, violent armed clashes between the Syrian Army and the rebel force Free Syrian Army (FSA) continued in the vicinity of the Turkey-Syria borders, particularly in Kessab, Latakia. Seven artillery shells, which were fired from the Kessab side, hit the ground in Hatay Province in Turkey, one of which landed in close proximity to Yayladagi Tekel-1 refugee camp. The media reported that opposition groups are in control of the border area.

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has urged Turkey and Syria to avoid taking steps that could increase tensions along the Turkish-Syrian border, saying abrupt acts may aggravate the situation after Turkey shot down a Syrian warplane that violated Turkish airspace on 23 March.

Although the Akcakale border gate is officially closed due to security concerns, local authorities have admitted about 613 Syrians through a crossing point eight kilometres west of the border gate around 22 and 23 March. Reportedly, this group fled from ISIS which controls the area. So far no major influx into Turkey is observed. According to unofficial sources, it is not safe for people to approach the border as the fighting is very close to the border area.

Donor Countries of UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme for Turkey



Other Donor Countries contributing to UNHCR's Regional Syrian Refugee Programme in alphabetical order including un-earmarked funding



Sector progress

Protection

In Mardin Province, local officials informed UNHCR that the estimated total number of non-camp Syrians is about 50,000-60,000. AFAD had already registered about 39,000 Syrians and the police have recently opened a Coordination Centre in Mardin city centre, and have registered 2,538 non-camp Syrians as of 23 March. Due the high number of non-camp Syrians in Kiziltepe and Nusaybin towns, another centre will be opened in Kiziltepe in ten days and one is planned for Nusaybin later.

In Ceylanpinar, the camp officials informed UNHCR that new arrivals continued to approach the camp in small groups. As of 27 March, there were about more than 80 people at the gate of the camp who were temporarily accommodated in the waiting area until they are registered and placed in tents. The camp officials stated that 33 of these new arrivals were referred by police as they had no place to stay in town. Some of the new arrivals stated that they came from Aleppo and crossed to Turkey through unofficial crossing points near Kilis. They stated that there were some more people on the other side of the border who were trying to find their way to Turkey. The camp officials in Ceylanpinar are trying to arrange space in the camp by merging small families in one tent in order to accommodate the new arrivals.

In Gaziantep, the provincial AFAD Directorate is transferring non-camp Syrians living in dire conditions in the city centre to the camps in Gaziantep. In addition to those who were transferred to Nizip-1 and Islahiye camps, some 160 Syrians were transferred to Karkamis camp. These Syrians are accommodated in rub hall tents and provided food and medical assistance when needed, until they are transferred to another camp, depending on the availability of space in these three camps.

Assistance

Local officials in Karkamis informed that the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASF) has conducted house visits and enumerated about 573 non-camp Syrians. It was estimated 800 or more Syrians are living in Karkamis. SASF identified that 400 of those enumerated are vulnerable and in need of assistance. SASF, in cooperation with the international NGO Welthungerhilfe, will provide cash assistance (42 TL per person) to those identified as vulnerable, and all 573 will be given clothing and food packages.

To date 198 WASH containers have been delivered to camps in Nusaybin, Adana, Hatay, Kahramanmaras, Nizip, Kilis, Ceylanpinar, Viransehir, Islahiye and Osmaniye. UNHCR is ready to deliver an additional 118 WASH containers to camps once instructions from AFAD are received.



With the support of donors, UNHCR procured 316 WASH containers for the refugee camps. 17 March 2014. UNHCR/J. SONG

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