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REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

30 October 2013

Part II – Host countries

This Regional Analysis of the Syria conflict (RAS) is an update of the [September RAS](#) and seeks to bring together information from all sources in the region and provide holistic analysis of the overall Syria crisis. While Part I focuses on the situation within Syria, Part II covers the impact of the crisis on the neighbouring countries. The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For more information, comments or questions please email SNAP@ACAPS.org.

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Red flags indicate new information

Regional Overview

Increase in negative coping mechanisms: During October, the number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration in neighbouring countries surpassed 2.2 million. As Syrians continue to flee the country in their thousands, and humanitarian aid providers and host communities struggle to meet their basic needs, the situation is also deteriorating for those who have been refugees for many months. At the start of the crisis, Syrians in host countries managed to survive by relying on savings, finding temporary jobs and through support from host communities and aid organisations. However, all these mechanisms are currently under pressure:

- During winter, key sectors for income generation such as construction and agriculture require fewer human resources.
- Governments are increasingly trying to halt illegal employment by increasing both threats and actions to detain or deport those without official documentation.
- Funding allocations are inadequate to meet the needs of refugees consistently across the region. As a result, humanitarian agencies in Lebanon are obliged to restrict their operations to the most vulnerable, a process which has created much confusion and frustration among excluded refugees. Preparations for an update of the regional appeal for funding, Regional Response Plan 6, to be published in December, have started.

Detention: Their protracted stay and costs related to regularising their stay have left many Syrians without legal documentation for work or residence. As a result, the threat of detention is increasing across the region. The number of Syrians in detention in Egypt and Lebanon has grown as political tensions have been exacerbated by the Syrian crisis in both countries. In Egypt, a number of

Syrians have been forced to choose between detention or deportation, while in Jordan, the government recently threatened to deport Syrians who work without obtaining an official work permit.

Secondary displacement: Although there is very limited monitoring of the situation, thousands of refugees have reportedly returned to Syria, despite the insecurity and lack of assistance in Syria. In host countries, refugee families move residences in search of livelihoods and lower rents, although these movements usually decrease their access to basic services.

Hundreds of Syrians and Palestinians from Syria (PRS), particularly those residing in Egypt, are paying smugglers to transport them on risky voyages to seek asylum in Europe. 2 boats capsized in October, killing hundreds of people, including Syrians and Palestinians. Those fleeing Syria now make up the bulk of irregular movements across the Mediterranean Sea. This is likely to continue and will exacerbate protection concerns for Syrian refugees across the region.

Thousands of refugees from Syria are also making their way to Europe overland but are ending up in detention in Bulgaria. In September, there was an average of 200 arrivals per day. Thousands are reportedly living in severely overcrowded, makeshift collective centres with little assistance and inadequate facilities. The small, resource-poor country is struggling to cope with the new phenomena and most assistance is donated by local Syrians and Bulgarians.

Restrictions to entry: While the situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, flight options for Syrians remain restricted. Lebanon is increasing its scrutiny of Syrians' documentation at border crossings, while reports have emerged of restrictions of the entry of Palestinians from Syria. In Egypt, the political situation and the related restrictions imposed on entry of Syrians are unlikely to be resolved in the near future. New arrivals to Jordan have been unusually low since May, despite continued fighting in the governorates along the border.

Health: A polio outbreak in Deir-ez-Zor in eastern Syria has triggered an emergency vaccination campaign in Syria as well as all neighbouring countries, demonstrating the wide-reaching consequences of the conflict. Agencies are planning to vaccinate 2.4 million children in Syria against polio, measles, mumps and rubella and are launching similar campaigns in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Monitoring system: The protracted refugee crisis continues to deteriorate. However, in the absence of national or region-wide monitoring systems, it is unclear to what extent. Coping mechanisms, prices (including rent) disease incidence and secondary displacement are all issues that require close monitoring in order to estimate and act according to the trend. However, there is little capacity and willingness to establish systems that consistently track and report on the fluid situation. There is also limited information on the effects of the refugee influx on host communities, though tensions are rising in all host countries.

Data sources

📌 The following reports became available on the situation of Syrians in host countries:

- **Lebanon:** CARE International led a rapid integrated assessment of refugees in Mount Lebanon where large information gaps remain, although 22% of registered refugees reside there. The assessment found a significant number of refugees were not registered with UNHCR. In addition, close to 60% of interviewed households defined cash as one of their most immediate and urgent needs. ([CARE 2013/10/24](#))
- At the request of the Cash Transfer Working Group, a consultant assessed if the heating stove market could meet the additional demand expected to arise this winter, when refugees receive an unconditional cash transfer to obtain a stove. The assessment found that 90% of the assessed refugees intended to buy a stove but that the timing of the programme leaves suppliers insufficient time to meet the additional demand. Thus some households will not be able to buy a stove before the end of the year. ([M. Vik 2013/10/15](#))
- **Jordan:** Two WASH assessments were published in October; an inter-agency assessment in host-communities found the vast majority of households to have access to toilets but waste management to be lacking in half of the households, leading to unregulated dumping and potential health hazards due to lack of staffing and trucks. Informal settlements, although limited in number, are most vulnerable as they lack access to treated water and open defecation is common.
- A JEN/UNICEF assessment of WASH in public schools found that the vast majority of schools lacked adequate water supplies and did not promote good hygiene practices in their curriculum or messaging. Irbid (particularly Ramtha and Wasiteyya districts) and Ma'an governorates require attention due to the high density of Syrian students.
- In addition, UNICEF published a multi-sectoral literature review of Syrian refugee children living in Jordan.
- **Iraq:** In Dohuk governorate, UNHCR and UNICEF jointly inspected 5 settlements hosting 490 Syrian refugees. Conditions were generally good with a need for minor building repair, hygiene kits, and winter relief supplies. ([USAID 2013/10/24](#))
- IOM Iraq conducted a thematic assessment on the impact of the refugee influx on host communities from April to September 2013. The results are yet to be published. ([IOM 2013/09/23](#))
- **Egypt:** Preliminary findings of a UNICEF/UNHCR school assessment in 5 governorates indicate that there are insufficient numbers of teachers, materials and classrooms to absorb refugee children. ([USAID 2013/09/24](#))
- No assessments on the situation in **Turkey** were published in October.

Possible Developments

- 📌 **Restrictions to entry:** Al-Qaeda affiliated armed groups take over several important border crossings into Jordan and Turkey. At the same time, the clashes preceding the taking over of these crossings prompt temporary closures of the border points by the Governments of Jordan and Turkey. As a result, access to Jordan and Turkey is further restricted, particularly for minority groups such as Armenians, Christians and Kurds who are particularly vulnerable to a number of human rights violations at ISIL controlled border points.
- 📌 **Outbreak of diseases:** The continuing displacement of Syrians to neighbouring countries and the limited access to health and WASH services in refugee communities leads to localised outbreaks of communicable diseases including measles, polio and typhoid. While vaccination campaigns are quickly administered in the areas at risk, refugees not registered with UNHCR are not consistently covered under these schemes. As a result, the most vulnerable unregistered refugees are most at risk, while access to healthcare is limited.
- 📌 **Clashes in Qalamoun impact Lebanon:** The anticipated offensive by the Syrian regime against opposition forces in the strategic region of Qalamoun, which borders Lebanon, starts. Hezbollah takes a decisive role in the offensive as they are particularly well equipped to fight in the mountainous terrain. Similar to consequences of the Al-Qusayr battle, the heavy clashes in the area impact the border region in Lebanon, with an increased number of refugees, including wounded, fleeing into Lebanon. In addition, Hezbollah's participation in the battle leads to retaliatory attacks against the group on Lebanese soil. While such retaliatory attacks do not destabilise Lebanon as a whole, humanitarian access in the Bekka is temporarily restricted.

Neighbouring country displacement

October 2013

Turkey

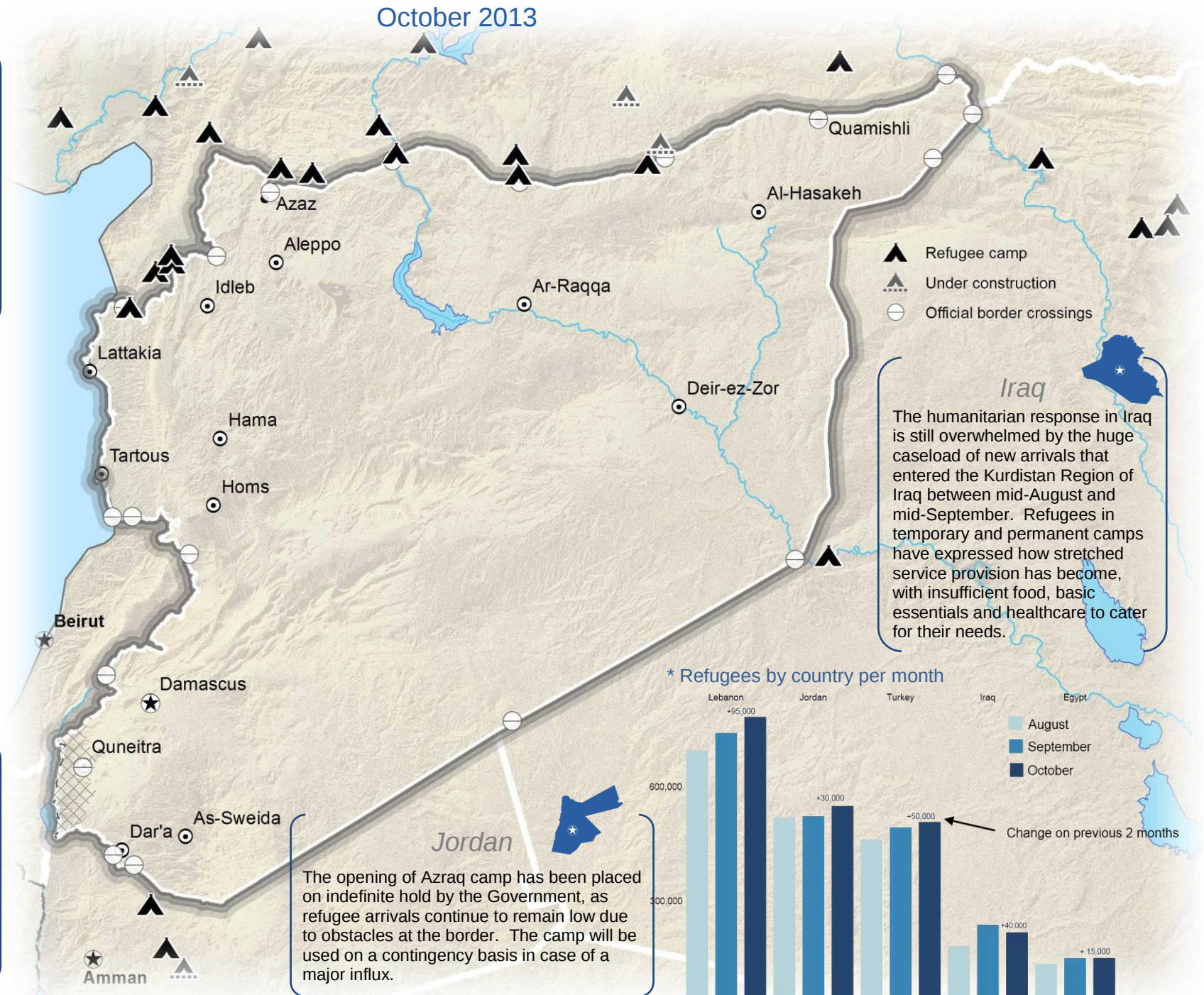
On 28 October, one person was killed by a mortar shell fired from across the border. On 15 October, the Turkish military shelled Azaz in Syria in response to shelling on Turkish territory. The Government of Turkey is currently building a wall along part of its border with Syria to stop the illegal crossing of smugglers and fighters in and out of Syria.

Lebanon

Preparedness for winter has been on the humanitarian agenda in Lebanon since spring and it has been decided that a large part of the needs will be met through the provision of cash to the most vulnerable. However, the actual implementation of the cash-transfer projects has started too late in the year to let the market adapt to an increase in demand and a shortage of for instance heating stoves is projected.

Egypt

An increased number of Syrians have been trying to reach Europe from Egypt. From January to September 2013, around 7,500 Syrians and Palestinians have arrived in Italy. Over 700 Syrians have been arrested by Egyptian authorities and face difficult conditions in detention.



Lebanon

Displaced

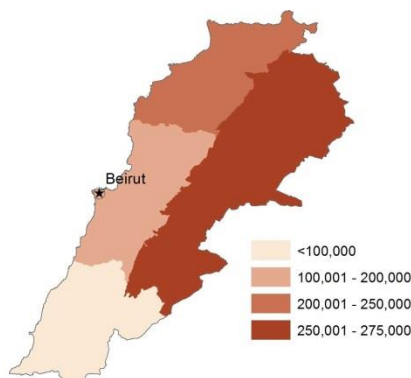
	End Sep	End Oct
Syrian registered refugees/awaiting registration	756,630	802,253
Government estimate	1,000,000	-
Palestinian refugees from Syria	45,000	49,000

Source: [UNHCR 2013/10/30](#), [UNRWA 2013/10/29](#)

Key developments

- 🚩 **Projections:** By the end of next year, December 2014, 3,150,000 individuals in Lebanon are expected to be in need of support. This includes 1.5 million Syrian refugees and an equal number of Lebanese. However, some claim that these estimations are inflated.
- 🚩 **Targeted assistance:** With the current Regional Response Plan for Lebanon only 44% covered, the UN and partners now restrict food and NFI aid to the 72% of registered refugees considered to be most vulnerable. This targeted distribution has started throughout the country, except in northern Lebanon, where targeting will start in November. There are several concerns related to the targeting procedure and its impact:
 - **Wrongfully excluded:** There is concern over the information used to determine an individual's vulnerability. As a countrywide household assessment is not feasible, inclusion decisions are based on the basic information that was provided during initial UNHCR registration. NGOs have identified a concerning number of highly vulnerable households that have been wrongfully excluded. To address this issue, several mechanisms have been established or are due to be implemented; the main one being an appeal process. By September, 19,000 households had already made use of this process. Despite these mechanisms, there are concerns that some wrongfully excluded are unable or unwilling to step forward – particularly new arrivals who did not benefit from the information campaign explaining the process. In addition, it is unclear to what extent there is funding available to include those that have been verified as being wrongfully excluded.

Refugees by region
(Registered and awaiting UNHCR)



- **Timing:** Due to unforeseen delays, targeted assistance commences at the start of the winter instead of during the summer as planned. As a result, households, which have been excluded, are forced to adapt to the new situation during the winter months, when livelihoods opportunities are scarce.
- **Miscommunication:** Despite the mass information campaign established to inform refugees and partners of the targeting process, NGOs report that, at the field level, many are unaware of the exact process and its implications. As a result, there is widespread confusion about the reasons for inclusion and the different means of support for individuals who were excluded. In particular, the continued requirement for registration with UNHCR is not always clear, raising concerns about an increased number of individuals who will refrain from registration if they think they are unlikely to receive assistance. ([CARE 2013/10/24](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/12](#), [IRIN 2013/10/09](#), [RI 2013/10/17](#), [PI 2013/10/22](#))
- 🚩 **Main humanitarian needs:** The situation for refugees continues to deteriorate. The main concerns as mentioned by Syrians in Lebanon are the lack of adequate shelter, unemployment, low wages and the limited access to healthcare and education. The already difficult situation will be compounded during the upcoming winter months. Organisations are addressing the additional needs associated with winter through cash transfers. During a CARE assessment in Mount Lebanon, 60% of the households assessed defined cash as one of their most immediate and urgent needs to meet their rent and basic needs. However, it is unclear to what extent the market can support an increase in demand for winter items generated by the cash assistance. While the Lebanese market is dynamic, an assessment of the heating stove market found that the cash transfers start too late for the Lebanese market to react: a shortage is projected, that will leave some households without heating stoves. ([UNHCR 2013/10/11](#), [UNFPA 2013/10/22](#))
- 🚩 **Border restrictions and protection:** As the impact of the refugee influx on host communities becomes more apparent, there are increasing calls to close the border with Syria. Restrictions on border crossings continue, particularly affecting 4 groups: those with damaged or no identity papers; individuals between 15-18 year old with ID but without parent authorisation; 18-21 years old with no proof of exemption from military service; and nomadic households. As with other refugee-hosting countries, there is little public advocacy raising awareness of the border restrictions. In conjunction with the restrictions to entry, an increase in arrests and detention of Syrians residing irregularly in Lebanon has been observed. ([IA 2013/10/18](#), [Protection WG 2013/10/18](#))
- 🚩 **Limited legal status:** Preliminary findings of a legal assessment indicate that Syrians who have no proof of legal status in Lebanon, either because they crossed through unofficial border crossings or because they cannot afford to renew their permit (USD 200), face additional protection challenges. Birth

registration, access to justice, income opportunities and services are all more difficult for those with limited legal status, particularly for those living in areas with a large number of checkpoints (such as Wadi Khalid).

Unregistered refugees: Those forced to flee without documentation face difficulties in registering with UNHCR, for instance because it is more difficult to cross checkpoints to reach one of the four registration centres. Other reasons for not registering include a lack of information on the process, transportation costs and security reasons. An assessment in Mount Lebanon showed that municipalities in the area registered close to twice the number of refugees registered by UNHCR, indicating that a significant number of Syrians had not registered. ([CARE 2013/10/24](#))

➤ **Shelter:** The deteriorating situation for refugees and host communities is also reflected in the increase in the number of Syrian refugees being evicted from their places of residence.

Reasons for eviction include repeated failure to pay rent on time or refugees having settled on private land. The total number of evicted people reached over 1,300 across 8 different locations in the Bekaa in September. This further impacts the already dire shelter situation, with an increasing number of people living in informal tented settlements (ITS). Many ITS are located in flood-prone areas and during the 2011/2012 winter a number of settlements were flooded. Despite the risks, several households indicated last winter that they did not want to evacuate, as their livelihoods were linked to the area where they are residing. Coordination of the different flood mitigation efforts has proven difficult, as flooding affects shelter and WASH activities at the same time. ([PI 2013/10/14](#))

Proportion of registered refugees per type of accommodation
April and August 2013



➤ **WASH and health:** The WASH and health infrastructure is increasingly unable to provide for the increase in demand. According to WASH assessments, around 30% of refugees will be in need of water support by the end of 2013. Respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea and skin disease remain the top 3 health problems reported among Syrian refugees. Health problems are expected to increase: there is very low immunisation coverage among children under 3 years of age and WHO is highlighting the increasing risk of waterborne diseases in ITS during the winter. ([WASH 2013/10/18](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/11](#), [CARE 2013/10/24](#))

➤ **Clashes:** Meanwhile, clashes reignited between supporters and opponents of the Government of Syria in Tripoli, wounding 47 people and killing at least 7. Many residents of the two neighbourhoods involved in the battle, Bab al-Tibbaneh and Jabal Mohsen, fled their homes for other parts of the city. ([Al Jazeera 2013/10/25](#), [Daily Star 2013/10/22](#), [Daily Star 2013/10/25](#))

Jordan

Displaced

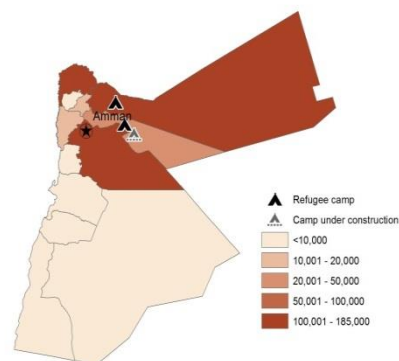
	End Sep	End Oct
Syrian registered refugees / awaiting registration	523,607	552,048
Government estimate (July)	600,000	600,000
Palestinian refugees from Syria	8,800	9,657

Source: [UNHCR 2013/10/30](#), [UNRWA 2013/10/29](#)

Key Developments

- Registered refugees:** This month saw a significant increase in the number of registered refugees with over 20,000 Syrians registering with UNHCR between 24 September and 24 October. The increase in registrations is largely attributed to those already residing in Jordan. The same day registration process at UNHCR's Amman and Irbid offices has made it easier for Syrians to access the registration process, although those who rely on UNHCR-organised buses for transport to Amman, particularly from the southern governorates, often wait several months to register. ([UNHCR 2013/10](#), [DRC 2013/10/28](#))
- Concerns continue over the unofficial restrictions and obstacles to entry for Syrians trying to flee to Jordan, which may grow due to the increased presence of extremist groups on the Syrian side of the border. Clashes in Dar'a governorate increased in October, prompting more displacement. Meanwhile, there are reports that the previously reported fee of JOD 300 (USD 423) for Syrians to enter the Kingdom at unofficial crossings controlled by opposition fighters has increased by more than threefold in late October. ([Al Jazeera 2013/09/28](#), [PI 2013/10/24](#), [PI 2013/10/19](#))
- Secondary movements:** Syrian refugee registration figures became available by governorate last month and initial data shows that the geographical concentration of registered refugees may be changing. There was a slight decrease in refugee concentrations (% of total registered Syrian refugees) in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa, although these governorates remain the largest hosts to Syrian refugees, while Madaba governorate saw the largest growth in registered refugees. NGO reports also indicate that refugees are increasingly moving from urban to rural areas due to the lower cost of rent,

Refugees by region
(Registered and awaiting UNHCR)



although refugees report that their access to services also decreases. ([UNHCR 2013/10/24](#), [PI 2013/10/10](#), [DRC 2013/10/01](#))

- Returns:** Refugees continue to return to Syria at an average rate of 200 people a day: over 6,000 Syrians returned in September while 2,600 returned between 1-13 October. ([UNHCR 2013/10/13](#))
- Projections:** UNHCR is planning for 800,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan in 2014 with an additional 200,000 refugees in its contingency plan. UNRWA is planning to assist 17,000 PRS in 2014. ([UNHCR 2013/09/29](#), [UNRWA 2013/10/23](#))
- The opening of Azraq camp has been indefinitely postponed by the Government of Jordan (GoJ), despite efforts by aid agencies to prepare the camp to open in September, as well as USD 25 million investments by international donors in the camp's infrastructure and management. It was reported that the camp will be opened in case of a large influx of refugees. The GoJ decision not to open the camp as planned lends further support to the view that the GoJ will continue to manage movements into Jordan. Funding that had been allocated to staffing and maintaining basic services in the camp is to be re-allocated to other services outside Azraq. ([IRIN 2013/10/16](#))
- Livelihoods and food security (LFS):** The GoJ continues to crack down on undocumented foreign workers and threatens deportations of Syrians if they do not obtain work permits by 11 November. The announcement coincided with the GoJ's quarterly unemployment report, which showed a slight increase since last year. Bureaucratic and financial requirements for work permits are prohibitive for refugees and the deportation threat is viewed largely as political rhetoric for domestic audiences. An estimated 160,000 Syrian refugees - 30,000 of which are believed to be children - are working in Jordan, the vast majority without legal permits. ([Department of Statistics 2013/10/09](#), [Ministry of Labor 2013/06/11](#), [Al Jazeera 2013/10/22](#))
- Inflation continues to increase in Jordan with an average rate of 6% in 2013, due to the removal of fuel subsidies in 2012. The cost of fuel and electricity has increased by 24% over the last 12 months. ([GIEWS 2013/10/01](#))
- There has been increased attention to host communities with multiple donors and the World Bank announcing a USD 53 million grant to support Jordanian municipalities most affected by the refugee influx to strengthen basic services and general capacity, as well as address tensions between refugees and host communities. In addition, the GoJ, with support from UNDP, continues to roll out the host community platform to coordinate medium and long-term development assistance to affected areas. 5 thematic task forces will be set up, but there is concern with the duplication of efforts and proliferation of coordination fora between the new platform and existing sectoral coordinating mechanisms. ([World Bank 2013/10/12](#), [UNDP 2013/09/10](#), [PI 2013/10/21](#))

Turkey

Displaced

	End Sep	End Oct
Syrian registered refugees/awaiting registration	492,716	506,530
Government estimate	490,000*	660,000
Palestinian refugees from Syria (7 Sep)	1,600	-

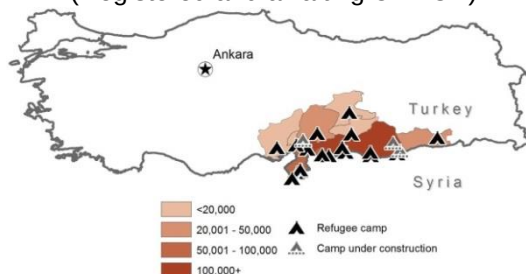
Source: [UNHCR 2013/10/30](#)

* Government estimate since 20 June

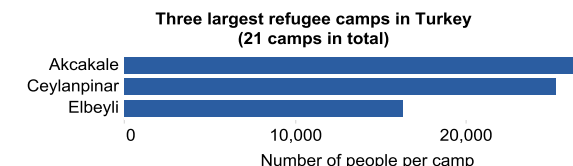
Key developments

- **Entry:** As in previous months, passport holders and wounded can officially access Turkey without restrictions. In addition, a limited number of Syrians not meeting these criteria are admitted each day, depending on space available in the camps. To prevent people from illegally bypassing its checkpoints and to prevent smuggling, Turkey is building a two-meter high wall along part of its border with Syria. Construction has started at Nusaybin, a border district 10 km north of the Syrian town of Qamishli. ([UNHCR 2013/10/02](#), [Daily Star 2013/10/07](#))
- The Government of Turkey (GoT) has occasionally closed border crossings following clashes in Syria. At the start of the month, one of the official border crossings, Kilis/Oncupinar, was closed due to on-going fighting between different opposition groups in Syria. As a result, the number of people crossing at the nearby Cilvegözü/Bab Al-Hawa border point increased to about 1,500 persons per day. ([UNHCR 2013/10/02](#), [Daily Star 2013/10/07](#))
- **Returns:** Cross-border movements are common; for instance, to check on property, or to undertake casual labour. In addition, spontaneous returns continue, because, for instance, individuals are not satisfied with the situation in Turkey. At the start of the month, the Turkish police facilitated the exit of some 1,000 persons in a single day. Before and during the celebration of Eid on 15 and 16 October, several thousand Syrians crossed into Syria for the celebration of the Islamic holiday, presumably temporarily. ([PI 2013/10/15](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/21](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/11](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/10](#))
- **Camps:** On 24 October 2013, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the GoT reported that over 200,000 Syrians were accommodated in 21 camps in 10 provinces. As access to these camps for journalists and NGOs is limited, there is only scarce information published on the situation in the camps. The GoT, however, appears to provide services of a

Refugee concentration in border regions
(Registered and awaiting UNHCR)



high quality. The sole reported humanitarian concern is congestion. For instance, due to high numbers of students enrolled in the schools in the camps this year (over 45,000 already), camp officials have reported a shortage of space allocated for schools. ([UNICEF 2013/10/14](#))



- **Unregistered Syrians:** The large majority of Syrians in Turkey do not reside in camps: over 300,000 are registered outside of camps, although the actual number is likely to be higher as registration is not occurring in all areas. In Mardin, for instance, AFAD suspended the registration of non-camp Syrians and is registering only the cases in need of medical assistance until a newly established structure and system is fully functioning. Registration of the non-camp Syrians in the provincial capitals of Kilis and Hatay has not yet started. Local officials estimate that there are about 40,000 to 45,000 Syrians in Kilis city alone. ([UNHCR 2013/10/07](#))
- There are also some un-registered Syrians residing in camps, usually those who were allowed unofficial entrance to the camps to join relatives. In Kilis Oncupinar, for instance, an estimated 1,000 and 2,000 unregistered Syrians are living in the camp. They are currently being registered. In addition to the unregistered refugees in the camp, some unregistered Syrians reside directly outside the camps, waiting to be admitted and accommodated in a camp. ([UNHCR 2013/10/22](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/02](#))
- **Needs of non-camp Syrians:** While access to health care is facilitated through AFAD registration, little other assistance exists as there are relatively few NGOs working with non-camp refugees. Food and rental subsidies have been identified as a need and highly vulnerable Syrians outside of camps continue to be identified. In Kilis, a few thousand Syrians were reportedly living in makeshift tents without access to sanitation facilities. ([UNHCR 2013/10/21](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/10](#))
- The number of non-camp Syrians living in public parks and mosques is reportedly increasing. Their situation is deteriorating due to the winter weather. In Islahiye and Nizip towns, the situation for Syrians who were living in mosques and parks was so concerning due to the cold temperatures and rain that the authorities transferred them all to camps. As in other host countries, Syrians not resident in camps face increasing difficulties in paying rent. In Sanliurfa, for instance, several hundred families were identified as in need of rent assistance. ([UNHCR 2013/10/09](#), [RI 2013/10/17](#), [RI 2013/10/17](#))
- **Militarisation:** The border region is becoming increasingly militarised and on some occasions, shells from Syria have landed on Turkish territory. The security situation deteriorated on 17 October, when Turkey shelled positions held by fighters in Syria in retaliation for a mortar round that fell on Turkish territory. ([Daily Star 2013/10/17](#))

Iraq

Displaced

	End Sep	End Oct
Syrian registered refugees/ awaiting registration	220,000*	197,844
Government estimate	-	-

Source: [UNHCR 2013/10/30](#)

* This figure was an estimate given the lack of registration during the initial days of the August influx.

Key developments

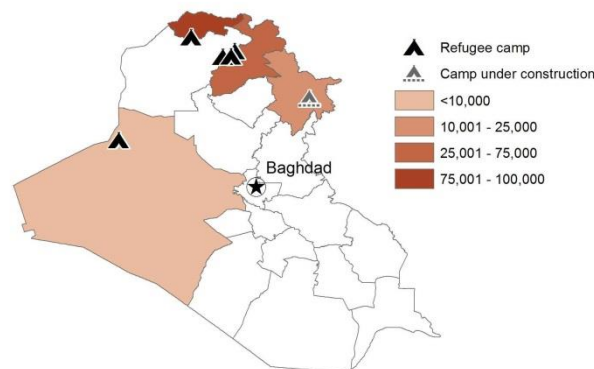
✦ Iraq continues to see violent security incidents, with 545 people having been killed in October in attacks across the country. Since April, more than 5,000 people have been killed and the Baghdad authorities are suggesting that the violence is increasingly linked to the crisis in Syria. ([Guardian 2013/10/27](#))

✦ Borders and protection:

Sehela border crossing has been closed since 14 September, though it was opened for one day on 29 September, allowing 2,152 individuals to cross into the Kurdistan region of Iraq (KR-I). Following a security incident in Erbil on 29 September, in which car bombs targeted the headquarters of the security services killing 6 people, followed by gunfire wounding another 36, there have been no indications from the authorities as to when the crossing might re-open. Peshakapor is only open for exits and all other border crossing are completely closed, although Al Qa'im in Anbar allows urgent medical cases to be treated at the border health unit. ([UNFPA 2013/10/20](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/06](#))

✦ The humanitarian response continues to be dominated by the needs of the Syrian arrivals that entered the KR-I between 15 August and 14 September: as they arrived in large numbers (an estimated 60,000, of which 39,000 have registered with UNHCR so far), the KR-I authorities and the humanitarian sector have struggled to meet their needs. Currently, new arrivals are settling in non-camp areas with family and friends or living in one of the 6 temporary settlements or one of the 5 recently established camps. Some of the recent arrivals are still coming to Domiz, despite its severe overcrowding. The Mines Advisory Group has warned that some of the sites being developed as camps are in areas potentially littered with mines and IEDs. Land around the camps

Refugees by region
(Registered and awaiting UNHCR)



has been cleared but the group warns that the surrounding countryside may still pose a danger, especially as refugees venture out to collect fruit and wild flowers to supplement their meagre rations. Recent arrivals not in the permanent or temporary camps are living in improvised shelters among the local community in empty houses, mosques, and community centres. ([WFP 2013/09/20](#), [MAG 2013/10/03](#), [IOM 2013/09/23](#))

✦ Not all of the new arrivals have completed the full registration process. Without full registration, they are unable to move freely in and out of the camp sites or to obtain official employment. Despite the on-going efforts of humanitarian actors, residents in the camps have cited concerns about the lack of sufficient nutritional food, healthcare, NFIs and WASH facilities as all resources are stretched by the sheer numbers. ([IOM 2013/09/23](#))

✦ In some cases, humanitarian assistance has had to target those assessed to be most vulnerable; for example, the Emergency WASH working group decided to prioritise the needs of the refugees in camps. Of those in host communities, the WASH agencies will only target 10%, or some 21,800 people. ([UNHCR 2013/08/31](#))

✦ **LFS:** Monitoring data has shown that most families in the refugee camp in Anbar limit their meal portion sizes and adults restrict their food intake so as to allow children to eat more. These coping strategies were also cited in Domiz camp in Dohuk, though to a lesser extent. In both camps, most heads of households have sought work outside of the camp so as to find further means of providing. ([UNHCR 2013/10/02](#))

✦ A nutritional assessment of all children under 5 in Domiz Camp showed that out of a total of 500 children screened, 10 were acutely malnourished, of which 2 were suffering from severe acute malnutrition. ([UNICEF 2013/10/28](#))

✦ **Health and education:** Reports have emerged of 30 cases of Hepatitis A occurring in Kawergosk camp. Health practitioners have also reported increasing mental health needs among the refugee population, with the numbers suffering from severe mental disorders in Domiz camp having doubled in the last year. Schizophrenia, severe depression and suicidal tendencies have become more common. At the same time, an even lower percentage of refugee children are in education this year, with assessments showing 92% not attending school compared to 90% (of non-camp refugees) last year. The language barrier due to the different dialect of Kurdish spoken by the refugees presents a considerable obstacle. ([UNHCR 2013/10/02](#), [MSF 2013/10/08](#), [PI 2013/29/10](#))

Egypt

Displaced

	End Sep	End Oct
Syrian registered refugees/awaiting registration	126,717	126,034
Palestinian refugees from Syria	6,000	6,000
Government estimate (16 July)	300,000	300,000

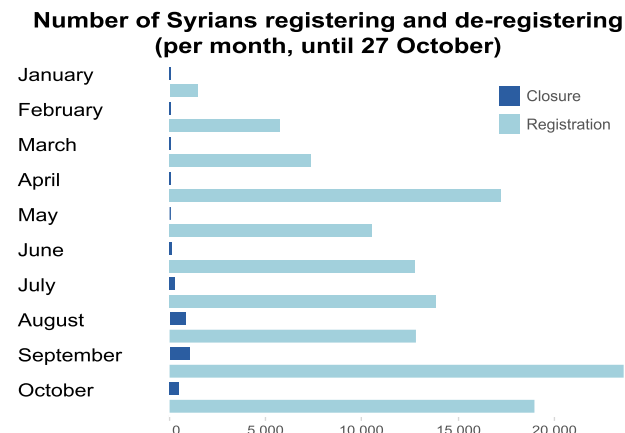
Source: [UNHCR 2013/10/30](#), [UNRWA 2013/09/07](#), [Assafir 2013/09/03](#)

Key Developments:

- **Political Developments:** Egypt remains under a state of emergency which is expected to end on 14 November. Demonstrations in support of the ousted President Mohamed Morsi still periodically take place and several clashes between the authorities and Morsi supporters occurred in early October. Egypt's new constitution is expected to be finalized by the end of November, after which it will be put to a national referendum. ([UNHCR 2013/10/30](#))
- **Protection concerns:** The situation for Syrians in Egypt continues to deteriorate, mainly as a result of the political turmoil. Several Syrian refugees have been detained by Egyptian authorities for attempting to illegally emigrate; lack of valid residency; or supporting the Muslim Brotherhood (the party of the deposed President Morsi). Some targeted media campaigns and TV presenters have been inciting strife against those Syrians supporting the Muslim Brotherhood in the country. ([FIDH 2013/09/24](#))
- Increasing numbers of Syrians have been attempting to leave Egypt to Europe, Italy specifically. Many attempt to reach Europe by boat, paying smugglers up to USD 3,500 for the dangerous journey. On 11 October, many Syrians and Palestinians died when their vessel capsized off the coast of Italy. 36 Syrian survivors (16 children) remain in two detention centres in Alexandria. Most of the 3,400 migrants attempting to reach Europe from Egypt illegally since August are Syrians and Palestinians, according to UNHCR. ([Eqtisad 2013/10/06](#), [Amnesty 2013/10/17](#), [BBC 2013/10/22](#), [NPR 2013/10/11](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/20](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/30](#))
- According to UNHCR, 873 people have been arrested since August by the Egyptian authorities while attempting crossing to Europe. Arrested refugees face a choice between accepting deportation or detention. More than 1,000 Syrians and Palestinians have been placed in detention since August according to other sources. At least 699 remain in detention, including 141 children. UNHCR is in the process of obtaining access to detention centres, where conditions are reportedly dire. The Refugee Solidarity Movement reports that the challenging conditions in detention are part of a deliberate strategy aimed at forcing the refugees to leave the country voluntarily. ([Amnesty 2013/10/17](#), [BBC 2013/10/21](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/10/21](#), [AMERA 2013/10/28](#), [UNICEF 2013/10/28](#))

- Since August, 209 Syrians have been deported to third countries (including at least 44 children) in a violation of the 'refoulement' principle. An unknown number of Syrians have been deported to Syria. ([UNHCR 2013/10/20](#), [New Republic 2013/10/06](#), [Amnesty 2013/10/17](#), [BBC 2013/10/17](#))

- **Registration and de-registration:** The inflow of Syrians into the country has been nominal to almost non-existent since the Egyptian authorities enforced new restrictive legislation in early July, requiring Syrians to obtain a valid visa and security approval prior to arrival. There has been an increase in the number of Syrian refugees closing their files with UNHCR. Syrians mentioned economic concerns, an interest in re-joining family members in other countries, and anxiety over their safety as primary reasons. Most have indicated they will depart to Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. ([WFP 2013/09/20](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/02](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/30](#))



- **Education:** Syrian families are said to struggle to assemble the documents needed to enrol their children in Egypt's overcrowded schools. Preliminary results of a UNICEF/UNHCR joint needs assessment in 5 Egyptian governorates' schools found insufficient numbers of teachers and classroom equipment. ([USAID 2013/09/24](#), [NYT 2013/10/16](#))
- **Livelihoods and food security:** The political unrest and insecurity situation has limited Syrian refugees' access to the labour market. Due to changed perceptions towards Syrians, they are now being charged higher rates for goods. Several Syrian-owned shops were allegedly vandalised, broken into and even burned down while some Syrian employees have been fired from their jobs. As a result of the decrease in livelihood opportunities, the demand for food assistance has been increasing. Because of political instability and difficulties in obtaining permanent residency, some businessmen who opened enterprises in Egypt have reportedly migrated to Turkey. ([Eqtisad 2013/10/06](#), [WFP 2013/09/20](#), [New Republic 2013/10/06](#))

Previous SNAP reports

- **Regional Analysis for Syria (Part I and Part II)** January – September 2013
- **Thematic reports**
 - Aleppo Governorate Profile April 2013
 - Legal Status of Individuals Fleeing Syria June 2013
 - Impact of the conflict on Syrian economy and livelihoods July 2013
 - Syrian border crossings September 2013
 - Assessment Lessons Learned September 2013
 - Lebanon baseline data October 2013
- **Scenarios** February 2013 and September 2013

All reports can be found on: <http://www.acaps.org/en/pages/syria-snap-project>

Forthcoming SNAP reports

- **RAS (Part I and Part II)** 5 December 2013
The RAS report will be updated on a monthly basis
- **Thematic reports:**
 - Cross-border movements of goods November 2013
 - Governorate profile: Al-Hasakeh November 2013

Map data sources

Administration: OCHA Common Operational Datasets. Oil and Gas: Lynx Information Systems Ltd. IDP camps: ACU. Refugee camps & IDP locations: State Department HUI. Infrastructure: Global Energy Observatory, OCHA, WFP, Global Security. Conflict incidents: UNMAS, UNDSS, Ethnicity: GeoEPR. Border crossings: SNAP. Palestinian camps: SNAP.

Methodology – This desk study presents estimations of scale, severity and likely impact of a disaster. It aims to inform decision making for preparedness and emergency response and intends to complement and integrate assessment-related data from other agencies. Feedback to improve the RAS is welcome (snap@acaps.org).

Disclaimer – Information provided is provisional as it has not been possible to independently verify field reports. As this report covers highly dynamic subject, utility of the information may decrease with time.

References – ACAPS and MapAction would like to thank all organisations that have provided input to this report. Please note that all sources which are available online are hyperlinked (underlined, in brackets). Information sourced as 'PI' refers to personal interviews with persons unknown to the SNAP project. Information sourced as a 'Trusted Source' refers to information received from an actor known and trusted by the project.

