

Highlights:

- Ministerial Coordination Meeting called for higher levels of international solidarity and burden sharing;
- 33% of UNHCR's budget for the sixth Regional Response Plan is funded;
- UNHCR concerned over the critical WASH situation in Islahiye camp.

Ministerial Coordination Meeting of Major Host Countries for Syrian Refugees

Government ministers from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt together with UNHCR met on 4 May to appeal for significantly heightened efforts to address the growing human impact of the Syria crisis. The meeting was co-chaired by the Government of Jordan and UNHCR. H.E Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey attended the meeting.

The Ministers and the High Commissioner for Refugees recognized that Syria has become the largest crisis of forcible displacement in the world, and that this is posing a growing threat to regional peace and security. They noted that the burden of hosting Syrian refugees has been disproportionately shouldered by the five host countries, and that many host communities have seen their own resources stretched to a breaking point.

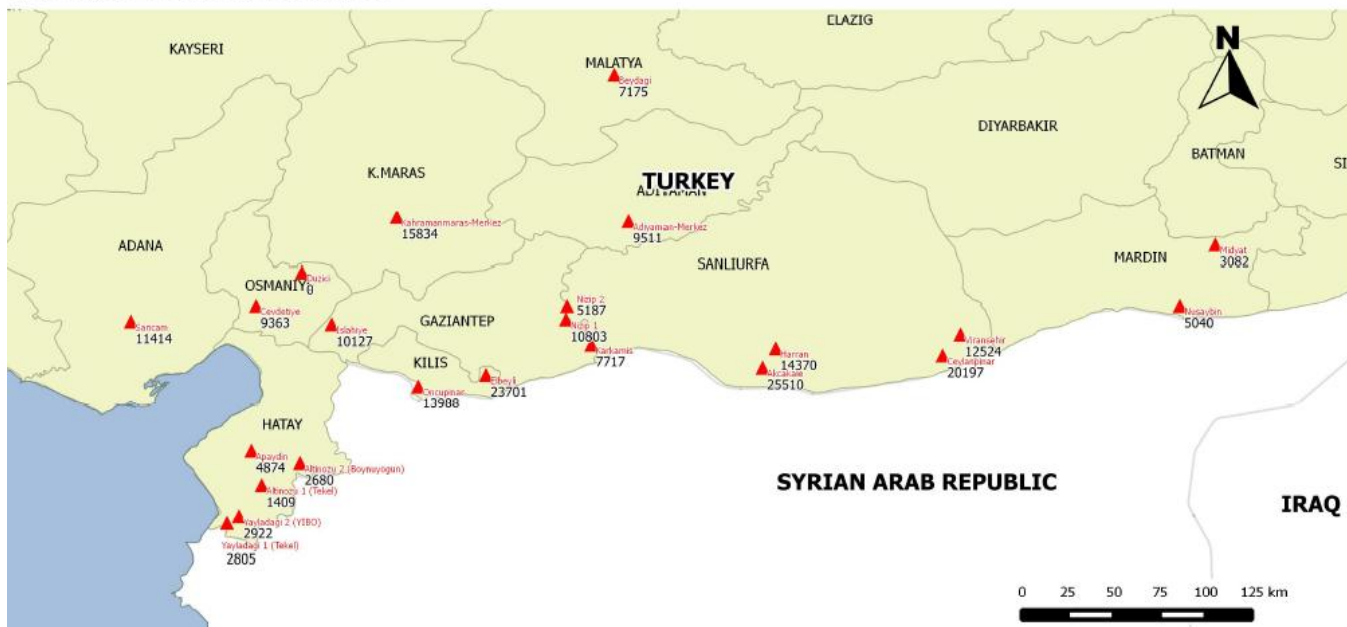
The Ministers and the High Commissioner for Refugees reiterated the imperative for much higher levels of international solidarity and burden sharing to the more than 2.7 million Syrian refugees in the region and their host communities. They also appealed to development actors and financial institutions to scale up their support to refugee hosting countries.



K. has a large family with seven sisters and a disabled father. The husband of one sister passed away in the war. The family came from Aleppo and has been living in a rented house for nine months. Today they are receiving a visit from a neighbor family from Aleppo. Turkey/ Syrian refugees/ Harran-Şanlıurfa urban / UNHCR / Aytunc Akad/ December 2013

Statistics

Syrian refugees in camps in Turkey as of 30 April 2014



Protection

Capacity building

UNHCR provided training to the first group of the GDMM's newly recruited staff on 6 and 9 May 2014. The training sessions focused on International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Refugee Law, as well as on migration policies from the perspective of international protection.

UNHCR attended the Workshop on "Identifying Measures to be Taken for the Efficient Implementation of Readmission Agreements" organized by ICMPD in Ankara. The workshop focused on bilateral and EU readmission agreements as well as the implications of readmission agreements in both requesting and requested countries.

Mission to Izmir

A UNHCR multi-functional team undertook a three-day mission to Izmir. Izmir is not a designated satellite city to host refugees, but being the third largest city in the country, it is receiving applications and registering refugees. The team met with key local authorities as well as NGOs. It was observed that the coordination mechanism, especially the access to public health services, was very well established in the city. The Foreigners Department indicated its interest in receiving training on the new procedures under the Law on Foreigners and International Protection.

Unaccompanied and separated children

UNHCR visited Provincial Child Protection Centres in Istanbul to follow-up the protection concerns regarding unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs). The institutions underlined the lengthy procedure for obtaining and renewing residence permits for the children, which hindered their access to health services. UNHCR raised the issue with the Foreigners' Police and requested for acceleration of residence permit procedures for UASCs.

Assistance

Spontaneous arrivals at the camps

The spontaneous arrivals continue to be one major challenge for most camps. Despite the efforts to transfer them to camps where spaces are available (Nusaybin or Viransehir), there were still about 350-400 people temporarily accommodated in the waiting areas of Nizip-1 (33 people), Karkamis (220-230 people), Islahiye (about 60-80 people), and Adiyaman (about 40-50 people). The trend is expected to continue given the continued arrivals of Syrians from the other side of the border, and the deteriorating conditions of non-camp refugees already in Turkey as they run out of their own resources.

WASH

UNHCR is concerned over the WASH situation in Islahiye camp which is one of the first camps established in 2012. The camp residents are struggling with very few functional toilets and showers. None of the women's showers were functioning. Islahiye camp uses container sanitation facilities, and at this point all of the containers need to be replaced, preferably with toilets in permanent structures.

Refugees reported not been able to bathe in the last two weeks. Some stated that their children have gotten sick on account of poor hygiene. In addition, water supply in Islahiye camp is inadequate. As a result, camp management is rationing the water.

In the past weeks, UNHCR has been in consultation with AFAD on possible solutions to the situation. AFAD is working on a plan for rehabilitation of infrastructures. UNHCR has offered to provide support with toilet and shower containers for Islahiye camp.

Education

UNHCR disseminated information to TOMER students in camps on the 'Turkey scholarship' programme given by GoT and available to all international students, including Syrians. Students accepted to the programme are admitted to designated university study programme on scholarship.

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:



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