

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	378
Land:	Syrien
Kilde:	ACAPS.
Titel:	Regional Analysis, Syria – Part II, Host Countries.
Udgivet:	26. september 2013
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	29. oktober 2013

REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

26 September 2013

Part II – Host countries

This Regional Analysis of the Syria conflict (RAS) is an update of the [August 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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Regional Overview

➤ **Capacity to cope:** During September, the number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration in neighbouring countries passed the 2 million mark. As Syrians continue to flee the country in their thousands, and the 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 humanitarian organisations. However, these sources are currently under pressure:

- During the winter months, key sectors for income such as construction and agriculture require less human resources. In addition, Governments are increasingly trying to halt illegal employment.
- The increased influx has not been matched with sufficient humanitarian funding, illustrated by the fact that the Regional Response Plan 5 has only been 43% covered. As a result, humanitarian agencies are obliged to restrict their operations to the most vulnerable. Preparations for an update of the response plan, Regional Response Plan 6 which will be published in November, have recently started.

➤ **Public services:** The prolonged refugee crisis is placing a considerable burden on services in host countries, leading to a decline in both the access to and the quality of public service delivery. While concerns over the impact on health and education infrastructure have been reported since the start of the influx, instances where services are simply unable to cope are now more common. In Lebanon for instance, the Ministry of Education has indicated that the public school system does not have enough capacity to host the additional number of pupils and a lack of space in local schools is one of the main barriers to education for Syrian children. Increased hostility, aggression

and frustration amongst the host community has been reported, as a result of the increased pressure the communities face due to the influx.

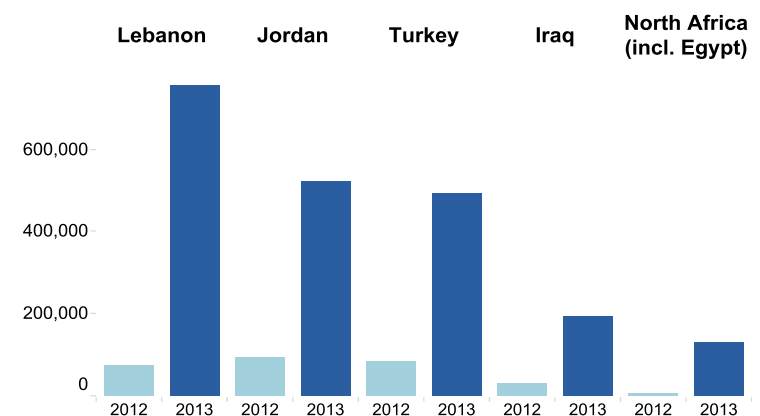
➤ **Displacement:** Although there is very limited reporting and monitoring, thousands have reportedly returned to Syria, despite the insecurity and lack of assistance. Hundreds of Syrians, particularly those residing in Egypt, are paying smugglers to transport them on risky voyages to seek asylum in Europe. This is likely to continue and will exacerbate protection concerns for Syrian refugees across the region.

➤ **Restrictions to entry:** While the situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, flight options for Syrians remain restricted. Lebanon is increasing its scrutiny of Syrians' legal documentation at border crossings, while restricting entry among 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 along the border.

➤ **Winter:** The harsh winter of 2012/2013 caught many refugees and relief providers off-guard and preparation for the upcoming winter months is currently the main priority on the humanitarian agenda. The preparedness of host governments and humanitarian community varies by country, but informal settlements throughout the region are likely to be the most vulnerable to winter conditions.

➤ The Government of Lebanon (GoL) continues to prohibit the establishment of formal refugee camps as well as fixed infrastructure within informal tented settlements, a policy which poses complications for humanitarian programming including WASH and winterisation. This also renders the large number of Syrian refugees living in inadequate shelters particularly vulnerable to the upcoming, flood-prone winter months. Compounding this problem is the market scarcity of winter items such as blankets, stoves and protective clothing.

**Refugee influx at September 2012 and September 2013
(Number of people registered and awaiting registration)**



Data limitations and information gaps

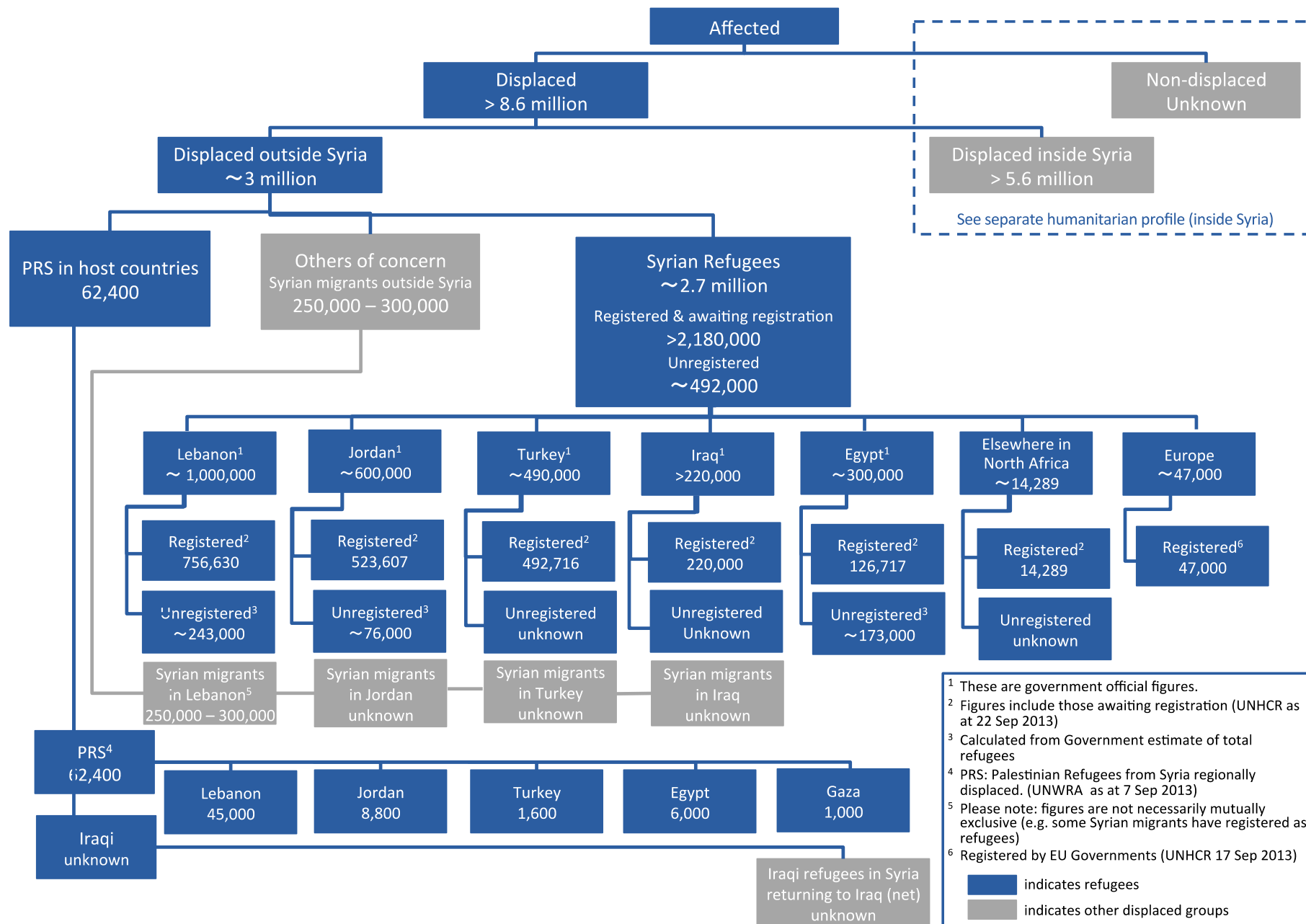
- **Displacement tracking mechanism:** Secondary displacement of refugees in host countries, in search of livelihood opportunities, a more favourable climate and access to services and security is common. In Lebanon for instance, more and more refugees move away from the saturated and insecure border regions. However, there are limited mechanisms available to track this displacement. As a result, there are large information gaps with regards to the exact location of the Syrians in the different countries. Particularly in Iraq and Turkey, information, disaggregated by governorate, on the situation and humanitarian priorities is unavailable.
- **Country wide picture:** A large number of actors are undertaking assessments in the region and their activities are not always coordinated. Information is often not shared in a timely manner or, when shared, lacks basis for comparison. In addition, only a handful of joint assessments have taken place. As a result, countrywide overview of needs do not exist, particularly affecting operations in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.
- **Common indicators:** Although some organisations use common indicators while undertaking assessment, this practice has not yet been adopted by all. As a result, it is difficult to compare the humanitarian situation between areas and countries.
- Several events have occurred over the last weeks which draw attention and resources away from the general deterioration of the humanitarian situation. In Egypt for instance, since the unrest and subsequent proclamation of a state of emergency, most reports out of Egypt focus on the serious protection impact of this development, while limited information is available on other humanitarian concerns. Similarly in Iraq, most attention focused on the mass-influx in August and no information became available on the situation of those already residing in the country.
- **Host communities:** The strain of the continuing refugee influx on host communities and subsequent tensions is one of the main concerns. In Lebanon, multiple assessments have been published, outlining the impact of the crisis on the Lebanese economy as well as the perceptions of Lebanese host communities regarding the situation. However, in other countries, this data is not available and there are significant information gaps related to which areas are most impacted by the refugee influx.

Possible Developments

- **Secondary movements:** Due to increasing protection concerns, winter conditions, exhausted savings and lack of dignity in host countries, an increasing number of refugees experience multiple displacements. Some return to Syria, others move within their host country and others to third countries. Increasing numbers risk unsafe journeys to escape the region, for instance by using smuggling routes into Europe.
- **Winterisation and shelter:** The onset of winter affects many refugees residing in sub-standard shelter across the region, particularly those living in informal tented settlements, which are most common in the Lebanon context. A number of areas across the region are subjected to flooding and freezing temperatures, which increase refugees' vulnerability significantly.
- **Restrictions to entry:** As refugees are less able to maintain a basic standard of living, the strain on host countries' economy, services and political dynamics leads to further restrictions on entry. These official and unofficial restrictions by host countries results in increased displacement to the limited stable areas within Syria, further stretching resources within the country. In addition, more people are stranded in border areas where access to services is limited.
- **Lack of resources leading to increased tensions:** Humanitarian funding, meanwhile, does not keep pace with the caseload resulting in a reduction of assistance provided by humanitarian organisations at a time when host countries' services are increasingly stretched. With refugee savings rapidly depleting and income opportunities during winter scarce, Governments of host countries are cracking down on illegal work.

As a result, refugees are increasingly unable to pay for basic essentials. The resultant effects are already widely reported: negative coping mechanisms such as increasing debts, begging and prostitution rise, evictions take place with increasing frequency and refugees are often unable to pay health and education costs. From October, the blanket distribution of NFIs and food vouchers in Lebanon will no longer be provided and only 72% of the registered refugee population will receive this assistance. Without alternative support, the situation faced by many of the 28% no longer receiving NFI and food assistance will become more serious and refugees more desperate. An added consequence could be negative perceptions of Syrians and increased hostilities and prejudices among host communities.

Humanitarian profile (see annex A for definitions)



Neighbouring country displacement

September 2013

Turkey

The 21st refugee camp in Turkey is now starting to receive refugees and the GoT is overseeing construction of another 2 camps. Improved registration procedures show that non-camp Syrian refugees currently outnumber those in camps, with greater numbers opting to settle in cities further inland, such as Istanbul, rather than near the border as was the case previously.

Lebanon

The large number of Syrian refugees living in inadequate shelters are particularly vulnerable to the upcoming, flood-prone winter months. Compounding this problem is a market scarcity of winter items such as blankets, stoves and protective clothing.

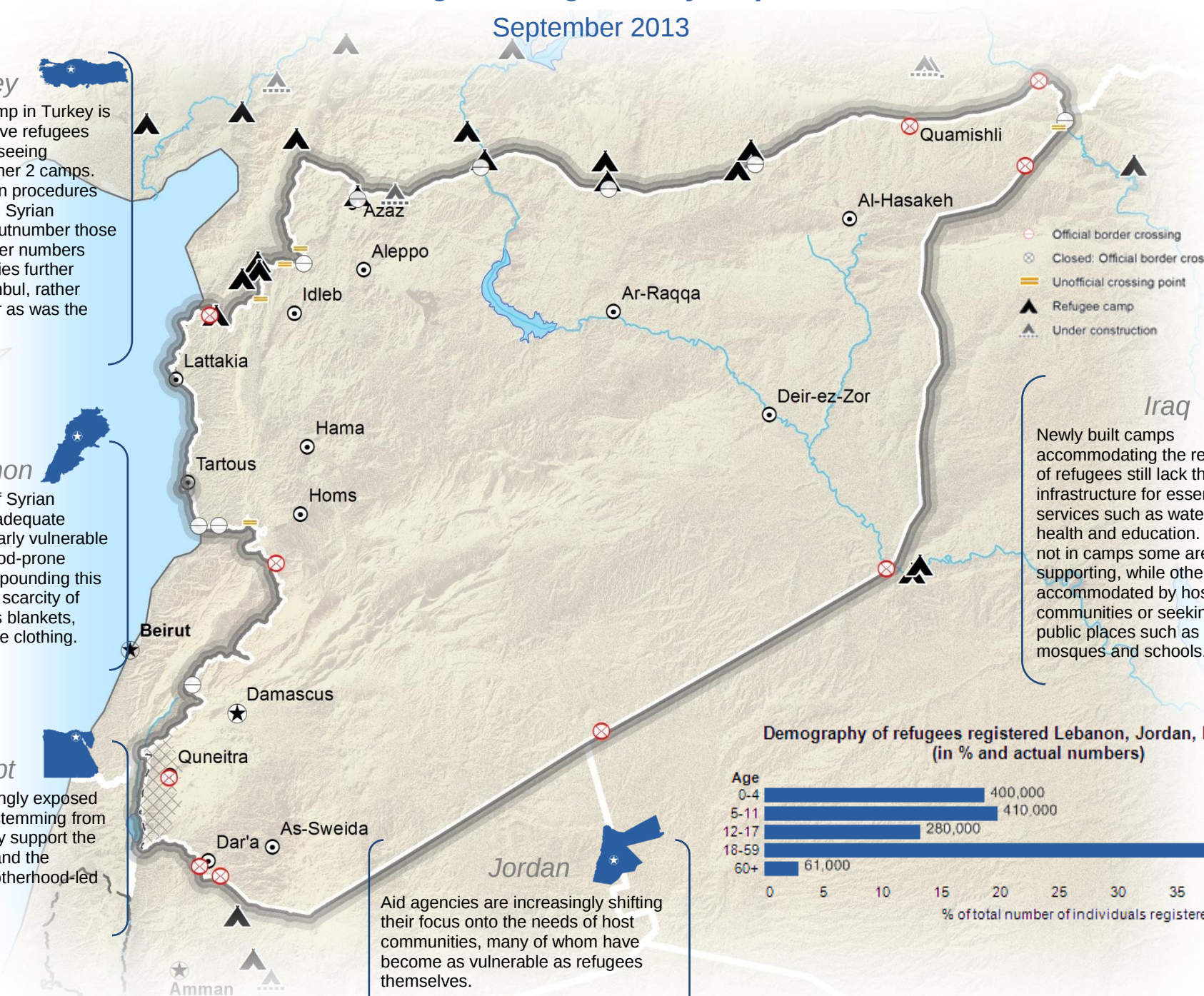
Egypt

Syrians are increasingly exposed to public animosity stemming from perceptions that they support the deposed president and the previous Muslim Brotherhood-led government.

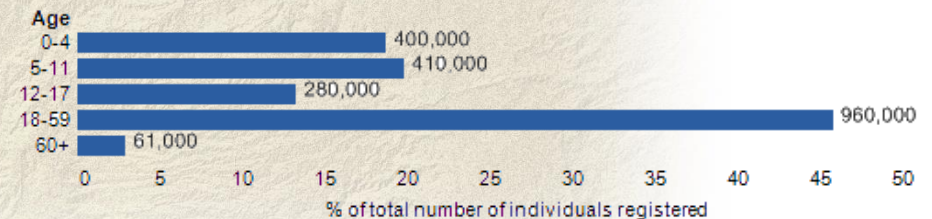
Iraq

Newly built camps accommodating the recent influx of refugees still lack the infrastructure for essential services such as water, sanitation, health and education. Of those not in camps some are self supporting, while others are either accommodated by host communities or seeking shelter in public places such as libraries, mosques and schools.

Aid agencies are increasingly shifting their focus onto the needs of host communities, many of whom have become as vulnerable as refugees themselves.

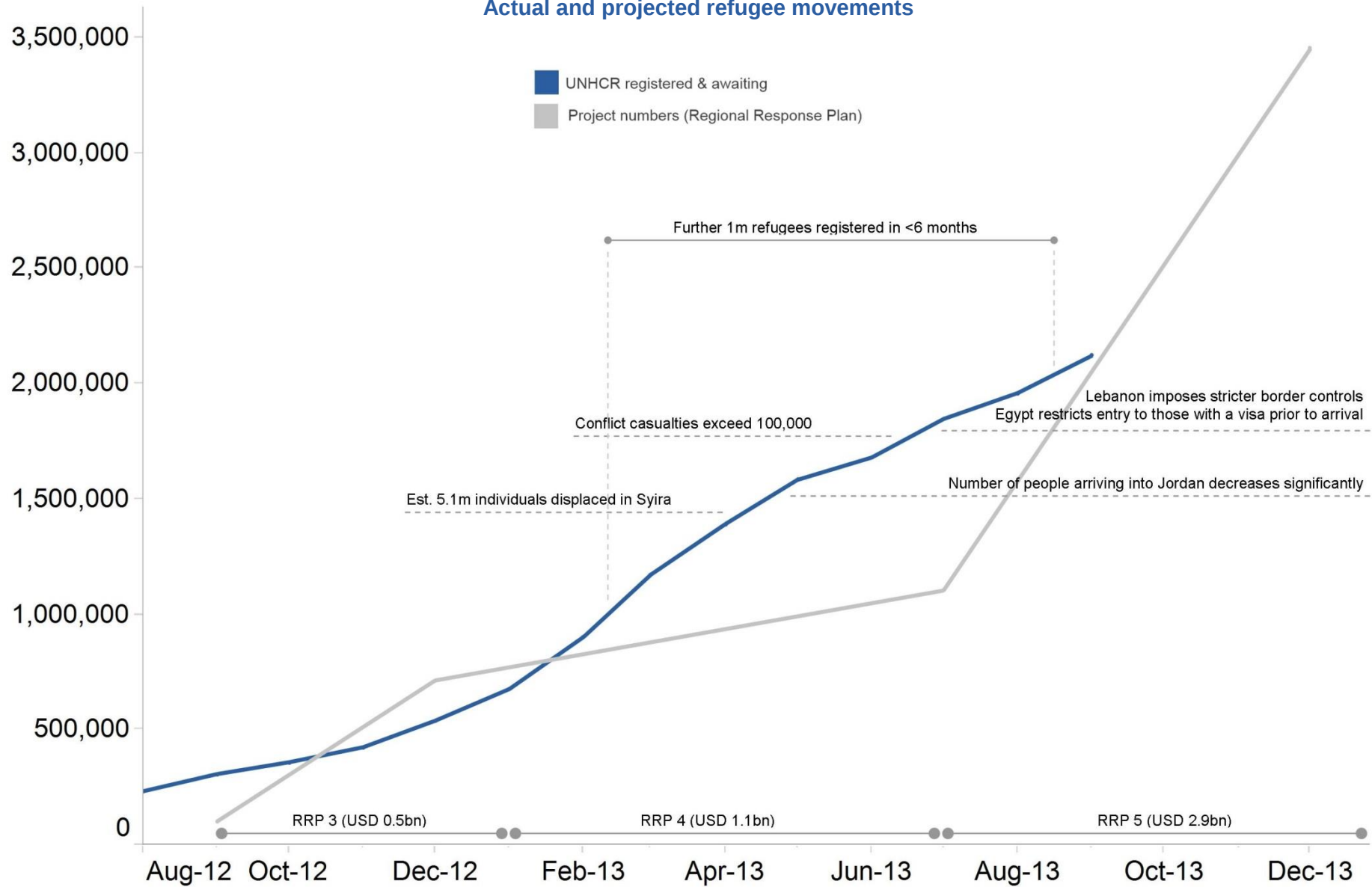


Demography of refugees registered Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt in Iraq (in % and actual numbers)



Displacement timeline

Actual and projected refugee movements



Lebanon

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	756,630
Unregistered Syrians	243,000
Palestinian refugees from Syria	45,000
Syrian migrants	~250,000
Syrian return	Unknown
Lebanese returnees	Unknown

Non displaced

Host communities	1,200,000
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Source: [UNHCR 2013/09/25](#), [UNRWA 2013/09/07](#)



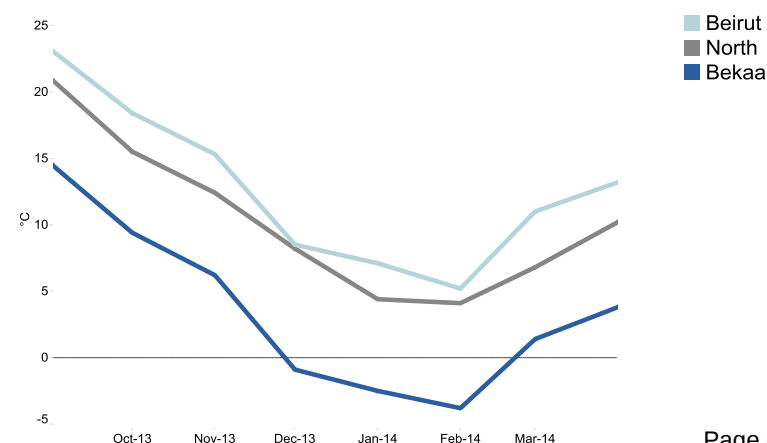
Key issues September

- The most pressing need continues to be access to adequate shelter. Many informal settlements and unfinished buildings used as accommodation will not provide sufficient protection from the cold temperatures in the coming winter months. Many informal tented settlements are in areas prone to the flooding that occurs in the Bekaa Valley between November and February. Due to the rise in rental prices and limited livelihood opportunities, an increasing number of refugees are forced to leave their rented apartment and move into informal tented settlements.
- Due to funding constraints, UN organisations will soon reduce the proportion of registered refugees receiving aid. Targeted assistance, whereby only 72% of registered individuals will receive NFI and food aid, will be implemented in Mount Lebanon and Bekaa in October and in the rest of the country in November. Although targeted assistance has yet to be implemented, there have been reports of individuals hesitant to register with UNHCR due to the planned reduction in aid and unconfirmed reports of refugees returning to Syria because they will no longer receive assistance. Furthermore there are concerns that the selection methodology excludes up to 20% of those eligible.
- During the winter months, livelihoods opportunities for Syrians, who mostly work as casual labourers, will decrease as the agricultural and construction sectors decrease their productivity. Also, the Government of Lebanon (GoL) has stepped up efforts to close down illegal Syrian-run businesses.
- An increasing number of humanitarian actors are transitioning from providing in-kind assistance toward implementing cash-transfer programmes. Cash-based programming has a number of distinct advantages, including the fact that it can support existing market systems and give choice and dignity to Syrian communities. However, as a countrywide price monitoring system is not yet in place and it is unclear if the market has the capacity to provide the

needed commodities, there are concerns over the impact of the cash-injections on the local market system.

- The GoL continues to impose stricter border controls, restricting access to Syrians older than 15 years of age without valid ID cards or passports or whose papers have been damaged. There have been reports of boys younger than 15 being denied entry.
- ESCWA (the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) estimates that by the end of 2014, there will be around 2.3 million Syrians in Lebanon. If this projection, and the GoL estimates of 1 million Syrians currently in the country are correct, a further 100,000 Syrians a month will enter Lebanon between now and December 2014, up from the current rate of around 75,000 Syrians a month. This increase in the rate of arrivals seems unlikely for several reasons: many of those that intended to flee Syria will have fled by now, the deteriorating situation in Lebanon during the winter months will create less of a 'pull' factor and Lebanese border restrictions are likely to be maintained. The World Bank projects that there will be 1.6 million refugees in the country by the end of 2014.
- Public services such as health and education are increasingly struggling to cope with the large number of people requiring services. For instance, around 90,000 Syrian refugees are expected to enrol in public schools during this academic year, which will increase the number of students in the Lebanese public school system by 30%.
- Security incidents are widespread, including rocket attacks, localised clashes and IEDs. Increased hostility, aggression and frustration amongst the host community have been reported. The deteriorating security situation is impacting humanitarian access, mainly in Bekaa and the north of Lebanon where security incidents and checkpoints hamper the movement of goods and personnel.

Average temperature at night during upcoming wintermonths
General Directorate of Civil Aviation



Operational constraints

- The highly unstable security situation across the country has impacted programmes and hindered humanitarian access, mainly in northern Bekaa and Wadi Khaled: there were multiple IED explosions in the Bekaa throughout September. Although relief actors are not directly targeted, the volatile situation is hampering delivery of aid. The increased number of checkpoints in the area at times impeded humanitarian access to northern Bekaa. ([UNFPA 2013/09/10](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- Syrians are scattered across more than 1,400 municipalities. Although secondary displacement of refugees within Lebanon is common, it is not consistently tracked. The movement of refugees into new areas is making it more difficult to identify them, monitor their needs and provide aid. ([UNFPA 2013/09/10](#), [PI 2013/07/18](#), [Shelter/NFI coordination meeting 2013/07/10](#))
- It has proven difficult to identify vulnerable groups, including those not registered with UNHCR, vulnerable host communities, Iraqi refugees and Syrians from minority groups. ([PI 2013/09/04](#), [PI 2013/08/15](#))
- The GoL poses restrictions on the type of aid that can be provided to the Syrians. In August, the GoL indicated that it would not allow Syrians vocational training, so as to prevent an increase in competition for jobs between refugees and host communities. A ministerial decision on the exact definition of 'vocational training' is expected in the coming weeks.
- The GoL continues to prohibit the establishment of formal refugee camps, including transit camps. In addition, the establishment of fixed structures in informal tented settlements is not authorised, regardless of it is public or private land. This hampers interventions, particularly those related to WASH and winterisation. ([PI 2013/07/18](#), [Shelter/NFI coordination meeting 2013/07/02](#))
- The proportion of overhead costs, including wages and rent for office buildings, is relatively high in Lebanon, especially when compared to other humanitarian crises. Some donors are reluctant to match these financial requirements. ([PI 2013/07](#))
- Some goods, such as high quality plastic sheeting, are not available locally and therefore have to be imported. There have been reports of goods being held in Lebanese customs for extended periods of time. ([PI 2013/07](#))

Data sources and limitations

- 5 assessments have been published in September
 - The World Bank published an Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict for the 2012-2014 period. ([WB 2013/09/20](#))
 - Oxfam and the ABAAD – Resource Centre for Gender Equality conducted a gender situation and vulnerability assessment among Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria now living in Lebanon, among over 150 people. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#))
 - Caritas published their study on older persons among refugees coming from Syria. ([Caritas 2013/09/18](#))
 - Solidarités International published a vulnerability assessment among 49 informal tented settlements in north Lebanon. ([Solidarités International 2013/08](#))
 - Amel Association International undertook an assessment on the humanitarian needs among 176 respondents around Beirut and its suburbs in May. ([Amel 2013/09/02](#))
- UNHCR has started to publish informative sector-specific monthly updates, which include information on the needs, challenges and (planned) response. ([UNHCR data portal](#))
- A number of assessments are planned, including a market assessment for winterisation items and a survey of flood prone areas. ([PI 2013/09/24](#))
- There is far more information available on the situation in Lebanon compared to other Syrian-refugee hosting countries. However, information gaps still exist, particularly on the nutrition situation. The only nutrition assessment undertaken in Lebanon dates back to September 2012. To address this gap, WHO indicated that they will undertake a nutrition assessment in coordination with UNICEF and WFP. ([UNHCR 2013/09/03](#))
- Most assessments focus exclusively on a specific part of the country making it difficult to compare the humanitarian situation between the different areas. The only study that covers all refugee-hosting areas, the joint UNHCR/WFP vulnerability assessment, was not designed to provide a representative picture of the situation per governorate. The study focuses on registered refugees and does not stipulate the humanitarian needs of other groups such as the unregistered refugees.
- There is a lack of information on the number of unregistered refugees, the situation of migrants and Lebanese returnees and the number of daily arrivals.

Displaced

- ✦ The official Government estimation on the number of Syrians in the country is 1 million, down from a previous estimate of 1.2 million because of returnees. (UNHCR 2013/09/24, Daily Star 2013/09/10)

Registered refugees

- ✦ **Border crossings:** Since July 2013, the GoL has enforced pre-existing requirements to entry into Lebanon more strictly. While the border remains open to refugees, the authorities are exercising more caution in checking documents at the border and are denying access to people without valid passports or ID cards or whose documents are damaged. The authorities have indicated that persons will not be permitted entry if their identity is in doubt and/or if the authorities have reason to believe they are not coming for reasons of humanitarian need. Those arriving with only a civil registry document are not permitted to enter unless they are under 15 years of age. (UNFPA 2013/09/01, Daily Star 2013/08/08, UNHCR 2013/08/16, IA 2013/08/06)
- ✦ The majority of refugees enter Lebanon through one of the 5 official border crossings (around 87%). The remainder cross through unofficial crossing points because they lack appropriate documentation or because of fighting blocking access to official crossings. The official crossings are El Aarida, El Aaboudieh, Al-Amari (between Tartous and northern Lebanon), Mashari' Al-Qaa (between Bekaa and Homs) and Masnaa (between Bekaa and Rural Damascus). Mashari' Al-Qaa crossing has been closed since July-August 2012. (PI 2013/09/16, UNHCR 2013/03/29, WFP 2013/06/05)

Daily arrivals:

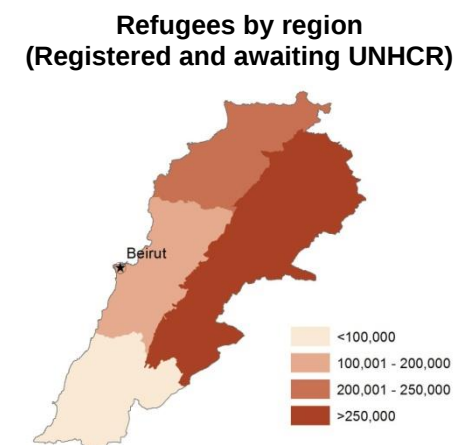
- ✦ Between 70 and 75,000 people are estimated to cross into Lebanon each month while UNHCR registers around 60,000 Syrians a month. There are no official figures on the number of people entering Lebanon on a daily basis - the GoL does not consistently collect or publish the numbers and there is limited presence of NGOs and UNHCR at the border crossings. (PI 2013/09/20, DRC 2013/06)
- ✦ Despite rumours of a significant increase in daily arrivals due the threat of an US military attack, UNHCR reports that there were no significant changes in the arrival patterns at the borders. (IA 2013/09/06, UNHCR 2013/09/06)
- ✦ To prepare for an anticipated influx of Syrian refugees following the chemical weapons attacks in Damascus and the subsequent threat of international military action, a reception centre was built at Masnaa crossing. At this centre, information and counselling to refugees is provided upon their arrival although it is not designed to host people overnight. (Daily Star 2013/09/05, UNFPA 2013/09/10)
- ✦ The number of Syrians regularly crossing back and forth between Lebanon and Syria is unknown although estimates are as high as 200,000. (PI 2013/07/29)

- ✦ **Place of origin:** Around 70% of Syrians crossing into Lebanon via the main Lebanese-Syrian border crossing (Masnaa) reported arriving from Damascus. The majority of refugees in Lebanon are from Homs, Aleppo and Idlib, and Damascus/Rural Damascus. (UNHCR 2013/09/13, UNHCR 2013/09/030)
- ✦ **Drivers of displacement:** 92% of those registered with UNHCR Lebanon in June and July indicated that they left Syria because of the general violence, 5% because of a lack of shelter and 3% because of a lack of food. 51% of those indicated that they chose Lebanon as a country of refuge because of the easy access to the border, 19% because they have previously worked or resided in Lebanon and 19% because Lebanon is the cheapest option. (UNHCR 2013/09/16)
- ✦ **Current location:** Refugees reside in 1,400 Lebanese municipalities, mostly in Bekaa (Zahle and Baalbek) and the north (Akkar and Tripoli). (UNHCR 2013/09/14)

Refugee locations as registered at UNHCR (% of total number of registered refugees)		
Area	Sep-2012	Sep- 2013
North	45%	33%
Bekaa	44%	34%
Beirut and Mount Lebanon	9%	20%
South Lebanon	-	13%

Please note that these figures refer to the location of registration and this may differ from the current location of residence.

- **Status:** Entering via an official Lebanese border crossing point, an individual holding a valid national Syrian identity card or a valid passport receives an Entry Coupon (also called Return Coupon) with an entry stamp. This stamp allows him/her residency for a period of 6 months and can be renewed free of charge for another 6 months at any regional office of the General Security. This procedure gives any Syrian the possibility of residing in the country for 1 year without any fees. After this period, Syrians must apply for a 6-month residence permit renewal for a fee of LBP 300,000 (USD 200), which



can be then renewed another time free of charge for 6 months. Some Syrian nationals (born to a Lebanese mother; married to a Lebanese; born in Lebanon; pursuing their studies; and retired diplomats) are also eligible for a “courtesy residence permit”, which is renewable, free of charge and valid for 3 years. Those who have crossed into Lebanon through unofficial borders can regularise their status for USD 600. ([LBC 2013/03/07](#))

- ✦ **Registration:** To obtain access to UN services and protection, registration with UNHCR is necessary. The average waiting period for UNHCR registration in Lebanon is 38 days (down from 40 days on 15 August). The lowest waiting period for registration is in the south (15 days). ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [UNHCR 2013/08/15](#))
- ✦ Municipalities also require Syrian refugees to register, which is separate from UNHCR’s registration process. Although this registration is currently informal, it is understood that the municipalities will be formalising this process. ([UNHCR 2013/09/03](#))
- ✦ **Characteristics:** Around 51% of the registered refugees are male, while 49% are female. 2.5% are over 60 years of age. More than 90% of registered refugees are Sunni. ([UNHCR 2013/09/14](#), [Protection Working Group 2013/07/19](#))

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

- ✦ At the start of August, around 92,000 PRS were recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon. However, there is much cross border movement and some Palestinians come to Lebanon temporarily to seek medical care. As a result, the actual number of PRS residing in Lebanon is much lower. A head count of PRS remaining in Lebanon indicated that around 45,000 are currently in Lebanon. ([Daily Star 2013/09/06](#))
- ✦ 100 to 200 PRS are entering Lebanon on a daily basis. Some Palestinians have reportedly been barred from entering Lebanon. Many PRS have been displaced within Syria multiple times before crossing the border into Lebanon. ([IA 2013/09/06](#), [Daily Star 2013/08/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/08/16](#), [Inter-Agency 2013/08/06](#))
- ✦ **Place of origin:** The large majority of recorded PRS are from Damascus (91%), primarily from Yarmouk camp. ([UNRWA 2013/07/12](#))
- **Status:** PRS continue to be issued 7-day transit visas, valid for 15 days at LBP 25,000 (USD 17) upon arrival. On expiry, PRS can obtain another visa for a period of 3 months free of charge. The GoL announced an amnesty in September 2012, which allows PRS with expired visas to return to Syria within 1 year of their entry into Lebanon without being subject to fines at the border. This remains in place. As of June 2013, PRS who wish to remain in Lebanon for more than a year are expected to pay a LBP 300,000 (USD 200) fee. Those who pay the fee are able to continue to renew their 3-month temporary residence for another year. ([UNRWA 2012/12/19](#), [UNRWA 2013/06/25](#))

- **Demographic breakdown:** 52% of recorded PRS are female, and 48% are male. 15% of PRS are under 5 years of age. ([UNRWA 2013/07/12](#))

Unregistered refugees

- ✦ The number of Syrians residing in Lebanon that are not registered and not awaiting registration with UNHCR is unknown. However the number is thought to be significant, illustrated by the fact that around 50% of those registering had been in Lebanon for more than 3 months prior to registration while 10% had been in Lebanon more than a year. ([Protection WG 2013/07/19](#))
- ✦ Relying on the September GoL estimate of 1 million refugees, there are around 243,000 refugees estimated to be unregistered. There were also around 250,000 Syrian workers in Lebanon pre-crisis, some of them are now registered with UNHCR.

Refugee needs and concerns

Shelter

- ✦ Shelter has been identified as an urgent concern. Due the limitations of the GoL and donors, only a few new housing units have been created for Syrians. Syrians are forced to seek shelter in existing buildings, which are not always affordable, adequate or available. As a result, an increasing number of refugees live in substandard dwellings. Over 450 informal tented settlements, of which 232 are in Bekaa, have been identified, where Syrians are living with little access to services. In April, a shelter survey found that 11% of registered refugees were residing in informal tented settlements, by August this proportion increased to 14%. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [Winterisation WG 2013/08/02](#), [Inter-Agency 2013/08/06](#), [Inter-Agency 2013/08/05](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/13](#), [Inter-Agency 2013/09/06](#))
- ✦ The majority of registered Syrian refugees continue to reside in rented apartments and houses. The strain exerted on the rental market is leading to an increase in rental prices - a Consumer Price Index monitoring system reported a 44% increase in rental prices between June 2012 and June 2013. ([CAS 2013/06](#))
- ✦ An increasing number of evictions in some areas of Lebanon, particularly in informal tented settlements, have been observed in recent weeks due to rising tensions between Syrian refugees and host communities. ([UNHCR 2013/09/13](#))
- ✦ With winter approaching, there are significant concerns over the capacity of the local market to supply the needed winterisation items such as blankets, stoves and winter clothes. Refugees living in areas at high altitudes (+500m) have been identified as specifically vulnerable due to the low temperatures during the winter. At least 8,000 individuals living in informal flood-prone areas urgently require alternative accommodation. Floods in these areas are common from November to February. Those residing in tents, unfinished houses and garages/shops are deemed the most vulnerable. These shelters

are often inadequate, their security of tenure is limited and significant security risks exist. Preparing these shelters for the winter months is urgently required as are measures to mitigate the impact of the floods. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [SCI 2013/07/24](#), [AFP 2013/07/19](#))

- A nationwide poll found that the majority of the Lebanese interviewed would like to see UN refugee camps established, to relieve them from the burden of hosting the refugees. However, the GoL has not changed its policy towards the establishment of camps and it is unlikely that a policy decision on the issue will be made before the current interim Government is replaced by an elected one. Similarly, the GoL prohibition on structural interventions in informal tented settlements severely hampers winterisation efforts. Organisations are, for instance, only allowed to distribute plastic sheeting for tents in the settlements, which is not adequate to provide protection during the winter months. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) circulated a list with allowed shelter interventions, including weather-proofing of informal tented settlements, establishment of formal settlements and cash for rent. ([FAO 2013/04/03](#), [PI 2013/07/22](#), [SCI 2013/07/24](#))

Health and nutrition

- Primary and secondary health-care services are provided mostly through the existing Lebanese health infrastructure. UNHCR and implementing partners currently cover 75% of the hospitalisation cost. Although there are some organisations paying the remainder for vulnerable refugees, many Syrians are not covered by this additional support and face large out-of-pocket payments, which are beyond the means of many. Some providers require upfront payment of these uncovered costs. Medications and diagnostic tests are frequently overprescribed, increasing costs for refugees and relief organisations. Certain areas, such as Mount Lebanon, remain largely uncovered by health sector partners. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/13](#), [AFP 2013/07/15](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/16](#), [IOM 2013/09/30](#))
- Secondary and tertiary healthcare in Lebanon is exceedingly expensive and the funds of organisations supporting refugee healthcare are increasingly stretched. Due to funding constraints, UNHCR provides no coverage for illnesses requiring chemotherapy, dialysis, or blood transfusions. ([Lancet 2013/06/29](#), [UNHCR 2013/05](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- In addition to financial barriers, physical access to healthcare centres is a challenge for refugees who live in remote locations. Access is further limited by short working hours of medical facilities and the availability of trained health personnel. There is lack of knowledge about subsidised healthcare services, which hinders access to healthcare. ([Solidarités International 2013/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#), [IOM 2013/09/30](#))
- An assessment among 70 elderly refugees in May found that many cannot afford their medication. 65% of those assessed indicated that their overall

health status is bad or very bad, with most respondents having multiple chronic illnesses. ([Caritas 2013/09/18](#))

- Psychosocial support continues to be a major gap, particularly given the increased levels of fear, stress and anxiety that many refugees are experiencing. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/05](#))
- Clinical care for sexual violence and specialised skills for dealing with child survivors remain scarce or absent. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- No nationwide data exists on the nutrition status of Syrian children, although several malnutrition cases have been identified in the Bekaa. ([UNHCR 2013/09/03](#))
- Common healthcare needs of refugees include: reproductive healthcare and family planning, child healthcare (i.e. vaccinations), treatment for acute illnesses (respiratory infections, gastrointestinal diseases), chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes) and mental health. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- A large number of Syrians reportedly suffer or have suffered from dental and ophthalmological problems. ([UNHCR 2013/07/05](#), [Amel 2013/06](#))
- Maternal and paediatric care is another area of concern, with many children left unimmunised. High pregnancy rates are a problem as well. Some refugees are reportedly taking the risk of returning to Syria to give birth due to the high costs involved in childbirth in Lebanon. ([Amel 2013/06](#))
- **Sexual and reproductive health:** A UNFPA needs assessment in 2012 showed a number of needs related to reproductive health (54% of displaced women and girls suffered menstrual irregularity and 33% genital infection symptoms), maternal health (23% suffered anaemia during pregnancy and 16% had no antenatal follow up) as well as significant delivery-related complications such as bleeding (29%), preterm birth (26%), and new-born problems (52%). Only 37% of married women used contraceptive methods. ([UNFPA 2013/07/03](#))

Protection

- Since July, it has become more difficult for refugees from Syria to access Lebanese territory through official border crossings. The stricter border controls deny access to Syrians without valid ID cards or whose cards have been damaged. ([UNFPA 2013/09/01](#), [Daily Star 2013/08/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/08/16](#), [IA 2013/08/06](#))
- Within Lebanon, Syrians increasingly face a lack of freedom of movement:
 - A number of municipalities impose a curfew on Syrian residents between 9pm and 6am: reportedly part of a national strategy to be extended to other areas in the coming weeks. ([UNHCR 2013/09/13](#))
 - The deteriorating security situation has led to an increase in checkpoints. Checkpoints are reported to be increasingly strict on undocumented or irregular Syrians and some incidents of maltreatment of Syrians have been reported. ([Protection Working Group 2013/07/19](#), [Assafir 2013/09/04](#))

- Some Syrians indicate to limit movement because of insecurity and fears of harassment or attack. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#))
- Insecurity, rising tensions and evictions endanger the physical safety of refugees while relocation and shelter alternatives remain limited. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- Tit-for-tat kidnappings are not uncommon in Lebanon and instances of kidnapping of Syrians have been reported. On 14 September, for instance, unidentified gunmen kidnapped two Syrian traders in the Bekaa. ([Daily Star 2013/09/15](#))
- A growing number of Syrians have irregular legal status due to having entered Lebanon through unofficial border points or because their residency permit has expired. As Syrians have limited access to livelihood activities, many do not have the financial means to pay for these procedures. Without a regular status, Syrians are hampered in their movement, do not have access to legal safeguards, cannot register births and face additional difficulties finding employment. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [USAID 2013/07/03](#))
- Due to the deteriorating situation, more refugees are forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms. Reported harmful coping strategies include child labour, survival sex and child marriage. Although early marriage of daughters was common practice in Syria before the conflict began, this is reportedly also being increasingly resorted to as a new coping strategy, either as a way of protecting young girls or easing pressures on family finances. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- Competition over resources and the perception that Syrians receive more support than poor Lebanese communities is heightening tensions between Syrians and their host communities, including localised clashes. Many respondents to an Oxfam survey reported experiencing xenophobia, discrimination and hostility. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#), [World Vision 2013/07](#), [Protection Working Group 2013/07/19](#))
- Violence towards women and children has increased within the household as some men vent their frustration and abuse their power. Outside the household, there are also examples of women and girls who are vulnerable to physical and verbal harassment, including sexual harassment, and in many areas they fear kidnap, robbery and attacks. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#))
- **Vulnerable groups:** Among those registered, over 200,000 persons with specific needs have been identified including persons with disabilities, women and children at risk, persons with serious medical conditions and SGBV survivors. ([Protection WG 2013/09/18](#))
 - **Elderly refugees:** An estimated 6% of the Syrian population was older than 60 before the conflict, while only 2.5% of registered refugees in Lebanon are over 60. Elderly people often have difficulties registering due

to a lack of mobility and limited access to livelihood opportunities. ([IRIN 2013/09/06](#))

- **Widowed and other women without a male member in the household** have difficulties registering because cultural norms often prevent them from going to register by themselves. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06](#))
- **Persons with a disability** generally represent 15% of a given population and this proportion can increase to 18%-20% in case of a conflict-affected population. However, only 1% of the UNHCR registered population in Lebanon are persons with disabilities. ([Protection WG 2013/09/18](#))
- **New arrivals** are specifically vulnerable as they are often unable to fully access support from international relief organisations for between 1 and 3 months due to delays in the refugee registration process. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/19](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/17](#), [FAFO 2013/06](#))
- **Minorities:** Fewer than 2% of total registered refugees are Christians, while an estimated 10% of the Syrian population are Christian. It is assumed that Christians refrain from registration out of fear or due to a lack of awareness regarding the process. However, Christian refugees appear more at ease registering in Beirut/Mount Lebanon, where they represent 4.5% of the registered refugee population. ([UNHCR 2013/06/20](#), [Protection Working Group 2013/07/19](#))
- **Palestinian Refugees from Syria** PRS are considered to be more vulnerable than Syrians because they have fewer legal safeguards, no opportunities to find legal employment, and the majority are hosted in Palestinian refugee camps, which represent some of the poorest host communities in Lebanon. PRS face additional hurdles due to the frequency of visa renewal that is required. Without legal status, PRS are rendered ineligible for civil registration and their access to certain refugee camps is prevented. ([UNRWA 2013/07/06](#), [Daily Star 2013/06/20](#))
- **Child protection:** Although incidents are not formally tracked, an increase in child labour has been noted amongst populations affected by the crisis is reported. Due to the loss of livelihoods, limited access to education and family separation, children have become particularly vulnerable, including to the worst forms of child labour. ([CPieWG 2013/08/14](#))
- A child protection assessment by the Child Protection in Emergency Working Group highlighted several concerns:
 - Separation of children from their families due to population movement, the need for children to work, a lack of space in accommodation and family tensions.
 - Physical violence and verbal harassment
 - Sexual violence against children, including sexual harassment, rape, and transactional sex.

- Child labour, with boys often starting working from the age of 10 years. Common types of paid employment for boys are selling goods, working in construction and in agriculture. Children often leave school in order to work.
- Limited capacity of and access to child protection services. (CPEWG 2013/02)
- ✦ Psychosocial distress, child recruitment into armed groups and child trafficking were not covered by this assessment. While there are assessments available on psychosocial distress, there is a lack of information on the latter two issues. (CPEWG 2013/02)

Livelihoods and food security

- ✦ Syrians have limited livelihood opportunities, particularly during the winter months when productivity in agriculture and construction sectors, which traditionally employ a large number of Syrians, slows down. Even if they do find work, wages are low, working conditions generally poor, and they often face discrimination or harassment. (Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06, PI 2013/09/17)
- ✦ In July, the GoL announced that it would start enforcing laws that require local businesses to have proper documentation. This primarily affects Syrian refugees, who often run unlicensed micro-enterprises to obtain an income. At least 55 Syrian-owned illegal businesses have already been closed in the Bekaa. (Livelihood WG 2013/16/09, Al-Akhbar 2013/09/02, ARA News 2013/09/03)
- ✦ An assessment in Beirut among 170 respondents indicated large income gaps – with the average monthly income totalling USD 366, while monthly rent alone is USD 375. Rent, food and healthcare were considered the most important expenditures by the majority of participants. (Amel 2013/09/02)
- ✦ The following coping strategies have been reported: spending savings, taking loans, buying food on credit, eating less preferable meals or skipping meals, reducing expenditure for schooling and healthcare and selling of assets. Other coping mechanisms reported include child labour, begging, early marriage and sexual transactions. Many women assessed during an Oxfam/Abaad assessment indicated that they have cut down on their own food intake so that children and men in the household can eat. (Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06, DRC 2013/05, CPEWG 2013/02)
- ✦ A vulnerability assessment among registered refugee households found that around 65-75% of households were classified as moderately and/or severely vulnerable, with 70% of the visited households living below the minimum expenditure basket. As of October/November, UN NFI assistance and food aid will target these specifically vulnerable individuals. (Vasyr 2013/06)
- **Palestinian Refugees from Syria:** The PRS perceive the standard of living in Lebanon to be below that of Syria. Unlike Syrians who have long experience as migrant workers and have the legal framework and informal social networks

to find employment in Lebanon, Palestinians are legally prohibited from seeking employment. (Daily Star 2013/06/20)

WASH

- ✦ Those residing in informal tented settlements are often forced to use unsafe water sources. A survey of water sources used by refugees residing in the north of the country found that 12 of the 15 sources assessed were contaminated. (Solidarités International 2013/08)
- ✦ Syrian refugees interviewed during an Oxfam/Abaad assessment indicated a lack of access to appropriate water and sanitation facilities. (Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06)
- ✦ There is a lack of sewage treatment facilities in Lebanon and the existing facilities are overburdened by the Syrian influx. This creates a significant risk for the spreading of diseases. (UNHCR 2013/09/06)
- ✦ The lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities in informal tented settlements is of major concern. A needs assessment highlighted a lack of WASH interventions in Mount Lebanon. (UNHCR 2013/09/06, SCI 2013/06/18, Oxfam 2013/06/11)
- **Palestinian Refugees from Syria:** Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon are under severe pressure in terms of water, waste management and power supply due to overcrowding by both PRS and Syrian refugees. (UNHCR 2013/06/10)

Education

- ✦ The registration period for Lebanese and foreign students in public schools for the 2013/2014 academic year has been extended until 10 October. During the 2012/2013 school year, around 30,000 Syrian children were enrolled in public schools, leaving an estimated 90% of Syrian refugee children aged 6 to 17 out of school. The main barrier to education is the limited capacity of the public school system to absorb the large number of additional pupils. (UNHCR 2013/09/06, Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06, Daily Star 2013/09/13, Daily Star 2013/09/21)
- ✦ Other academic barriers have been identified, including the use of English and French in Lebanese schools, curricular differences, lack of academic support at home and in the community, family poverty and repeated exam failures. Some students face bullying and racism which negatively affects their performance. Some children are forced to work to complement the family income. Others families reported preferring to keep their girls at home to do the housework rather than allowing them to attend mixed Lebanese schools. (Oxfam 2013/09/03, NRC 2013/07/11)
- ✦ At least 200 Syrians residing in Palestinian refugee camps face difficulties accessing schools because they are not Palestinian and can therefore not be enrolled in schools run by UNRWA. (Daily Star 2013/09/12)

- **Palestinian Refugees from Syria:** To date, only 35% of PRS children in Lebanon have enrolled in school. ([UNRWA 2013/09/01](#))

Lebanese Returnees

- By April, an estimated 30,000 Lebanese had returned from Syria. Most of them are concentrated in rural, agricultural districts in northern and eastern Lebanon. There is no updated information on the number of returnees. However, in April smallholder returnees were identified as specifically vulnerable as they face Lebanon's high animal feed costs and lack of winter grazing lands. Previously, these used to benefit from Syria's (winter) seasonal pastures and generous feed subsidies but these sources are no longer available. ([FAO 2013/04/03](#))

Syrian Migrants

- Between 300,000 and 600,000 Syrians were working in Lebanon before the crisis, mostly in agriculture, construction and services. Syrian migrants who traditionally reside in informal settlements in Lebanon during the agricultural season are becoming increasingly vulnerable. Due to the crisis, they face a decrease in daily wages, while the cost of living, including rent, is increasing. Many have brought their families to Lebanon, resulting in a further increase in expenditure. As more Syrians settle in informal tented sites, they become increasingly overcrowded, while access to services is limited. ([SCI 2013/06/18](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/13](#), [IRIN 2012/12/24](#))

Non-Displaced

- Lebanon is hosting a number of registered Syrian refugees and recorded Palestinian refugees equal to 20% of the total estimated Lebanese population. As a result of the crisis in Syria and consequential refugee influx, an estimated 1.2 million Lebanese were in need at the time of the publication of the Regional Response Plan in June. As the situation has further deteriorated and the influx has increased, it is likely that a higher number of Lebanese are currently directly or indirectly affected. ([UNHCR 2013/09/14](#), [UNCR 2013/06/21](#), [UNHCR 2013/06/10](#))

Shelter

- Overcrowding is becoming a significant problem in many host communities and in over 133 locations, Syrian refugees already account for more than 30% of the overall population. The subsequent rent increase (44% increase in rental prices between June 2012 – June 2013) is affecting the Lebanese as well as the Syrians. The poorest Lebanese are often not able to pay the rent increases and there are reports of people being forced to leave areas to make space for refugees. Refugees are often able to pay higher rents because they agree to live with several families in a single apartment. ([CAS 2013/06](#), [World Vision 2013/07](#))

- The influx of refugees is putting increasing pressure on public services, such as waste disposal, water and electricity. The Central Administration of Statistics noted a 7.4% increase in prices for water, electricity and gas between June 2012 and June 2013. ([CAS 2013/06](#), [NRC 2013/07/11](#), [World Vision 2013/07](#))

Livelihoods and food security

- Competition over jobs is one of the main challenges faced by Lebanese host communities. A survey among Lebanese found that Syrians are perceived to be able to accept lower salaries as they receive additional support from aid agencies. The increased competition and lower wages are particularly impacting those lacking formal education who depend on the unskilled labour market. These groups are also most likely to be reliant on the public services most affected by the refugee influx, such as health clinics and public schools. ([World Vision 2013/07](#), [FAFO 2013/06](#))
- Lebanese families reported food price increases over the last 12 months. This was attributed to an increase in demand without additional supply entering the market. Interviewees also noted increased competition from cheap Syrian businesses and smuggled goods coming across the border from Syria as further damaging the local economy. ([World Vision 2013/07](#))
- However, there are also Lebanese who are benefiting economically from the influx - the arrival of aid agencies is injecting money into the local economy and creating job opportunities, local businesses are benefitting from the availability of cheap labour, whilst landlords and landowners are making significant profits on renting out land or living space. ([World Vision 2013/07](#))

Economy

- After an assessment of the economic and social impact of the Syrian conflict the World Bank estimates that by the end of 2014:
 - GDP growth is cut with 2.9% each year between 2012-2014, resulting in large losses in terms of wages, profits and taxes.
 - 170,000 will be pushed Lebanese into poverty on top of 1 million Lebanese currently living below the poverty line.
 - The employment rate will double to above 20%, most of them unskilled youth.
 - Government revenue collection will decrease by USD 1.5 billion, while Government expenditure will increase USD 1.1 billion due to the increase in demand for public services. ([WB 2013/09/20](#))
- The conflict also has had positive effects on some sectors – revenues for the Beirut Port increased by 26% in 2013, as regional traders increasingly rely on Lebanese merchants and infrastructure. Lebanese exports have replaced

some Syrian exports: industrial exports increased by 13.5% between June 2012 and 2013. ([Daily Star 2013/06/20](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/06/17](#))

Protection

- The Syrian conflict continues to spill over into Lebanon and security incidents are common in the north and Bekaa. Shelling is ongoing in the border region, with Syrian Air Forces regularly firing rockets into Lebanon. Security is also affected by the increasing tensions between local communities. Kidnappings involving families from the Sunni-majority Aarsal and the Shiia clans of the northern Bekaa Valley have reportedly been on the rise since the beginning of the Syrian crisis. ([Daily Star 2013/08/05](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/14](#), [World Vision 2013/07](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/09/09](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/09](#))
- More Lebanese children are reportedly involved in child labour due to the deteriorating economic situation. There are no concrete statistics, but the Ministry of Labour has increased its 2006 estimate of 100,000 child workers in the country to 180,000. ([IPS 2013/08/07](#))
- Host communities assessed report feeling less safe as a result of the influx of refugees, and many reported that insecurity, including petty crime and electricity theft, had increased dramatically in the last 6-12 months. ([World Vision 2013/07](#))

Health

- The Lebanese hospitals are receiving an increased number of patients due to the mass influx of refugees and wounded fighters. In December 2012, 40% of primary healthcare visits were by Syrians. WHO reported that, based on the current influx of refugees into Lebanon, Syrians' demands for healthcare services will increase by at least 30% over the coming months. ([OCHA 2013/07/23](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/06/19](#), [World Vision 2013/07/15](#), [Reuters 2013/09/19](#))

Education

- 90,000 Syrian children are expected to enrol in public school during the upcoming academic year, in addition to 300,000 Lebanese children in the public school system. Most refugees are concentrated in north Lebanon and the Bekaa, where the strain on education is particularly acute. ([WB 2013/09/20](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/13](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/07](#))

Jordan

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

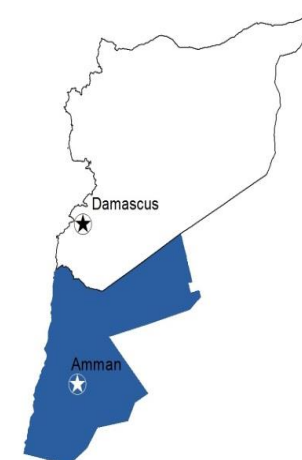
Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	523,607
% registered and awaiting registration in camps	24%

Palestinian refugees from Syria	8,800
Unregistered Syrians	76,000
Syrian returnees	70,000+
Syrian migrants	Unknown

Non displaced

Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown
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Source: [UNHCR 2013/09/23](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/18](#), [UNRWA 2013/09/07](#)



Key Developments September

- Reports of thousands of IDPs amassing on the Syrian side of the border with Jordan as a result of the alleged chemical attacks in eastern Damascus and in fear of possible military strikes remain unverified, but increased displacement near the border is highly likely due to on-going clashes and airstrikes in Dar'a governorate. However, the number of new arrivals remains low, indicating continued obstacle for those seeking entry to Jordan. ([Jordan Times 2013/09/15](#), [Jordan Times 2013/09/21](#))
- Over 5,000 refugees returned to Syria in August, outnumbering new arrivals reported in the same period. There is a lack of understanding of the reasons refugees are returning and the conditions to which they return, although it is expected that some may circulate back to Jordan after checking on property and/or bringing back family members. ([UNHCR 2013/09/15](#))
- UNHCR cleared the backlog of registration appointments in Irbid in September, one of the busiest field offices for registrations. Syrians approaching the Irbid and Amman offices can now register on the same day. ([UNHCR 2013/09/23](#))
- In early September, aid agencies planned for potential influxes of up to 150,000 refugees as a result of international military strikes against Syria. Due to delays in the official opening of Azraq camp, it was planned to send up to 20,000 refugees to Za'atari camp. Although unlikely in the current political context, such an influx would further challenge the delicate security and governance systems inside the troubled camp. ([UNHCR 2013/09/02](#))
- Relations between Syrian refugees and host communities remain tense. The GoJ and UNDP have agreed to a coordination platform to support Jordanian host communities. Aid agencies are trying to focus on non-camp settings,

including the needs of host communities in their respective programmes. (UNDP 2013/09/10)

Operational constraints

- ✦ A number of aid agencies assisting refugees in non-camp settings continue to face delays in obtaining the official approval required for their activities by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC). In particular, livelihoods, vocational and youth-related activities are not approved by MoPIC due to concerns that Syrians will compete for Jordanian jobs, lower market wages and increase community and national tensions. (PI 2013/09/19)
- ✦ There is a lack of nationwide, multi-sectoral needs assessments due to GoJ delays in approving survey proposals and findings, hindering the humanitarian community's ability to target assistance to the most vulnerable. For example, a profiling exercise of 20,000 non-camp Syrian households conducted in March has not received GoJ approval for release. (PI 2013/09/16, PI 2013/09/17)
- ✦ Protests, violence, vandalism, and theft continue to disrupt humanitarian operations in Za'atari camp, exacerbate tensions among the camp population, and create protection concerns for vulnerable groups. Gangs and other criminal elements continue to operate within the camps to misuse and misappropriate aid. (JHAS 2013/09/09, UNFPA2013/09/02)

Data sources and limitations

- ✦ Oxfam GB finalised an Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) of water markets as they affect Syrians residing in informal settlements in Balqa and Amman in September. The Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS) published an assessment of Syrians living east of Mafraq. In August, ACTED finalised assessments on food security, livelihoods, shelter and winterisation. (Oxfam GB 2013/09, JHAS 2013/09/09, ACTED 2013/08, ACTED 2013/08)
- UNHCR and the GoJ have agreed to issue a joint registration card for Syrian refugees with comprehensive information, including biometric data. The new registration system is being implemented in Amman and should begin to address some key data gaps, such as where refugees are accessing basic services.
- There is no monitoring system of refugees returning to Syria, nor information on the reasons for refugees returning to Syria. Upon request to the GoJ, UNHCR is permitted to observe the return process but there is no permanent observation presence.
- While the health situation in Za'atari camp is closely monitored and detailed in weekly public health updates, there is inconsistent information on the health status of Syrians residing outside the camps.
- There is no accurate count of the number of Syrians residing in Za'atari refugee camp. While the registration figures provide the official number of

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residents, thousands are estimated to have left the camp, both officially and unofficially for urban areas in Jordan, or returned to Syria.

- ✦ A number of assessments are underway or awaiting final approval in Jordan, including a MoH, WHO and UNHCR assessment of health facilities in the northern governorates, an IMC, EMPHNET and WHO mental health assessment in Za'atari and urban areas, a WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission, a UNDP assessment of the needs of host communities and municipalities affected by the influx of Syrian refugees, a health assessment of Syrians living in the Jordan River Valley, an ILO assessment of child labour, a WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR nutrition assessment and a Cash Working Group assessment of the impact of cash assistance on rental fees.

Displaced

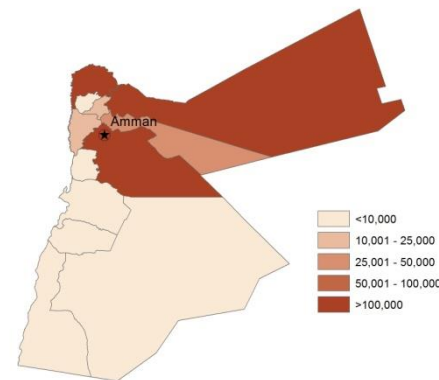
In September, the GoJ estimated there to be 1.2 million Syrians in Jordan, up from previous estimates of 600,000 estimated in July. There are no clear reasons for the sudden increase, given continued obstacles for those entering Jordan. (GoJ 2013/07/07, AFP 2013/09/12)

Registered refugees

- **Official border crossings:** Dar'a/Ramtha and Nasib/Jaber
- **Unofficial border crossings:** 45 (Eqtsad 2013/07/01)
- **New arrivals:** An additional 3,300 Syrians approached UNHCR for registration or were registered between 27 August to 23 September. This figure marks a 71% decrease from the daily average in the previous month. The decrease is primarily attributed to low numbers of new arrivals due to restrictions by GoJ border guards, reports of fighting blocking access to border crossing points and returns to Syria. (UNHCR 2013/07/16, UNHCR 2013/09/24)
- ✦ On 6 September, 25 Syrians arriving at Queen Alia International Airport were denied entry on security grounds. (Jordan Times 2013/09/07)
- ✦ **Projections:** Within the Regional Response Plan for Jordan (RRP5), it was projected that the number of Syrians in need of assistance in Jordan by the end of 2013 could reach 1 million, however UNHCR and partners are now planning for 650,000 refugees by the end of 2013 and 1 million by the end of 2014. (RRP 5 2013/06/07, UNHCR 2013/09/02, UNHCR 2013/09/25)

📌 **Location:** The proportion of registered Syrians officially residing in camps remains stable since July at approximately 24% of the refugee population, although there has been no census of camp residents. The vast majority of Syrian refugees reside in Amman (31%), Irbid (28%), Mafrq (14%) and Zarqa (11%) governorates. Governorates with the highest percentage of Syrians compared to the Jordanian population are Mafrq (17%), Irbid (9%), Ajloun (5.4%) and Amman (4.6%). UNHCR has developed a map showing which sub-districts refugees are residing in and receiving assistance. ([UNHCR 2013/09/02](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/18](#))

**Refugees by region
(Registered and awaiting, UNHCR)**



- Since April, Syrian refugees entering Jordan are processed through Raba al-Sarhan reception centre then transferred to Cyber City and King Abdullah Park transit centres before entering Za'atari camp. As of 23 September, 120,783 refugees were registered in Za'atari camp. However, many registered refugees have already left Za'atari through a Government-administered 'bailout' system by individual Jordanians as well as through unofficial channels, which reportedly involve payments between JD 400-500 (USD 565 – 706).
- Approximately 2,000 defectors from GoS forces are being held at Jordanian military premises in Mafrq Governorate. The GoJ has not yet permitted UNHCR to conduct status determination for this caseload. ([Daily Star 2013/09/15](#), [Eqtsad 2013/09/10](#))
- **Place of origin:** 56% of Syrian refugees in Jordan originate from Dar'a and 34% of the Governorate's original population is registered as a refugee in Jordan. Over 90% of Za'atari's population is made up of refugees from Dar'a. 16% and 9% of Syrian refugees in Jordan come from Homs and Damascus respectively. ([RRP6 2013/09/18](#))
- **Flight motivation:** Reasons for fleeing Syria remain similar to previous months and include: increase of violent attacks, property loss, lack of access to medical treatment, family reunification, fear of additional loss of family members, arbitrary arrest and rape incidents, the high cost of living and lack of food, shelter and job opportunities. ([UNHCR 2013/07/16](#))
- **Demographic breakdown:** The demographic breakdown remains the same. 52% of registered Syrians are female and 48% male. 54% are younger than 18, while about 3% of the refugees are over 60. ([UNHCR 2013/09/02](#))

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

- 📌 **Number:** There are around 8,800 PRS recorded in Jordan by UNRWA. On average, about 750 PRS have been recorded by UNRWA each month. ([UNRWA 2013/09/06](#))
- 📌 207 PRS and their family members are being held in the Cyber City transit facility and are not permitted to enter the camps or non-camp areas of Jordan. ([UNRWA 2013/09/06](#))
- Since May 2012, hundreds of PRS have been subject to refoulement by Jordanian authorities. Since a 2012 GoJ announcement that PRS would not be allowed to enter Jordan, the number of PRS in Jordan recorded by UNRWA remains low. Many PRS in Jordan are believed to be living in hiding due to fears of arrest and refoulement. Generally, PRS do not come forward for assistance for several months after their arrival, when they have exhausted their resources and coping mechanisms. There are no estimates of PRS who have not been recorded by UNRWA.
- **Flight motivation:** Palestine refugees from Syria accessing UNRWA services in Jordan indicated they fled Syria for various reasons including: lack of basic services and availability of food, destruction of homes, loss of belongings conflict-related violence and overall insecurity and persecution of family members. ([UNRWA 2013/09/06](#))
- 📌 **Demographic breakdown:** 52% are female and 48% are male, with 48% under the age of 18. 25% of households are headed by women. 43% originate from rural Damascus, 33% from Damascus city and 20% from Dar'a. On average, about 750 PRS have been recorded by UNRWA each month. ([UNRWA 2013/09/06](#))

Unregistered refugees

- 📌 There is no information available on the number and location of unregistered refugees. The GoJ recently stated that there are 1.2 million Syrians in Jordan, double its July estimate of 600,000 but there is a lack of supporting evidence for this sudden increase. The difference between the GoJ estimate of 600,000 and the number of registered with UNHCR gives an estimate about the unregistered refugees, being around 76,000. ([UNHCR 2013/09/02](#), [AFP 2013/09/12](#))
- A study found that the reasons for not registering with UNHCR included: lack of knowledge of where to register, lack of official documents, fear of deportation, lack of interest, administrative delays, having Jordanian family members, and recent arrival to Jordan. ([UN Women 2013/07](#))

Syrian returnees

- About 5,000 Syrian refugees returned to Syria in August. The reasons for return are unconfirmed, although reports indicate drivers to be: a desire to join armed groups; poor living conditions in Jordan; reports that some areas have

stabilised. UNHCR expects a number of Syrians to return to Jordan after checking on their property or bringing family members and assets. ([UNHCR 2013/09/15](#), [NPR 18/07/13](#), [IRIN 10/06/13](#), [Brookings 2013/07/10](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/16](#))

Refugee needs and concerns

Health

- The MoH projects that the capacity of health staff (number of doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists per population sample) in December 2013 will be degraded by approximately 15% by the refugee influx compared to June 2012. The bed capacity of Jordan's public hospitals is expected to decrease by 11%. ([Lancet 2013/07/03](#))
- According to an article published by the GoJ's Ministry of Health (MoH):
 - Surgical operations for Syrian refugees in public facilities have increased sixfold between January and March. The MoH reports similar trends in trauma care, including amputations, burn treatment, and major weapons-related wounds. MoH expects to treat over 600 Syrian cancer patients this year, an increase of 219% over 2012.
 - MoH estimates that it spent \$53 million on health care for Syrian refugees between January and April and projects health costs in 2013 to total \$135 million.
 - According to the MoH, there were 158.1 reported cases of Leishmaniasis per 100,000 Syrians compared to 3.1 per 100,000 Jordanians between March 2012 and April 2013. Aid agencies reported high rates of Leishmaniasis, particularly in the Jordan River Valley. ([Lancet 2013/07/03](#))
- Crude mortality rates in Za'atari remained low and decreased by 42% between the first and second quarters of 2013. These figures may be an underestimate due to lack of accurate numbers of residents in Za'atari. ([UNHCR 2013/07/20](#))
- Initial findings from the MoH-led assessment of health facilities in Mafraq, Irbid, Jerash, Ajloun and Zarqa governorates show that:
 - During a 3 day period, Syrians made up 9% of all visits to public health facilities, with an estimated average of 32,500 visits per month. 37% of visits were to hospitals;
 - Ramtha Public Hospital received proportionally the largest number of Syrians, with Syrians making up 19% of its patients;
 - Caesarean sections made up around 27% of surgeries performed on Syrians;
 - Syrian patients make up 17% of the caseload in obstetrics-gynaecologist and children hospitals, compared to 7% in general hospitals. ([Health WG 2013/07/25](#))
- An assessment conducted in late June and early July of 275 Syrian households (1,901 individuals) living near Mafraq by the Jordan Health Aid

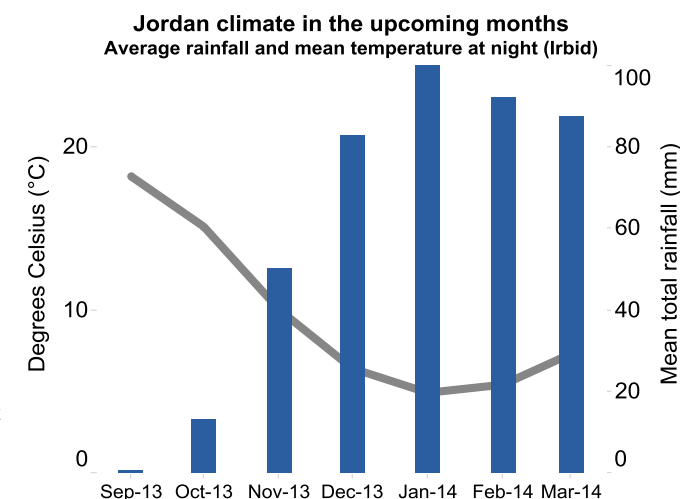
Society (JHAS) found that most of the health conditions reported were chronic, including Crohn's disease, cardiovascular conditions, back problems and hypertension. ([JHAS 2013/09/09](#))

- 6 cases of tuberculosis (TB) were identified among over 3,000 Syrians screened by IOM between 29 August and 12 September. Since March 2012, IOM has confirmed 84 cases of TB among around 300,000 people screened. ([IOM 2013/09/13](#))

Nutrition: No new nutrition information became available in August or September.

Shelter

- An ACTED assessment found that Syrians in northern governorates pay on average 48% more (JD 114 JD/USD 161 v 77 JD/USD 109) for rent compared to Jordanians. ([ACTED 2013/08](#))
- An ACTED assessment of 299 shelters and winterisation needs in Mafraq, Irbid, Jerash and Ajloun found 20% of interviewees to live in sub-standard shelters, including basements, chicken farms, tent/makeshift shelters or garage compared to 7% of Jordanians. However, both groups paid similar fees in rent at approximately JD 100 (USD 141). On average, chicken farms and tents/makeshift shelters fell below the SPHERE standard of 3.5 square metres of space per person. ([ACTED 2013/08](#))
- 35% of respondents in the ACTED assessment lacked any heating systems. The primary heating source is fuel, kerosene and wood. ([ACTED 2013/08](#))
- Roofs and walls were the main shelter structures in need of repair for winterisation. ([ACTED 2013/08](#))
- A JHAS assessment found that among those renting homes, the average rent was JD 150 (USD 212). The majority of households assessed by JHAS, however, were living in tents and informal settlements. ([JHAS 2013/09/09](#))



WASH

- ✦ An Oxfam GB assessment found that the main factors affecting access to water among informal settlements in Balqa and Amman are purchasing power, water storage capacity and geographic location. In addition, the assessment found that:
 - Water production and delivery systems are adequate to serve the Syrian population in Jordan based on standards established by the WASH Host Community task force; and
 - Poorer households generally pay more for water due to the lack of adequate storage tanks, negotiating power and/or networks to share water shipments to obtain the cheapest rate per volume. (Oxfam GB 2013/09)
- ✦ According to an ACTED assessment, only the 4 households living in tents (found only in Mafrq) lacked latrines and generally resort to open defecation. The vast majority of the 299 respondents to the survey had access to public water sources and those who did not, primarily those living in sub-standard housing, were able to purchase water. (ACTED 2013/08)
- ✦ A JHAS assessment east of Mafrq found that:
 - Water sources generally came from the farms where Syrians were working. Water storage was poor and vulnerable to contamination;
 - Makeshift latrines with no sewage disposal or treatment was common. In addition, a lack of soap and other hygiene materials was observed. (JHAS 2013/09/09)

Livelihoods and food security

- ✦ An ACTED assessment of northern governorates (Mafrq, Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, Ajloun and Jerash) found 1% of Jordanians and 3% of Syrians to be food insecure and 15% of Jordanians and 18% of Syrians to be at-risk of food insecurity. Ajloun governorate hosted the highest prevalence of poor or borderline food consumption at 65%, followed by 16% in Jerash. For Jordanians, Mafrq had the highest rates of poor or borderline food consumption at 16%. The assessment also found that 54% of Syrians and 38% of Jordanians had recently utilised negative coping mechanisms such as reducing meal sizes, buying on credit and purchasing cheaper, lower-quality foods. (ACTED 2013/08)
- ✦ The average income among Jordanians is JD 193 (USD 273) compared to JD 156 (USD 220) among Syrians. 57% of Jordanians have a regular income while 78% of Syrians depend on irregular income sources. 21% of households lacked any income producing family members. (ACTED 2013/08)
- ✦ According to the assessment, Syrians are highly dependent on external assistance. The main sources of income among Syrians are: WFP vouchers, unskilled labour, loans, NGO assistance and UNHCR cash grants.

- ✦ The ACTED assessment found that spending on food by both Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities were about the same, at 40% of monthly expenses and that there are no issues with availability of food in markets. Syrians consumed significantly less meat than Jordanians but had access to dairy products, eggs and protein. (ACTED 2013/08)
- ✦ Among female-headed households, only 6% of Syrian women produced an income compared to 17% of Jordanian women. Overall, 15% and 26% of Syrian and Jordanian women work. 64% of households were open to allowing women to work. (ACTED 2013/08)
- ✦ Among Syrians, the top 3 obstacles to obtaining livelihoods, in order of priority, are: the inability to obtain a work permit, lack of job opportunities and lack of funds to start businesses. Among Jordanians, the top challenges are: the lack of job opportunities, the lack of funds to start a business and weak demand for skills. (ACTED 2013/08)
- ✦ 36% of households reported working, primarily on vegetable farms, but often at very low rates of JD 0.08 to 0.1 (USD 0.11 -0.14) per hour. (JHAS 2013/09/09)
- ✦ The GoJ announced that it will be changing its bread subsidy system to reduce waste and limit beneficiaries to Jordanians nationals by issuing smart cards. Currently, anyone in Jordan, including Syrian refugees, can access subsidised bread at bakeries. Jordan's bakers' associations, however, have rejected the smart card system. WFP is awaiting a GoJ response on this issue to assess the impact on Syrian refugees' food security. (Jordan Times 2013/09/04, Jordan Times 2013/09/13)

Protection

- ✦ Since the beginning of the year until September, aid agencies have identified over 1,100 unaccompanied and separated minors, 400 of which are girls. 209 of these minors have been reunited with their families and 69 are cared for by relatives or spontaneous foster families. (UNICEF 2013/09/05, UNICEF 2013/09/20)
- ✦ According to the Ministry of Social Development, Syrians made up 10% of the 2,265 people detained for begging in the last 8 months. (Jordan Times 2013/09/04)
- ✦ Some Syrians living outside the camp reported to aid agencies that they paid between JD 400-500 (USD 565 – 706) per family to leave the camp unofficially, outside the bailout process. The registration and ration cards of those who leave unofficially are often abused by gangs to obtain cash and aid distributions. (JHAS 2013/09/10, PI 2013/09/10)
- ✦ The ACTED assessment of shelter and winterisation needs indicate that housing is becoming increasingly crowded with an average of 7.12 people per shelter, compared to an average of 4.1 found in previous ACTED assessments from March. (ACTED 2013/08)

- Syrian refugees who have had their identity documents held by the GoJ upon arrival to Jordan have not yet had them returned, despite a decision in June to facilitate their return. UNHCR is providing support to the GoJ to sort and organise the documents.

Education

- 29% of Syrian children have registered for schools in camps and host communities, however data has not been released on actual attendance. ([UNHCR 2013/09/20](#))
- 47 schools in host communities have added another school shift and about 1,400 children remain on a waiting list. ([UNHCR 2013/09/20](#))
- **Camp:** While school registration rates in Za'atari have significantly increased to half of eligible children this school year, student attendance rates remain similar to the low rates of last year. ([BBC 2013/09/12](#), [JENA 2013/07/07](#), [NRC 2013/09/15](#))
- A JHAS assessment east of Mafraq found that the vast majority of children in assessed households were not attending school due to the lack of nearby facilities, the lack of resources for associated costs, such as transportation and stationary, financial needs for children to work, fears of safety and discrimination and lack of registration documents to enrol. ([JHAS 2013/09/09](#))

Non-Displaced

- MoPIC reported that the cost of supporting electricity, water, education, health, subsidised goods, and protection for refugees in 2013 is over USD 2 billion. The highest costs are in electricity, followed by education and health services. ([UNHCR 2013/09/07](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/14](#), [MoPIC 2013/09/15](#))
- The Jordan Electric Power Company reported lower than average use of electricity during this summer and fewer power cuts compared to 2012 attributing it to cooler than average summer temperatures. ([Jordan Times 2013/09/01](#))
- Commercial agricultural trade between Jordan and Syria virtually stopped in early September due to fears of an international military strike and increased insecurity. According to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Jordanian farmers sent an average of 180,000 tons of produce per year valued at JD 40 million (USD 56.5 million) to Syria and onwards to Europe and Russia before the crisis. Farmers are now trying to market their produce to Gulf markets. In August, however, the MoA reported a 35% increase in the export of fruits and vegetables compared to last year, primarily to Gulf countries. ([Jordan Times 2013/09/08](#), [Jordan Times 2013/09/09](#))

Turkey

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	492,716
% registered in camps	41%
Unregistered Syrians	Unknown
Palestinian refugees from Syria	1,600
Syrian returnees	Unknown

Non displaced

Non-displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown
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SOURCE: [AFAD via UNHCR 2013/09/19](#) [MFA Tweeter 2013/09/04](#), [UNRWA 2013/09/07](#)



Key developments September

- The threat of military intervention in Syria triggered a wave of refugees into Turkey. Some made their way to Istanbul (mainly to the districts of Fatih, Esenler, Zeytinburnu, Bayrampaşa, Gaziosmanpaşa, Bağcılar, Başakşehir and Küçükçekmece) where an estimated 80,000 Syrians (or 15,000 families), relying on mutual support networks, have resided since early 2013. ([Radikal 2013/08/31](#) [STL 2013/08/31](#))
- Viranşehir camp in Şanlıurfa province, with a reported capacity of 18,000 residents, is now ready to receive refugees bringing to 21 the number of Syrian camps in Turkey. Some 1,000 refugees are expected to be transferred there from Akçakale camp. The Government of Turkey (GoT) is also overseeing construction of two additional camps in Niğde and Aksaray provinces. ([AFAD via UNICEF 2013/09/05](#) [USAID 2013/09/12](#))
- The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has halted the withdrawal of combatants from Turkish territory in the context of the first phase of the settlement talks with Ankara, insisting that the GoT now hold up its end of the bargain – phase 2 – by putting in place its promised reforms. ([Today's Zaman 2013/09/09](#))
- The GoT continues to register urban refugees and track their needs in a database known as EYDAS (Electronic Aid Distribution System), established by the Turkish Disaster & Emergency Management (AFAD) in early July 2013. National and registered INGOs operating in Turkey are expected to also feed into the EYDAS to streamline the in-country response. ([STL 2013/08/31](#))
- The recent decision by the UN to allocate USD 50 million from the Common Emergency Response Fund to boost the humanitarian response to the crisis in Syria and neighbouring countries does not extend to Turkey, where the GoT rather than international agencies has been leading the refugee response, both operationally and financially. ([Reliefweb 2013/09/13](#))

- As many as 100,000 IDPs are thought to be residing in makeshift camps in northern Syria, mainly Idlib province, some conceivably awaiting entry into Turkey. (STL 2013/08/31)
- In anticipation of a possible international intervention in Syria, Turkey has beefed up its military presence along the border further to the six patriot missile batteries deployed by NATO in early 2013. The GoT has also begun construction of a military base on a mountain abutting Syria's Latakia governorate, nearby the site where a Turkish aircraft was shot down in June 2012. The military reinforcement comes at a time when border incidents are becoming more frequent: in mid-September, Turkish F-16s shot down a Syrian helicopter 2km into Turkish airspace over Hatay province. (Hurriyet 2013/09/08 Defense News 2013/09/10 Hurriyet 2013/09/16 Al-Jazeera 2013/09/17)

Operational constraints

- The unrest linked to the Gezi Park protests which started in May 2013 in Istanbul continues in spurts around the country. Clashes recently erupted between civilians and police in Antakya, Hatay province. While these have not had negative repercussions on humanitarian operations, agencies are advised to remain cautious. (Today's Zaman 2013/09/10)
- All IOs and INGOs based north of the Syrian border are required by the GoT to undergo a lengthy registration process. (Turkish Ministry of Interior)
- The GoT continues to restrict Turkish and INGOs' access to the refugee camps, which are primarily managed by AFAD, although UNHCR is allowed to monitor on a regular basis. (IFRC 2012/12/29, STL 2013/01/22, UNHCR n.d., WFP 2013/02/18)

Data sources and limitations

- Limited assessment information is available concerning the needs of non-camp refugees. The exception is a 31 August report by Support to Life (Hayata Destek, STL) covering urban refugees particularly in Istanbul.
- Other than UNHCR overview updates, limited information is available concerning the conditions and needs of in-camp residents, but these generally enjoy a high quality of assistance from the GoT and therefore remain a low priority for assessment.

Displaced

The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs estimates that the total number of Syrians in Turkey has exceeded half a million. On UNHCR data portal, the official estimate is still around 490,000. (UNHCR 2013/09/03 Tweeter 2013/09/04 Hurriyet 2013/09/04)

Refugees (registered or awaiting)

- Border crossings:** There are 8 official border crossings: Yayladağı (Bab al-Kasab), Reyhanlı/Cilvegözü (Bab al-Hawa), Öncüpınar (Bab al-Salam), Karkamis (Jarabulus), Akçakale (Tell Abyad, Kaniya Xezalan), Ceylanpınar (Ras al-Ain, Sere Kaniye), Nusaybin (al-Qamishli), and Cizre (Ain Diwar). Other than Yayladağı, which remains under the authority of the GoS, all are officially open, but their status on the Turkish side varies from day to day and restrictions or temporary closures occur. Those located in the Kurdish areas are more problematic in terms of access into Turkey. Conversely, the GoT has also permitted sporadic mass entries whenever border fighting escalated. Bab al-Salam is reportedly the busiest and most stable crossing point. The Syrian side of the crossing points are manned by opposition factions in power at any given moment, but who pose minimal trouble to exiting Syrians. (See SNAP Syrian Border Crossings Thematic Report 2013/09)
- There are a number of known unofficial crossing points along the extensive and porous border. The GoT recently closed Harem crossing point with the aim of combatting smuggling activities.
- Status:** The GoT has officially adopted an 'open door' policy for Syrian refugees. Under the Temporary Protection (TP) regime established by the GoT in response to the situation in Syria, Syrians are to be provided with protection and assistance in Turkey, which includes unlimited stay, protection against forcible return and access to reception areas where immediate needs are addressed. All Syrian refugees are covered by the TP regime, including those without identification documents. The TP regime also covers Palestinians from Syria and stateless persons from Syria. In practice, the GoT limits the number of Syrians entering without papers, with priority given to women, children, the ill and the elderly. The GoT has observed non-refoulement and has made significant allowance for social services, and has gone to great lengths and at great expense – over USD 1 billion of its own funding (or an average of USD 2 million per camp per month) – to accommodate refugees. (STL 2013/08/31, Today's Zaman 2013/09/01)
- The 'Law on Foreigners and International Protection' passed by the Grand National Assembly this April, to be effected in 2014, is expected to improve Turkey's asylum procedures. How significant an improvement this represents for Syrian refugees remains to be seen. Concurrently, public debate has been underway concerning the option of granting citizenship to Syrians. (STL 2013/08/31 Today's Zaman 2013/09/01)

- 🚩 Turkey currently ranks in 10th place, up from 59th, among the countries hosting the largest number of refugees. (STL 2013/08/31 UNHCR 2013/06/26)
- 🚩 **Location:** Syrians are registered and receive assistance (starting with a health screening and for children, vaccination) in 21 camps in 10 provinces, administered by the GoT via AFAD and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC): 5 in Hatay province (Yayladağı-1 and -2, Altınözü-1 and -2, and Apaydın – which is specifically designated for military defectors and their families; there is in addition to these camps a temporary admission centre at Reyhanlı); 2 in Şanlıurfa (Ceylanpınar and Akçakale); 3 in Gaziantep (İslahiye, Karkamış and Nizip; Kahramanmaraş (city center); Osmaniye (Cevdetiye); Adıyaman (city center); Mardin (Midyat); Adana (Sarıçam); as well as prefab container camps in Kilis (Öncüpınar and Elbeyli Beşiriye), Şanlıurfa (Harran Kökenli), Malatya (Beydağı) and Gaziantep (Nizip-2). Viranşehir camp in Şanlıurfa is ready to receive refugees. A transit centre under construction outside of Kilis is expected to register new arrivals currently residing in Bab al-Salam on the Syrian side of the border. (AFAD 2013/06/25, AFAD via UNICEF 2013/09/05 WFP 2013/09/06)
- **Characteristics:** 52% of registered refugees are male and 48% are female. Of these, women and children under 18 make up 75%, whereas men above 18 represent 25%. (UNHCR 2013/07/19)

Palestinian refugees from Syria

- 🚩 A recent estimate of PRS in Turkey by UNRWA is about 1,600. (UNRWA 2013/09/07)
- No information is available on the number or location of PRS. PRS in Turkey fall under UNHCR's mandate as Turkey is outside of UNRWA's area of operations. They are also covered by the Temporary Protection regime as, in its application, the GoT does not make a distinction between Syrians and PRS.

Non-Syrian and non-Palestinian refugees from Syria

- For all non-European asylum seekers fleeing from Syria to Turkey who fall outside of the Temporary Protection regime, UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior conduct registration and refugee status determination according to standard procedures.

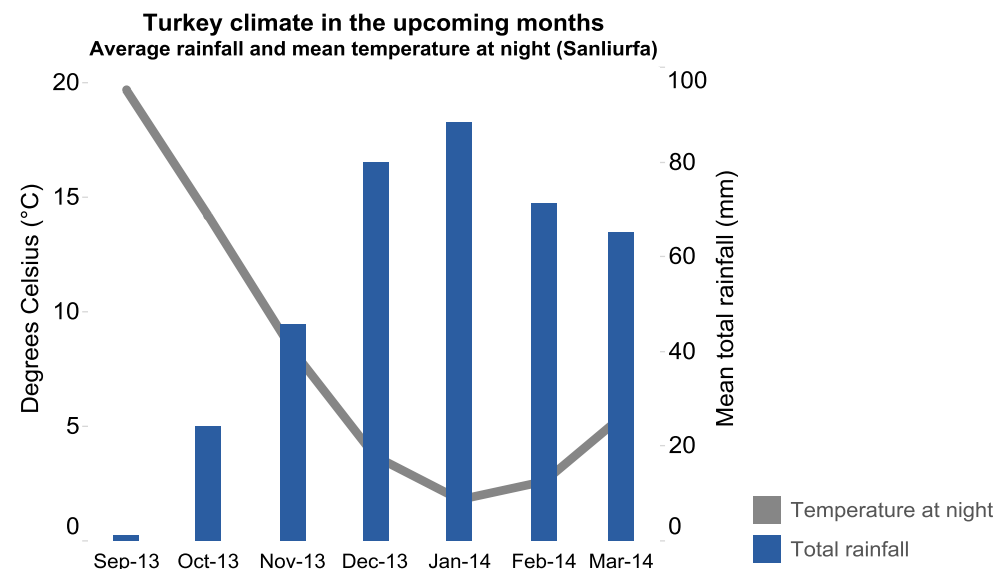
Unregistered refugees

- **Location:** While many unregistered refugees are thought to live along the border provinces closest to their places of origin, a new report as well as recently intensified registration of urban refugees suggest that more may now be settling further inland, particularly in Istanbul. (STL 2013/08/31)

Refugee needs and concerns

Shelter

- 🚩 **Camps:** The shortage of space in the camps continues to pose challenges for the authorities. With the exception of Midyat tent camp in Mardin, the current camps have reached capacity, and new ones like Viranşehir are expected to open. (STL 2013/08/31)
- **Urban/rural areas:** In August, the number of urban refugees was announced to have superseded that of camp residents, a fact as likely linked to more comprehensive registration as it is to actual migratory patterns. (UNHCR 2013/08/06)
- 🚩 Syrians residing in Istanbul pay the same rents for larger apartments compared to when they resided in border provinces such as Hatay (e.g. TL 400, or about USD 200 for a 3-room flat in Istanbul, in contrast with a 2-room flat in Hatay). (STL 2013/08/13)
- 🚩 Istanbul's Küçükpazar neighbourhood, where the majority of residents are Kurdish migrants from southeastern Turkey, has also been attracting immigrant Syrian Kurdish families keen on benefiting from kinship ties. (STL 2013/08/31)
- 🚩 Over 1,000 IDPs are currently camped out in public places in Kilis, often in makeshift tents with little sanitation facilities. A number of families are new to Turkey, but others came to Kilis expecting to be relocated to a camp. . (UNHCR 2013/09/17 CBS 2013/09/10)



Livelihoods and Food Security

- 🚩 **Camps:** In 6 of the camps AFAD serves cooked meals, whereas WFP and TRC have implemented an e-card system for 110,000 beneficiaries in 14 camps (60% of in-camp Syrians), amounting to TL 80 per person per month. This system allows for greater dietary freedom for those possessing the means to prepare meals and in parallel serves to strengthen local produce suppliers. However, price consistency remains an issue. ([WFP 2013/07/23](#) [IFRC 2013/07/15](#) [WFP 2013/09/06](#))
- 🚩 **Urban/rural areas:** One of the reasons refugees are moving further inland, and particularly to Istanbul, is the greater availability of work opportunities compared to in the border provinces. ([STL 2013/08/31](#))
- 🚩 A number of Syrians work in Gulf Arab countries and send remittances to their families in Turkey. Concurrently, an increasing number of Syrians are reportedly moving from Lebanon to Turkey as a result of intensifying socioeconomic pressures. ([STL 2013/08/31](#))
- 🚩 A group of Syrians (referred to as 'gypsies'), some of whom have resettled around Istanbul's Eminönü neighbourhood, are reported to be particularly vulnerable. ([STL 2013/08/31](#))
- 🚩 Syrians residing in several of Başakşehir district's neighbourhoods (Altınşehir, Güvercintepe and Ortamahalle) have little access to formal assistance, relying instead on informal channels. Youth involvement in drugs, prostitution and crime are reportedly on the rise. ([STL 2013/08/31](#))

Education

- By law, registered Syrians (i.e. possessing a residence permit) enjoy the right to primary and secondary education. Syrian students are allowed to attend Turkish universities as auditing guests (without certification), without having to prove that they used to attend universities in Syria ([No. 6458, ICG 2013/04/30, MPC 2013/05](#))
- **Camp:** Syrian teachers with UNICEF support currently work in Turkey's camps, where (semi-official) schools have been set up to provide Arabic-language education based on the Syrian curriculum.
- At least 3 pre-fabricated schools are being established in Yayladağı, İslahiye and Viranşehir camps, aimed at catering for 2,160 students, in addition to the existing, often improvised, schooling arrangements in other camps ([UNICEF 2013/09/05](#)).
- In Mardin Midyat camp, the school term has yet to start owing to delays in the completion of the school premises. ([UNHCR 2013/09/19](#))
- **Non-Camp:** Refugees in Istanbul have cited greater education opportunities for their children as one reason for settling in Istanbul ([STL 2013/08/31](#))

Health

- Based on a recent AFAD agreement with Şanlıurfa's Pharmacists Union, registered urban refugees in the province will only bear 20% of medical costs. ([UNHCR 2013/08/21](#))
- A late-July assessment jointly conducted by the UN, the GoT and non-governmental bodies in Şanlıurfa-Harran's container camp found gaps in service provision where gender-based violence and reproductive health are concerned. ([UNFPA 2013/09/02](#))

WASH

- There is no recent available information on the WASH situation. However, it is highly likely that within the camps it continues to be in line with SPHERE standards.

Protection

- 🚩 Localised tensions between Syrians and Turkish host communities have been reported. In Adana, for instance, a home rented by a Syrian family was attacked after a Syrian man allegedly harassed a Turkish girl. ([Al-Monitor 2013/09/06](#))
- 🚩 Alawites from Aleppo are increasingly moving from Turkey's border provinces towards Istanbul, where many are housed by Alevi (a non-confessional sect sharing similarities with Syria's Alawites) associations. They described being targeted by Islamist groups in Aleppo, and voiced concerns about living in camps, citing rumours of mistreatment at the hands of the Syrian opposition supporters dominant in camps. ([Hurriyet 2013/09/09](#))

Iraq

Displaced (see Annex A for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	222,000
% registered in camps	30%
Unregistered Syrians	unknown
Syrian returnees	21,358
Iraqi returnees from Syria	93,305
	since July 2012



Non displaced

Non-displaced affected by the Syria crisis Unknown

Sources: UNHCR 2013/09/24, UNRWA 2013/09/07

Key Developments September

- An estimated 60,000 Syrians entered the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) between 15 August, when the border crossings between Syria and KR-I were opened, and 12 September, when the authorities closed the Sehela border to ensure security around the elections that took place on 23 September. Peshakapor crossing closed after only a few days. (REACH 2013/09/17)
- As of 26 September both crossings remained closed. Border authorities have stated that no more than 100 people wait on the Syrian side to cross. However, MSF reported that their staff in Syria are aware of 10,000 people waiting to cross who are residing in nearby villages. (UNHCR 2013/09/23)
- The scale of the influx took the humanitarian community by surprise with at least 500 refugees crossing the northern Sehela border every day. The vast numbers are stretching the capacity of the local government, local community and humanitarian stakeholders. (REACH 2013/09/17, UNICEF 2013/09/06)
- New arrivals have reported that as ethnic Kurds in Syria, they were particularly targeted by opposition groups and extremist militias. (Christian Science Monitor 2013/09/05)
- The recent entrants say they are fleeing the upsurge of violence in the areas of Aleppo, Efrin, Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli in northern and north-eastern Syria and are also fleeing increasing socio-economic hardship. UNHCR has observed a recent increase in the number of new arrivals originating from Damascus. Some families mentioned they have relatives residing in northern Iraq, and some entrants were students travelling that had been studying in northern Iraq and had only returned to Syria over the holidays. (WFP 2013/08/23, UNHCR 2013/08/16, UNHCR 2013/09/06)

- There are now more than 200,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq. Nearly 97% are situated in the 3 northern governorates of KR-I. 30% are now in camps: 40,000 in Domiz camp (Dohuk governorate), and around 23,000 in other camps in Erbil and Sulimaniyah governorates. (UNFPA 2013/09/10)
- The new camps and transit areas housing the recent arrivals have very little existing infrastructure for essential services: water and sanitation, health, education and other services are urgently required. (UNICEF 2013/09/06)

Operational constraints

- The funding requirements for meeting the needs of the refugees in Iraq have been calculated at USD 310,858,973. Only 23% of the amount has been received to date. (UNHCR 2013/08/23)
- Lack of funds inhibited the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) from being able to undertake the establishment and completion of new camps any sooner. (UNHCR 2013/08/16)
- Cultural sensitivities concerning sexual violence continue to negatively impact the identification and reporting of SGBV as well as the ability to provide support to survivors. (UNHCR 2013/08/05)
- Security in Anbar province is unstable given the internal conflict in Iraq and the risk of the Syrian crisis over-spilling. Access to Al Qa'im is difficult, particularly for international staff, however, since May, missions have been carried out by helicopter. While UNHCR operations have not been directly impacted, the delivery of programmes in this area remains difficult due to precautionary security measures which sometimes result in delays and limit movement. (UNHCR 2013/08/05)

Data sources and limitations

- Following the recent influx of Syrians into Iraq, far more assessments and reports have been published, though these predominantly focus on the new arrivals. There remains a lack of public information on the refugees living in urban communities.
- There is a lack of information on the needs of the refugees in Anbar province. The last report published was a UNICEF assessment on nutrition among children in April.

Displaced

Registered refugees

- ✦ **Border crossings:** The border crossings Rabi'aa and Al Qa'im are closed, except for returns to Syria. Rabi'aa has been completely closed since 2 March and Al Qa'im was closed on 22 October 2012 and as of 29 March no longer allows for family reunification. Peshakapor and Sehela crossings were opened on 15 August. Peshakapor, an informal crossing point, was closed after a few days and Sehela closed on 12 September although it is expected to re-open soon as it remains the only border crossing into Iraq open to asylum seekers, despite temporary closures.
- Despite Government of Iraq (GoI) reports that the border at Al Qa'im was closed pending construction of the new Al Obaidy camp, it remains closed even though the camp has been opened and the refugees moved. Some officials stated that this is due to the insecurity in Anbar governorate. ([HRW 2013/07/01](#))
- ✦ **Demographic breakdown:** Almost 95% of the persons of concern are of Syrian Kurdish origin. Over 40%, or around 80,000, are young males and females (15-29 yrs) and around 50% of the young people are single young males (15 – 29 yrs). ([UNFPA 2013/09/10](#)) This suggests a change in the trend, as at the end of July, 63.5% of all registered refugees were male and 36.5% female. This discrepancy is thought to be due to the fact that many refugees were moving to Iraq in search of livelihood opportunities. It is traditionally more common for men to move in search of employment. (NRC 2013/04/18)
- ✦ Of the recent arrivals, about 70% are families with children, about 10% are elderly and 3% are people with various disabilities. ([IOM 2013/08/20](#))
- ✦ By the end of 2013, 500,000 Syrians are expected to reside in Iraq, 90% of them in the KR-I. ([UNESCO 2013/09/01](#))

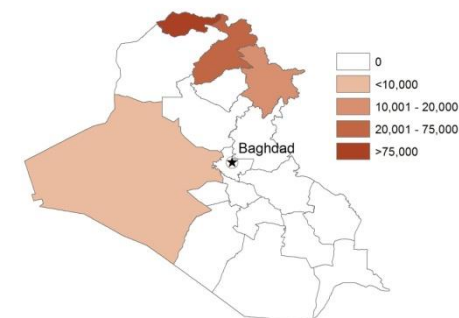
Unregistered refugees

- ✦ An unknown number of refugees reside in Iraq without having registered with UNHCR, though it is believed the majority have registered.
- ✦ IOM conducted an assessment in Ninewa province of 50 families that had entered Iraq in the last 3 months through the Sehela border crossing; none of the families had registered with UNHCR. ([IOM 2013/08/30](#))
- ✦ During the first 2 days of the recent influx of Syrians into the KR-I, no registration with UNHCR took place. After this period, entrants were verified before moving on to another location. However, in some cases, people arrived at the Iraqi side of the border to collect newly arrived family members before they were recorded. Hence, the exact figures of new arrivals are not known. ([UNHCR 2013/09/23](#))

Syrian returnees

- ✦ While Syrian refugees were previously returning to Syria for personal reasons (completion of education/school year for children, family circumstances, etc.), more recently, many are returning due to poor living conditions and high rental payments and lack of/expired residence permits, which are not extended to non-camp refugees, and limited access to employment opportunities. ([UNHCR 2013/08/05](#))

Refugees by region (Registered and awaiting, UNHCR)



Refugee needs and concerns

Protection

- ✦ Around 10-12% of families are female-headed households, which are particularly vulnerable to social and health risks, including marginalisation, gender-based violence and abuse. ([UNFPA 2013/09/10](#))
- ✦ In less than 1 week after the border opened, UNICEF identified at least 80 unaccompanied teenage boys sent across the border by their families for safety or to find work. Many were below 12 years old, and the younger ones were particularly dehydrated and exhausted after the long walk across the border. ([Al Jazeera 2013/08/20](#))
- ✦ Refugees are particularly vulnerable to forced labour and sex trafficking. Syrian persons of concern have been subjected to a wide spectrum of activities: women enter into commercially dependent relationships with Iraqi men, employees work without contracts and children are pressured into begging. ([SIGIR 2013/09/03](#))
- ✦ Child labour in Domiz camp and the surrounding area continues to be a concern. ([UNHCR 2013/08/05](#))
- ✦ Women in Domiz camp face security risks due to the camp's poorly lit areas and poorly maintained and shared latrines and bathing facilities. ([UNHCR 2013/09/23](#))

Health and nutrition

- ✦ UNFPA estimate that around 2,000 pregnant women will be among the new arrivals in Iraq, likely in need of medical attention given the harsh conditions under which they journey across the border. ([UNFPA 2013/08/26](#))
- ✦ **Camps:** Of the 279 children under 5 screened in Domiz, only 1 (0.4%) was found to be malnourished. ([Inter-Agency 2013/08/03](#))

- ✦ Mortality remains low in Domiz. Estimated crude mortality rate is <1 per 1,000 per month. (Inter-Agency 2013/08/03)
- ✦ Major causes of morbidity in Domiz and Al Qaim camps are acute respiratory tract infections (ARIs – 27.2%) and diarrhoea (7.4%). (Inter-Agency 2013/08/03)
- **Urban refugees:** Although primary healthcare is available free of charge for Syrian refugees, the quality of medical facilities and availability of medicines in the public hospitals is limited and their facilities are already stretched. Specialised treatment for serious illnesses is only available in private clinics, which are often unaffordable. There are a lack of facilities for people with disabilities. (UNHCR 2013/03/05, WHO 2013/03/15, UN Assistance Mission for Iraq 2013/06/16, UNICEF 2013/05/15)

Shelter

- ✦ In Erbil province, new arrivals have been sheltered at sites in Kawergosk town and in Qushtapa and Basirma in emergency transit/reception areas. In Kawergosk, there are frequent sandstorms and water is limited. Some new arrivals are sheltered in tents while others are reportedly staying in mosques or residing with family or friends who reside in the area. Another camp, Darashakran, which will have a capacity of 20,000, will be ready to accommodate refugees in the coming weeks. (UNHCR 2013/08/16, UNHCR 2013/08/18, UNHCR 2013/08/28)
- ✦ In Sulimaniyah, some 4,000 new arrivals are staying in a school, mosques and a public library. These informal shelters do not have adequate infrastructure to meet the Syrians' WASH, education and health needs. (UNHCR 2013/08/16, UNHCR 2013/08/18, UNHCR 2013/08/28, Save the Children 2013/08/20)
- ✦ **Camps:** Domiz camp is the only fully constructed camp in KR-I, and suffers from extreme over-crowding. (REACH 2013/09/17, NRC 2013/06/28)
- ✦ The new camps have very little existing infrastructure for essential services, meaning that water and sanitation, health, education and other services are urgently required. (UNICEF 2013/09/06)
- ✦ In some of the newly established areas of Domiz camp tents are erected in a congested and disorganised manner creating a fire hazard. (IOM 2013/08/03)
- ✦ **Urban refugees:** Prior to the influx that began mid-August, over 70% of the registered refugee population had settled in various urban and peri-urban locations in Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah governorates in KR-I and in Al Qa'im town in Anbar. (UNHCR 2013/09/23)
- ✦ Before the influx, over 105,000 registered refugees were living with the host communities in KR-I, putting considerable pressure on their resources. (REACH 2013/09/17)

- Around 650 families in Erbil are living in makeshift shelters and partly finished buildings. Many other families are sharing very small apartments, sometimes with 3 families in every room. (IRIN 2013/07/24)
- Significant gaps between income and expenditure have been identified among refugees living outside of camps. Rent is cited as the primary concern amongst non-camp refugees. (UNHCR 2013/06/12)

Livelihoods and food security

- ✦ The large numbers of refugees have distorted the job and housing markets; rents have increased as wages have dropped considerably. Rent can account for 75% of a refugee's salary, leaving little for food, medicine, school fees, etc. (Guardian 2013/08/30)
- ✦ During IOM's assessment of 50 families in Ninewa, most were either renting accommodation or living in buildings still under construction without any basic services. Few families had a regular source of income and the majority of families rely on food assistance from the local community. 11 of the 50 families are female-headed households. (IOM 2013/08/30)
- ✦ **Urban refugees:** Avoiding potential competition between the host community and the refugees over employment and resource allocation is a primary challenge and is essential to ensuring that the refugees continue to be welcomed. (DRC 2013/09/19)
- Many non-camp refugees in Dohuk attend the distribution in Domiz so as to receive food assistance. (WFP 2013/07/16)

WASH

- **Domiz Camp:** Water is supplied from boreholes, water trucks, and connection with Dohuk city's supply, and although there seems to be sufficient quantity (based on 15 l/d/p for 40,000 people), the network does not cover the whole camp and water is not distributed evenly. (FRC 2013/06/29)
- No drainage system has been implemented, meaning storm water and wastewater flow close to shelters, constituting a health hazard and a future worry for the winter months of increased rain. Ditches full of dirty water throughout the camp increase the risk of water borne diseases. (FRC 2013/06/29, NRC 2013/06/28)

Education

- ✦ 9 out of 10 refugee children living in host communities are out of school. Of the recent arrivals to the KR-I, 50% are children who will need support in order to receive an education. (UN Children's Fund 2013/09/07)
- The vast majority of Syrian children in urban communities do not go to school. While they have the legal right to attend local schools, classes are taught in

Kurdish, and they are used to learning in Arabic. There are also simply not enough schools in the area to accommodate them all. 76% of the children had attended school in Syria. ([UNICEF 2013/07/18](#), [UNICEF 2013/06/12](#))

Iraqi returnees

- By mid-May, over 85,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria returned to Iraq since the start of the conflict. As Rabi'aa and Al Qa'im border crossing points have remained closed since March, only Al-Waleed border point is open to Iraqi returnees. There is insufficient information on their situation.
- Some Iraqi refugees are hesitant to leave Syria, as they are afraid their application for refugee status in Syria will be withdrawn or delayed. Due to a backlog in registering Iraqi refugees in Syria, some of these refugees have been waiting for their refugee status for years. (PI 2013/01/21)

Egypt

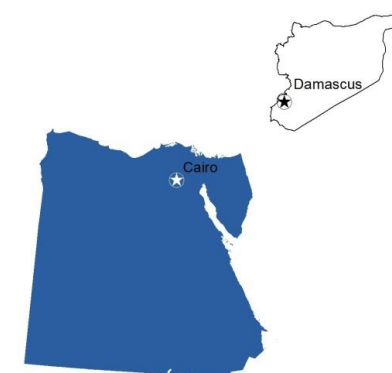
Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	126,717
Palestinian refugees from Syria	6,000
Unregistered Syrians	173,000
Syrian returnees	Unknown
Syrian migrants	Unknown

Non displaced

Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown
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Source: [UNHCR 2013/09/25](#), [UNRWA 2013/09/07](#)



Key Developments

- ✦ Since the unrest that started in Egypt at the end of June, Syrians already present in the country have hurried to register with UNHCR. As of 16 September, there were 124,346 registered and awaiting registration, up from 86,074 in July. ([UNHCR 2013/09/03](#))
- ✦ Some families are leaving Egypt by boat in an attempt to enter a European country irregularly, even though this puts them at risk of detention in Egypt or in Europe. 150 Syrians and Palestinians attempting to reach Europe by boat were detained when the Egyptian authorities intercepted their boat and 2 persons were reportedly shot and killed as the authorities attacked the boat. ([Amnesty 2013/09/20](#), [Reuters 2013/09/12](#))
- ✦ As well as the large numbers coming forward to register themselves, UNHCR has witnessed increased numbers having their files closed and leaving Egypt: 823 individuals de-registered in August up from 284 in July. According to an airport official, at least 100 Syrians leave via Cairo Airport every day. Syrians have cited anxiety, insecurity and diminished livelihood opportunities as reasons for wanting to depart. ([UNHCR 2013/09/20](#), [UNHCR 2013/08/28](#), [Reuters 2013/09/12](#))
- ✦ Syrian refugees have reported being insulted and taunted on the streets, charged double for commodities and services, increasingly mugged and robbed, and harassed by police. Syrian staff employed in one hospital had their salaries reduced by more than half. ([Washington Post 2013/09/09](#))
- ✦ The state of emergency put into place on August 14 for 1 month has now been extended for a further 2 months, granting the security forces wide-ranging powers of arrest and the enforcement of a curfew. ([AFP 2013/09/12](#))
- ✦ About 280 Syrians have been arrested since Egypt's visa policy was changed in July. 58 were deported and 140 remain in custody. With a state of

emergency in place since August, UNHCR lawyers are faced with decreased levels of access to those detained. ([Reuters 2013/09/12](#))

- As a result of the state of emergency in Egypt and continued violence across the country, the UN Security Management Team has advised the suspension of duty and personal travel outside of Cairo, creating obstacles for the prompt provision of assistance. To ensure the safety of beneficiaries and WFP staff, August voucher distributions were delayed. ([WFP 2013/09/06](#))

Operational constraints

- Due to the state of emergency and continued violence across the country, the UN Security Management Team has advised the suspension of duty and personal travel outside of Cairo, hence disrupting aid delivery. ([WFP 2013/09/06](#))
- New restrictions and social unrest has resulted in the closure of facilities and offices leading to disruption of health services. ([IA 2013/08/03](#))
- UNHCR's funding requirements in Egypt are a little over USD 66 million. As of 23 August, only 22% was covered, placing funding shortfall at USD 52 million. ([UNHCR 2013/08/23](#))
- Despite the large numbers of Syrian persons of concern in Egypt, UNHCR-convened regional meetings sometimes fail to include Egypt as it is not a 'neighbouring' country to Syria. ([Daily News Egypt 2013/09/03](#))
- Political instability has disrupted service provision, including food voucher distributions and the opening of healthcare facilities. Suspension of travel outside of Cairo for UN staff members has further hampered operations. ([WFP 2013/09/06](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/14](#))
- Palestinian refugees coming from Syria are specifically vulnerable as they cannot register with UNHCR and cannot procure residence permits. Hence, they also do not have access to public schooling and healthcare and lack basic international protection.

Data sources and limitations

- A UNICEF and UNHCR assessment on primary school needs in 5 governorates is currently underway. A pre-school needs assessment was conducted in 4 governorates, although no report has yet been published. A needs assessment of 100 primary healthcare units in 4 governorates is near completion. ([UNICEF 2013/09/19](#))
- IOM will conduct a profiling exercise to gather more accurate information on Syrian communities, 50% of whom are thought to live outside of Greater Cairo. ([UNHCR 2013/09/20](#))
- There are almost no assessments available on the current situation in Egypt and there are large information gaps regarding the location of the Syrians and their priority needs.

Displaced

- On 16 July the Government of Egypt (GoE) updated its estimate for the number of Syrians in Egypt, putting the figure at 300,000 – over double that of its last, April estimate of 140,000. Some groups estimate the figure to be closer to 700,000. ([Assafir 2013/09/03](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/17](#))
- As of 16 September, there were 104,703 registered Syrians and 19,643 awaiting registration in Egypt, totalling 124,346. This figure already exceeds the RRP5 prediction of 100,000 registered refugees by 31 December 2013. ([RRP 5 2013/06/07](#), [UNHCR 2913/09/16](#))
- Although many Syrians in Egypt have been coming forward to register with UNHCR, ever since the Egyptian authorities enforced new restrictive legislation in early July requiring Syrians to have a valid visa and security approval from the GoE prior to arrival, far fewer have been seeking refuge in Egypt. ([Daily News Egypt 2013/09/03](#))

Registered refugees

- **Registration:** There are 2 methods by which refugees are able to register: either by contacting the registration centre in Zamalek and requesting an appointment, or by contacting one of the mobile registration units regularly sent out by UNHCR to Alexandria and Damietta. ([UNHCR 2013/06/12](#))
- **Status:** Syrians who arrived before 8 July 2013 were able to enter Egypt without obtaining an entry visa. They were allowed to stay for 6 months (prior to the Syria crisis they were only allowed 3 months) after which they had to regularise their stay in the country by obtaining a residency permit. Both Syrian and Iraqi refugees can obtain residency visas either through UNHCR registration or school registration. Once a refugee acquires a yellow card, visas can be renewed free of charge for 6 months at a time at the Central Immigration Department. Syrians with children enrolled in public or private schools can obtain one-year residency permits. Those arriving after July 2013 are required to have an entry visa and security clearance prior to arrival. ([UNHCR 2013/06/13](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/22](#), [Zayd Bin Thabet NGO 2013/05/05](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/14](#), [RRP 2013/06](#))
- Over 1,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR as asylum seekers have closed their files in the past 2 months. ([Reuters 2013/09/12](#))

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

- Palestinians from Syria are unable to obtain residency in Egypt, as they are under the mandate of UNRWA, which has a limited presence in Egypt and only operates a liaison office. UNHCR does not record PRS either, in accordance with the Egyptian authorities' instructions. ([Assafir 2013/09/03](#))
- Palestinians who are residing in Egypt and are caught without residency papers have two choices: deportation back to Syria, or entry into the Gaza

Strip. The latter option is highly difficult in light of the deteriorating security situation in the Sinai and the consequent closure of the Rafah crossing. ([Assafir 2013/09/03](#))

- According to UNRWA, there are around 6,000 PRS inside Syria. The Palestinian Embassy estimates that there are 8,000-9,000 PRS in Egypt, with many still not registered with the embassy. Activists place the figure at 12,000. Before the start of the crisis, there were already around 50,000–70,000 Palestinians residing in Egypt. ([Daily News Egypt 2013/05/19](#), [UNRWA 2013/09/07](#))

Refugee needs and concerns

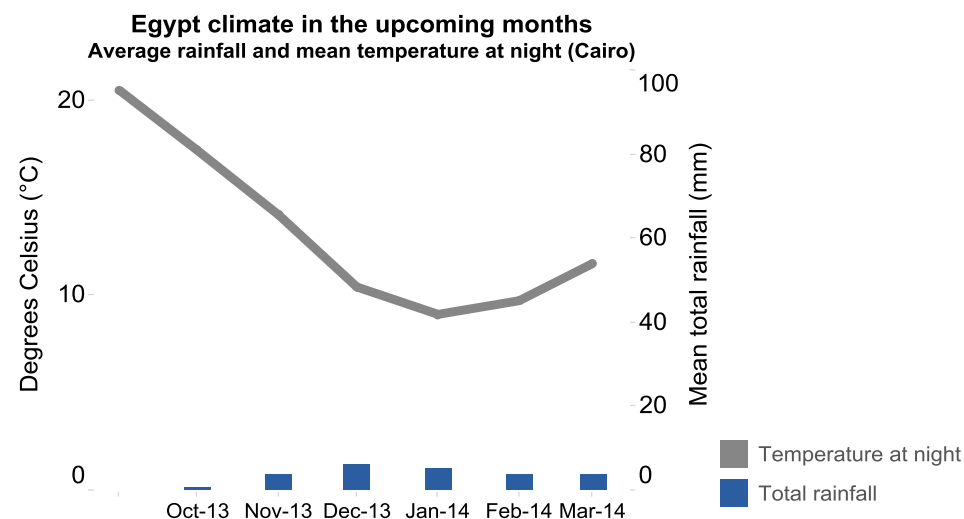
Protection

- Protection concerns have been exacerbated by the political unrest and new visa policy, including increased arrests, deportations and harassment. ([UNICEF 2013/09/19](#))
- Child protection concerns have increased since the beginning of July, in the form of detention and deportation, irregular migration, increased number of separated and unaccompanied children and hostility against Syrian children. A recent worrying trend has been the growing number of Syrians leaving Egypt by irregular boats to reach Europe and there have been unaccompanied minors among them. ([UNICEF 2013/09/19](#))
- Many Syrians are expressing a wish to go back to Syria or go to another country, including Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Algeria, Malaysia and Syria. UNHCR has reported a sharp increase in the number of refugees closing their files and leaving the country. ([UNHCR 2013/08/21](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/19](#))
- It has been reported that 42 Syrians living in Alexandria, including children and a pregnant woman, were detained and subsequently deported as they did not have residency permits. ([Assafir 2013/09/03](#), [Middle East Monitor 2013/08/13](#))
- The political situation in Egypt has affected the perceptions and sympathy towards Syrians. There have been reports of xenophobic propaganda being spread against Syrians in some areas. Politicians and opinion-makers have also targeted them, accusing them of harbouring support for the deposed president and contributing to Egypt's current turmoil. Syrians have reported that they are scared to go out into the streets, fearing arrest or deportation and the animosity of the host communities. ([IRIN 2013/07/18](#), [Reuters 2013/09/12](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/08](#), [IRIN 2013/07/18](#))

Livelihoods and food security

- Over the past few months, Egypt has been seen significant inflation and rising food prices. The Egyptian Food Observatory has reported that food prices had increased by 6% by the end of 2012, and in early 2013 food price further increased by 2.7%. ([UNHCR 2013/09/24](#))

- Refugees have raised issues to WFP about overcrowding in supermarkets and overpriced goods regarding the food voucher distribution system. ([UNHCR 2013/09/24](#))
- WFP reported concerns over the rise of poverty and food insecurity among the most vulnerable communities in Egypt, amidst continued political uncertainty and worsening economic conditions. ([UNHCR 2013/08/21](#))
- Due to changed perceptions towards Syrians, the latter are now being charged higher rents and some have reported being fired by their employers. ([Assafir 2013/09/03](#))
- In 2012, many Syrian families cited their main source of income as personal savings brought from Syria. However, in the last quarter of 2012 and through 2013, those savings have significantly depleted. ([UNHCR 2013/09/20](#))
- Due to security concerns, WFP's food voucher distribution was disrupted in several areas. ([UNHCR 2013/07/08](#), [WFP 2013/07/16](#))



Health

- Syrians are reportedly showing signs of stress due to their difficult situation. ([Reuters 2013/09/12](#))
- Unregistered refugees are increasingly reporting difficulties in accessing healthcare. ([UNHCR 2013/07/06](#))

Education

- The Ministry of Education has recently issued an announcement that it will continue to allow Syrians the same access to education as Egyptian children for the school year beginning 21 September. This came after advocacy efforts

to overturn a previous GoE decision that only allowed Syrian students the same general provisions granted to all foreigners. (UNHCR 2013/08/28, UNICEF 2013/09/19)

- Challenges still include difficulties in enrolling after the start of the academic year and attaining documentation, which is still required by schools for enrolment. (UNHCR 2013/09/20)
- In private and some community-based schools, school fees are unaffordable. Some families then prioritise their sons' education over daughters'. (UNHCR 2013/09/20)
- Psychosocial support for students remains a priority, especially as many children have suffered traumatic experiences before coming to Egypt. (UNHCR 2013/09/20)
- Foreign institutes only offer a limited number of scholarships for higher education, and opportunities for Syrians are few. (UNHCR 2013/09/20)

Previous SNAP reports

- **Regional Analysis for Syria (Part I and Part II)** January – August 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
- **Scenarios** February 2013/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) End October 2013
The RAS report will be updated on a monthly basis
- Thematic report: Baseline data Lebanon October 2013

Map data sources

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

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 who have provided input to this report. Please note that all sources which are available online are hyperlinked (underlined, in brackets). Some information sources prefer to remain anonymous. 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.



Annex A – Definitions Humanitarian Profile

Affected

The number of affected refers to people affected by the violence in Syria. The number of affected can be divided in two groups: those non-displaced and those displaced.

Non-Displaced

The **non-displaced** include all those within Syria that have been, directly or indirectly, affected by the conflict, including those who have been injured, have lost access to essential services, and those whose vulnerability has increased due to the impact of the unrest on livelihoods and access to essential services ([OCHA 2012/06/05](#)). In addition, this group includes the **host** community, the people who are part of a community or family receiving affected people. Due to the stress placed on the host families and communities, they are considered part of the humanitarian caseload. As there is currently no information available on the needs of the host community, this group is currently excluded from this humanitarian profile.

Displaced

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are those persons or groups of persons who are residing in Syria but who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict. ([OCHA 2004](#))

Refugees and Asylum Seekers are those who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside Syria, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. ([UN 1951](#)). For the purpose of this document, the category 'refugees' includes those registered, awaiting registration as well as those unregistered – despite the fact that unregistered Syrians are technically not refugees as their refugee status has not been established. Within this group, the Iraqi and Palestinian refugees are in a specifically vulnerable position, both within Syria as outside.

Others of Concern - Persons who have been displaced by the emergency and form part of the humanitarian caseload, but do not fall into either of the above categories (e.g. migrants, returnees).