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REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

07 February 2014

Part II – Host countries

This quarterly Regional Analysis of the Syria conflict (RAS) is an update of the December RAS and seeks to bring together information from all sources in the region and provide a holistic analysis of the overall Syria crisis. In addition, this report highlights the key humanitarian developments in 2013. 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

Health and regional spread of diseases: The health situation is one of the main humanitarian concerns in Syria and, while Syrians in host countries enjoy better access, the high costs, distance and a lack of information result in many unmet health needs. The polio vaccination campaign in the host countries has been relatively successful, although health experts caution against complacency as the spread of communicable diseases, including polio, could increase as temperatures rise toward summer. Poliovirus has not been completely repelled inside Syria and vaccination campaign coverage in Lebanon and Iraq is suboptimal.

The **nutrition** status of refugees in Lebanon has deteriorated over 2013, with global acute malnutrition (GAM) increasing from 4.4% in 2012 to 5.9%.

Shelter remains a concern across the region with many Syrians living in shelter inadequate for winter; many in Jordan being forcibly evicted from informal tented settlements; and those in Za'atari camp facing tougher 'bail-out' conditions. Winter storm Alexa caused havoc across the region in December with heavy snowfall disrupting humanitarian operations and transport across the region. Refugees living in open spaces, tented settlements and other sub-standard accommodation were particularly vulnerable. In Lebanon alone an estimated 30% (270,000) Syrians live in sub-standard accommodation.

Protection concerns are varied: growing numbers of Syrians are in an irregular legal situation either because they choose or are unable to register (due to illegal entry or reluctance to approach authorities) or because they fail to re-register

with UNHCR (which costs USD 200 in Lebanon) resulting in limited freedom of movement, exploitation and decreased access to basic services, especially healthcare. Meanwhile tension between Syrians and host communities is growing, most noticeably in Lebanon.

Seasonal rainfall is below average across much of the region and inadequate to replenish water reserves. Coupled with increasing demand in refugee-hosting areas water-shortages loom. Limited water supplies are already a source of tension between host communities and refugees with the latter blamed for the shortage, particularly during summer months. A continued lack of rain will further exacerbate social tension during 2014, particularly in Jordan and Lebanon.

Livelihoods and food security: In all the host countries, competition for employment and rising rent prices due to the ever-increasing refugee numbers are consistently worsening issues. While in Lebanon, many refugees work illegally with limited chances of reprisal, in Jordan the authorities intermittently clamp down on illegal employment. In several of the host countries, child labour is rife. Recent depreciation of the Turkish Lira further strains financial resources of both host and refugee populations.

Border restrictions: Despite the reopening of one border crossing in Iraq, all neighbouring countries continue to limit access for those fleeing Syria. Turkey, in particular, closed a number of formal and informal border crossings due to fighting on the Syrian side significantly restricting the flow of both humanitarian aid and informal trade. The majority of refugees fleeing to Jordan continue to enter through the eastern desert. Palestinian refugees from Syria have been blocked at the border when trying to enter Lebanon, though the details of the restrictions facing them have not been made public.

Regional conflict dynamics: Despite weak support among Syrians for the extremist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), its influence on regional dynamics continues to grow. Increased conflict between Al-Qaeda elements and Iraqi Government forces have caused significant internal displacement within central Iraq as well as to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), putting further pressure on the limited humanitarian capacity and resources to respond and disrupted the delivery of aid to Syrian refugees in Al Obaidy camp in Anbar. In Jordan, the sudden increase in Iraqi asylum seekers from Anbar province is leading to long waits for registration among non-Syrian asylum seekers. Meanwhile two Al-Qaeda-linked groups announced their presence in Lebanon in January with one declaring Hezbollah strongholds to be legitimate targets. Security has deteriorated significantly restricting parts of the humanitarian response.

Funding: USD 2.4 billion was pledged for the humanitarian response in Syria and refugee hosting countries at Kuwait in January, although this will be insufficient to meet the needs that will arise should the conflict and refugee crisis continue on at its present scale throughout 2014. Lack of funding in 2013 resulted, in Lebanon, in the targeting of assistance to 70% of registered refugees.

Information sources and gaps

- Information sources in December and January: The country with the least information available on the situation of the Syrian refugees remains **Egypt**. The last publicly available assessment was published in June 2013, and related to data collected in February 2013. Although UNHCR produces regular situation reports, these reports do not include information on refugee needs. Periodic updates continue to be published on the situation in the refugee camps in **Iraq**, focusing on health indicators. However, there is still a lack of comprehensive information on the refugees in urban settings, where 60-70% of the refugees are hosted. For the first time since mid-2013, an assessment of the situation of non-camp refugees was published in **Turkey**. Most assessments continue to be undertaken in **Jordan** and **Lebanon**, including several multi-sectoral assessments.
- Information gaps: Secondary displacement of refugees in host countries, in search of livelihood opportunities, a more favourable climate and access to services and security is common. 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 Syrians in the different countries and their movements into Syria.
- 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 overviews of needs do not exist, particularly affecting operations in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.
- 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.

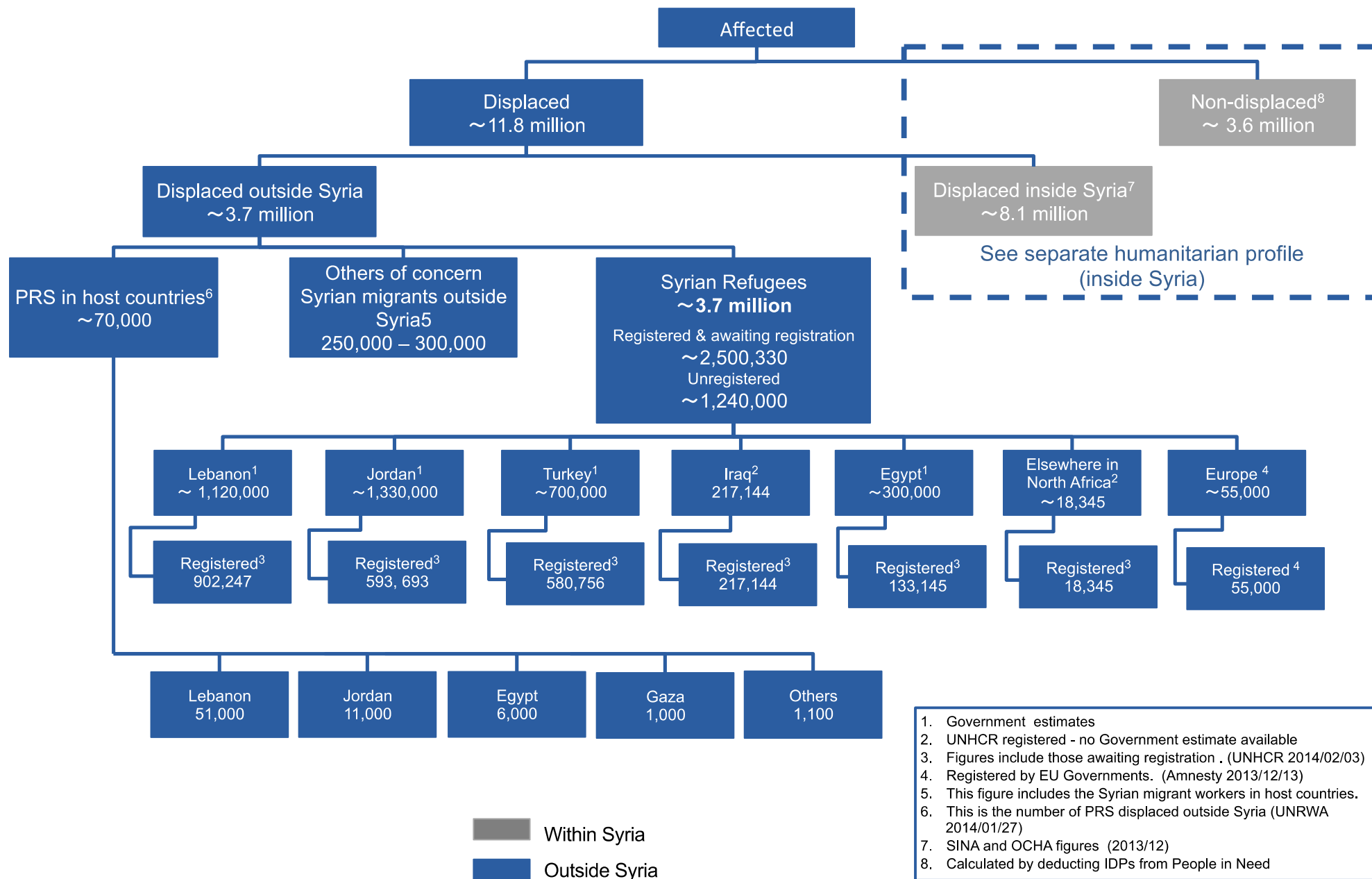
**Number of needs assessments
(publicly available) in 2013**

Egypt	< 5
Turkey	< 5
Iraq	<10
Jordan	>50
Lebanon	>50

Possible Developments

- Spill-over of the conflict:** Security incidents continue to rise, particularly in Lebanon and become a growing concern in Turkey. In Lebanon, increasing attacks and clashes in the border areas as well as in major urban areas such as Beirut and Tripoli, combined with resentment over increasing prices, water shortages and competition for low-level employment, results in growing hostility between host communities and refugees, which in turn create concerns for refugee protection and social cohesion. Meanwhile extremist groups in northern Syria attack areas in Turkey from which more moderate opposition groups operate. This, combined with the upcoming Turkish municipal and national elections in 2014 results in a more restrictive Government of Turkey (GoT) policy towards refugees as well as the humanitarian community and border controls.
- Health concerns:** Increasing pressure on the national healthcare systems due to a steady rise of communicable diseases further strain both host government resources and relations with host populations. The deterioration of the overall situation leads to increased cases of malnutrition in host-countries, particularly in Lebanon.
- Legal status:** Many refugees' legal status lapses in host countries, especially in Lebanon as they lack the financial means to pay the renewal fee. In Jordan, some refugees have a gap between the expiration of their cards and appointments to renew them. As a result many become increasingly vulnerable unable access basic services and assistance.
- Limited rainfall:** The below average levels of rainfall this winter results in a significant reduction in reserves for both domestic consumption and agricultural production. Limited water supplies become an increasing source of tension between local communities and refugees, particularly during the summer months, with medium-term implications for social cohesion during 2014, particularly in Jordan.
- Evictions:** Evictions of refugee families, as already seen in Jordan and Lebanon, will increase as people fall into debt and exhaust their coping mechanisms. This will lead to increased returns to Syria as refugees decide they can no longer cope in host communities or in refugee camps due to protection concerns.
- Irregular migration:** As insecurity deepens in Egypt, more refugees from Syria will use dangerous sea routes to reach Europe once the sailing season begins in spring. More people will flee to new countries of destination, including Tunisia where no visa is required. As with Egypt, humanitarian communities will be late in responding to this trend, leaving a protection and assistance gap.

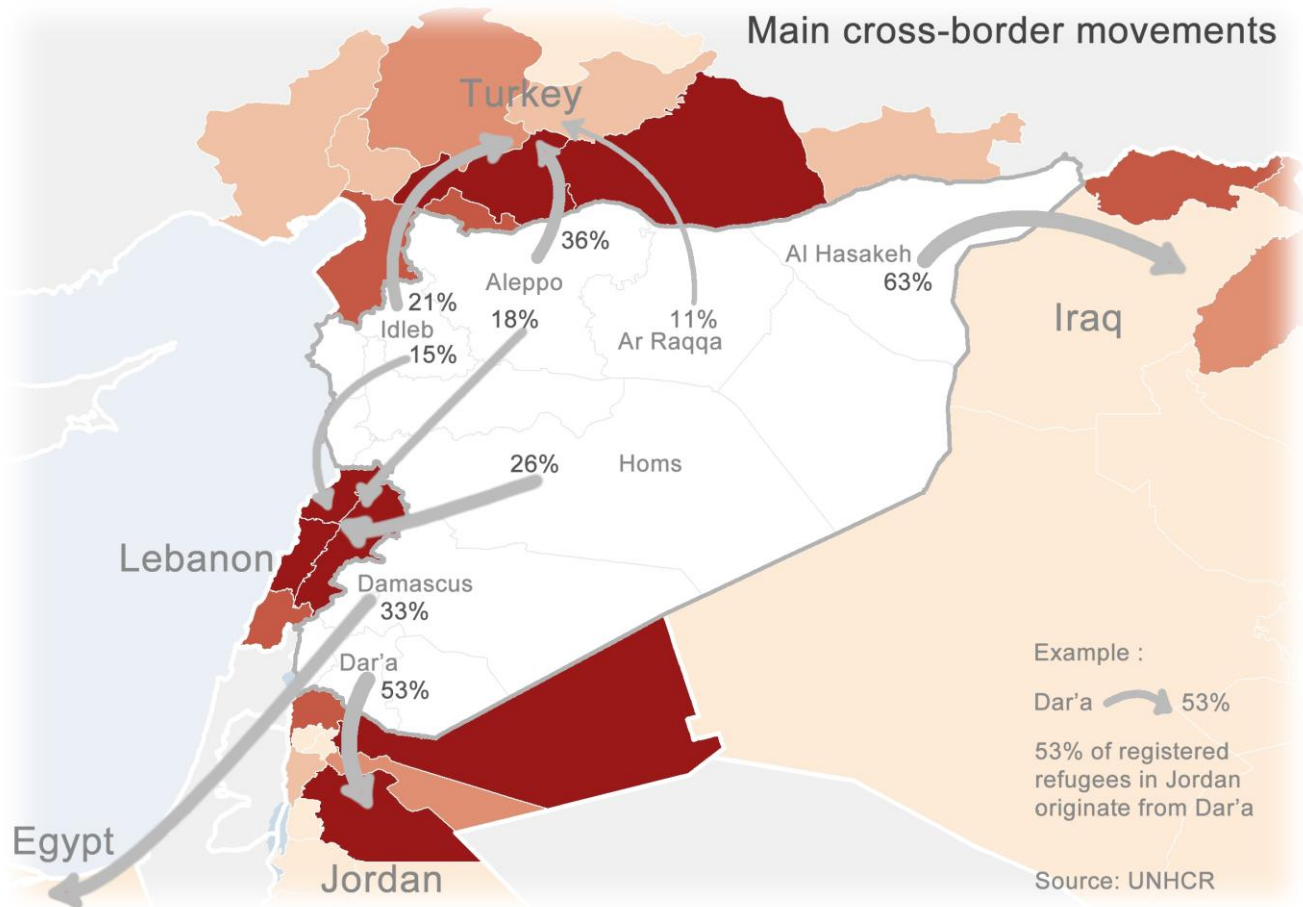
Humanitarian profile (see annex B for definitions)



Neighbouring country displacement

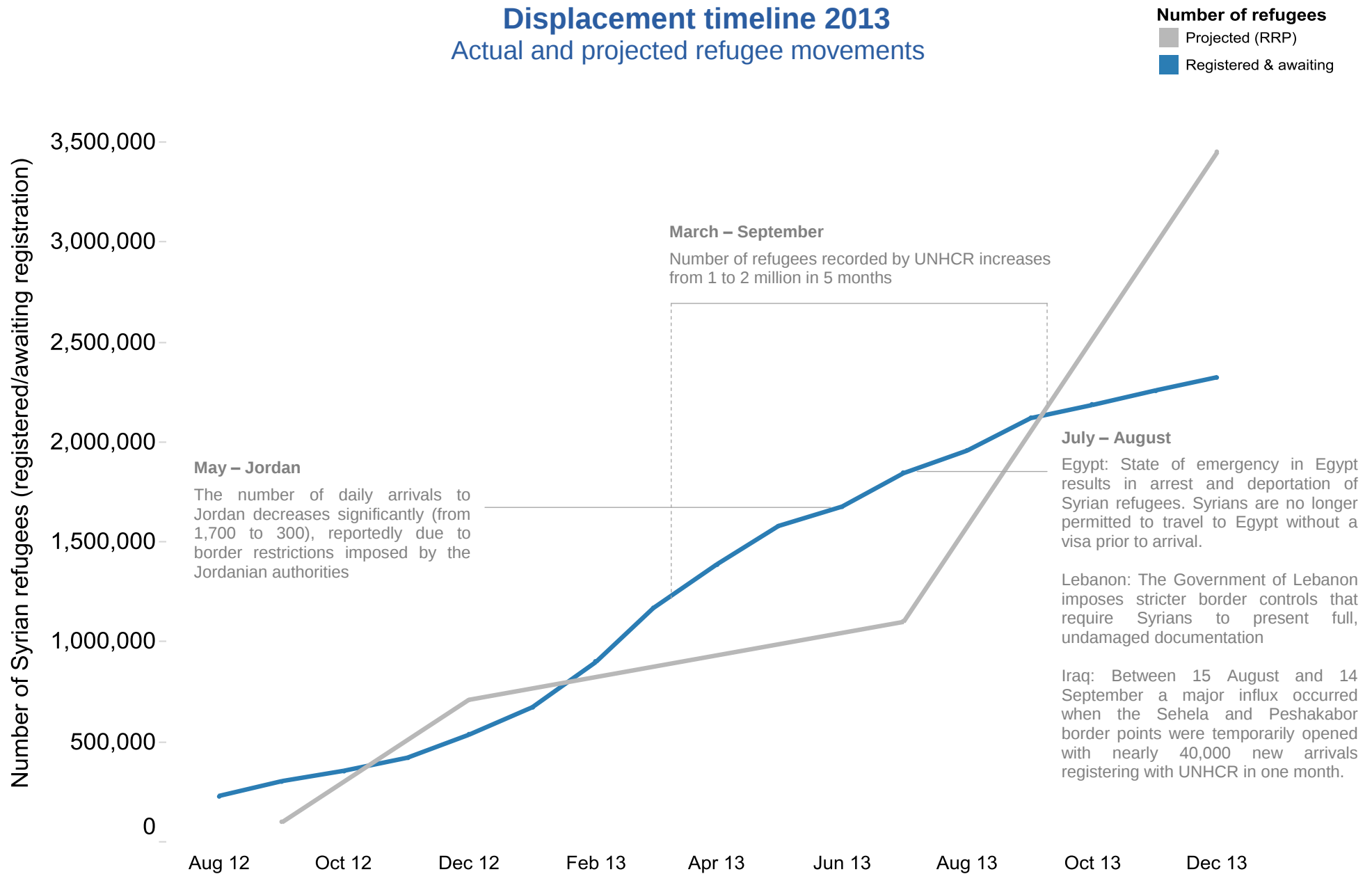
January and December

- Lebanon:** Security incidents have rapidly increased over the last 2 months with major attacks occurring on a weekly basis since December, particularly in border areas and Beirut's southern suburbs. This has had an impact on humanitarian operations, limiting movements to the field and within urban centres.
- Turkey:** Increased fighting along the Syrian side of the border and concerns of spill-over has led Turkish authorities to shut down a number of border crossings. While the number of new arrivals into Turkey has increased, the movement of commodities and humanitarian aid in highly vulnerable areas in Syria has reportedly ceased.
- Jordan:** The clampdown on the bailout process from Za'atari camp has led to a decrease in the number of people leaving for host communities. This presents protection implications for those who have been sent to the camp following arrest for working without a permit, as well as their families, who likely depend on them, and others who seek to leave due to protection concerns but lack a local sponsor.
- Iraq:** The border was opened in early January to Syrians who wanted to enter on a temporary basis and to those originating from confirmed areas of conflict. The conflict in Anbar province has led to internal displacement, including of thousands of Iraqi Arabs to the KR-I, which is particularly sensitive.
- Egypt:** Increasing insecurity in Egypt is likely to lead to further boat departures and other irregular migration patterns as the protection situation for refugees from Syria deteriorates. There was a reported increase in Syrians claiming asylum in Tunisia.



Displacement timeline 2013

Actual and projected refugee movements



Lebanon

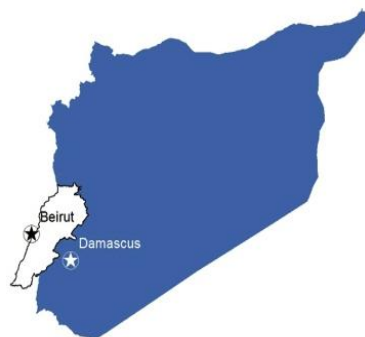
Displaced (see annex B for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	902,000
Unregistered Syrians (estimate)	>200,000
Palestinian refugees from Syria	51,000
Syrian migrants	250,000-300,000
Syrian returnees	Unknown
Lebanese returnees	>17,000

Non displaced

Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown
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Source: [UNHCR 2014/02/03](#), [UNRWA 2014/01/27](#)



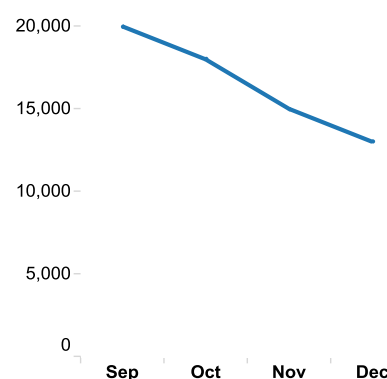
Key issues December and January

The security situation in Lebanon has deteriorated over the last 2 months, with several security incidents in the border region and 6 car bombs since the end of December. In the last week of January, 2 groups with links to Al Qaeda, Jabhat al-Nusra in Lebanon and a group led by Abu Sayyaf al-Ansari, announced their presence in Lebanon. One of these groups, Jabhat al-Nusra in Lebanon, declared that all strongholds of Hezbollah are legitimate targets. Security incidents are expected to continue to target densely populated areas as a result of this spill-over of the crisis from Syria into Lebanon.

The number of Syrians and Palestinians contacting UNHCR and UNRWA for registration has decreased over the last 5 months. While reports indicate that Palestinian refugees face increasing difficulties crossing the border, surveys on the number of Syrians entering the country indicate that the number of monthly arrivals has not significantly decreased. Possible explanations for the decrease in requests for appointments include less willingness to register with UNHCR and obstacles towards making an appointment, such as insecurity, lack of legal status barring movement and the harsh winter weather in early December.

In mid-December, Alexa, the winter's first

Request for appointments
UNHCR registration



snowstorm, compounded the situation faced by those in substandard shelter, including over 120,000 people residing in tents. Although the winter months have been relatively mild since this storm, the shelter situation remains a critical concern. An estimated 30% of Syrians live in substandard shelter and many are at risk of eviction due to an inability to pay increased rent or tensions with the landowner or community. As a contingency measure, the Government of Lebanon (GoL) authorised the building of T-shelters in the vicinity of existing collective shelters and formal and informal camps (up to 20 in any one location). However, only 63 have been erected to date (all in Akkar) as local authorities and communities elsewhere have refused permission. Thus those at risk continue to rely of emergency weather-proofing, building rehabilitation and cash for shelter programmes.

- Since storm Alexa, the winter has been mild and rainfall has been far below average and insufficient to replenish water reserves. Combined with the significant increase in demand due to the refugee influx problems related to water availability and quality during the summer and autumn months are likely.
- Preliminary results of a nutrition assessment indicate that the nutrition status of refugees has deteriorated since 2012, with global acute malnutrition (GAM) increasing from 4.4% in 2012 to 5.9% in 2013. The prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) increased slightly from 0.9% to 1%. SAM is highest in the Bekaa Valley at 1.7%.
- The response to the Aarsal influx in November (when 20,000 people entered the border area within 8 days) and the Alexa winter storm highlighted some weaknesses of the humanitarian response. One of the lessons learned is the need for contingency planning linked to a specific scenario or area to ensure staff and material can be deployed rapidly.
- Since the implementation of targeted distribution of aid, whereby food and NFI assistance is targeted to around 70% of registered individuals, over 30,000 households have appealed against their exclusion. It is estimated that 25% of the refugees who were excluded will be re-included once their cases have been verified.
- The number of people residing in Lebanon irregularly, either because they have not renewed their legal stay or because they have entered through unofficial crossings, is increasing. As of 31 January, more than 165,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR had arrived in country more than 12 months ago and presumably would be required to pay fees to renew their residency coupon. This number will increase to more than 800,000 by end of June 2014. Few refugees can afford the USD 200 renewal fee yet failure to renew registration may result in legal challenges, limited freedom of movement, exploitation and decreased access to basic services.

Data sources and limitations

6 assessments have been made publicly available in December and January:

- The Vulnerability Assessment Syrian refugees (VASyR) published in December, was a multi-sectoral household survey undertaken in May and June 2013 of 1,422 households. The VASyR found approximately 72% of individuals (equal to 68% of households) to be sufficiently vulnerable to warrant continued food and non-food assistance. The results of this assessment were used to develop the criteria for targeting various forms of assistance. ([VASyR 2013/06](#))
- Between June and October 2013, NRC conducted a qualitative assessment in Wadi Khaled and Aarsal to identify and better understand the consequences of having limited legal status for Syrian refugees. The assessment found that those with limited legal status faced strict limitations on freedom of movement and difficulties in accessing justice and basic services. ([NRC 2013/12/13](#))
- 735 vulnerable households receiving winterisation support were surveyed with the objective of establishing a baseline. The results indicate that the main expenditures for both registered and non-registered households are food and rent. 30% of families reported having debts, of between USD 201 and USD 600, and buying on credit or borrowing money to pay for essential goods was the most common coping strategy reported. The baseline survey will be followed by 2 post-distribution monitoring cycles. ([UNHCR and partners 2013/12](#))
- A Joint Nutrition Assessment of Syrian Refugees was undertaken by the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. Preliminary results indicate that the nutrition status of refugees has deteriorated since the 2012 survey, with global acute malnutrition increasing from 4.4% in 2012 to 5.9% in 2013. ([UNICEF 2014/01/13](#))
- The Global Communities' Office of Humanitarian Assistance conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment in Mount Lebanon's Chouf, Baabda and Aley districts among 273 individuals. Results indicate that shelter continues to be the greatest need in Mount Lebanon. ([GC 2013/12/07](#))
- An assessment of refugee households from Syria with one or more members with specific needs was undertaken by MPDL in Mount Lebanon and South. The assessment results, based on interviews with 456 households, 20 key informants and 45 focus group discussions, indicate that priority concerns are adequate shelter followed by health and food. ([MPDL 2013/012](#))
- Since the start of the year, the traditional 3W system was replaced by a system called 'Activity Info' into which all humanitarian actors operational in Lebanon are encouraged to enter their activities, to enable tracking of

progress against the indicators defined in the (Regional Response Plan) RRP6. The first monthly publications based on the data in Activity Info will be released in February.

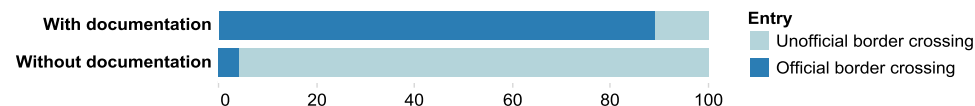
Operational constraints

- Deteriorating security conditions are affecting humanitarian operations, with several field missions cancelled and movement of staff temporarily restricted following security incidents in Akkar, Beirut, Hermel, Saida and Tripoli. ([UNFPA 2013/12/31](#), [PI 2013/01/26](#))

Syrian refugees

- Government officials estimate that there are currently 1.3 million Syrians in Lebanon. Within the RRP6, it is projected that the number of Syrians registered with UNHCR will increase to 1.5 million by the end of December 2014, from 890,000 currently. ([UNHCR 2013/09/24](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/10](#))
- **Unofficial border crossings:** An estimated 10% of the refugees cross in an irregular manner. The main unofficial crossings occur in Hermel, Aarsal, Ras Baalbek, Al-Qaa and Masharih al-Qaa. One of the main reasons for passing through an unofficial border crossing is the lack of documentation. ([IA 2014/01/16](#), [Daily Star 2013/12/06](#), [Al Modon 2013/12/27](#), [PI 2013/09/16](#), [UNHCR 2013/03/29](#), [WFP 2013/06/05](#))

Point of entry into Lebanon (% of total)



- **Border restrictions:** The border restrictions that have been in place since July 2013 continue to be enforced. 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/ID cards or whose documents are damaged.
- **Aarsal:** The total number of Syrians arriving to Aarsal in the Bekaa since the influx started on 15 November reached 20,000 as of 15 December 2013, with the arrival rate slowing to 10-15 families per day by mid-December. ([UNHCR 2013/12/15](#))
- **Legal 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.

➤ **UNHCR registration and renewal:** To obtain access to UN services and protection, registration with UNHCR is necessary. In January, the average waiting period for UNHCR registration in Lebanon was 29 days (down from 34 days in October). Until June 2013, refugee attestations were issued for a 1-year period and as many refugees have been residing in Lebanon for over a year, renewal of registration is necessary. From July 2013, refugee attestations were issued for a 2-year period. ([UNHCR 2014/01/09](#), [IA 2014/01/16](#))

➤ **Current location:** Refugees reside in over 1,600 Lebanese municipalities, mostly in Bekaa (Zahle and Baalbek) and the north (Akkar and Tripoli). ([UNHCR 2014/01/23](#))

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

➤ As of December 2013, there were some 51,000 PRS in Lebanon. UNRWA expects this number to rise to 100,000 by the end of 2014. However, there has been a decrease in the number of newcomer PRS recording with UNRWA. PRS are facing increasing difficulties in entering the country, with many reports of PRS being refused access at the official border crossings. In addition, UNRWA has received reports from PRS that have been unable to renew their visa in Lebanon, despite payment of the required USD 200 fee to General Security. ([PWG 2013/12/09](#), [UNRWA 2013/12/16](#))

Unregistered refugees

➤ The number of Syrians residing in Lebanon but not registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR is unknown. For planning purposes, 10-20% of the registered population is estimated to be unregistered. However, winterisation response, when both registered and unregistered refugees in informal tented settlements (ITS) were targeted for response, revealed a much higher proportion of unregistered Syrians living in ITS in the Bekaa. ([PI 2013/01/27](#))

Lebanese returnees

➤ A November IOM profiling exercise identified over 17,000 Lebanese returnees. Conditions of the Lebanese returnees who fled the conflict in Syria are broadly similar to those of Syrian refugees, as most came back to Lebanon without their belongings, are unemployed and are either renting accommodation or being hosted by Lebanese families, while some are living in collective centres and tents. The majority came from Homs governorate and settled in parts of North Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley where opportunities for work are scarce, and public services are overstretched due to the already huge presence of refugees. Returnees most frequently ranked

food, health, shelter and access to work, as their first or second priority needs. ([IOM 2013/12/10](#), [IOM 2013/11/07](#))

Refugee and returnee needs and concerns

Shelter

➤ Over 30% of the refugees live in substandard shelter, including those residing in informal tented settlements (ITS), congested collective shelters and unfinished buildings. New ITS continue to be identified: in addition to the over 400 ITS mapped in mid-2013, Medair had identified 63 new ones in the Bekaa by 31 January. The number of ITS is expected to rise further as displacement from Syria continues. Conditions are hazardous in ITS: a Syrian child died during a fire in an ITS in Ras al-Ain in early December. ([GC 2013/12/17](#), [UNHCR 2013/12/30](#), [Daily Star 2013/12/15](#))

➤ Both the VASyR and winterisation baseline survey results indicate that, on average, rent is the second highest expenditure for refugee families, at 25% of their total expenditure (USD 194 per month). Although collection of data on rent prices is inconsistent, different assessment reports indicate a significant increase in rental prices, affecting both Syrian and Lebanese occupants. ([VASyR 2013/06](#), [StC 2013/01/28](#), [UNHCR and partners 2013/12](#))

➤ A small-scale assessment (of 273 individuals in Mount Lebanon) by the Global Communities' Office of Humanitarian Assistance confirmed rent to be a key expense, finding that over 80% of assessed households paid rent, on average USD 300 per month. Around 85% of the assessed population reported rent prices increasing in 2013. ([GC 2013/12/17](#))

➤ A proportion of the population continues to be at risk of eviction, either because of inability to pay rent or tensions with the landowner or community. In areas where ITS were a less common occurrence before the crisis, communities are less familiar with these settlements and problems are more likely to occur. ([UNHCR 2013/12/30](#), [StC 2013/01/28](#))

➤ In addition to a shortage of available housing and increasing rental prices, GoL restrictions on the establishment of camps and local resistance to the rollout of the T-shelters are additional reasons why many reside in sub-standard shelter. ([IA 2014/01/16](#), [IA 2014/01/16](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/17](#), [StC 2013/01/28](#))

Health and nutrition

Within the RRP6, it is projected that 72% of refugees will require at least one primary healthcare intervention in 2014. In November, the main cause for primary health clinics visits were acute respiratory tract infections (26%). In January, the main communicable diseases reported within the GoL surveillance system were measles, viral hepatitis A and leishmaniasis. As of yet, no cases of Polio have been identified. (UNHCR 2013/12/23, MoPH 2013/01/26, RRP6 2013/12/17)

Results of the joint 2013 nutrition assessment indicate that the nutrition status of refugees has deteriorated since the 2012 survey, with global acute malnutrition (GAM) increasing from 4.4% in 2012 to 5.9% in 2013. WHO classifies a GAM rate between 5 and 10% as poor. The prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) increased slightly from 0.9% to 1 %. SAM is highest in the Bekaa Valley, at 1.7%. These preliminary findings do not indicate whether the increase in the GAM rate is primarily due to the influx of a higher proportion of undernourished children from Syria or is illustrative of a deterioration of the nutrition situation among Syrian children in Lebanon. (UNICEF 2014/01/13)

An assessment of refugee households from Syria with individuals with specific needs indicate that health is the main source of expenditure for a large part of the households. To be able to cover health costs, negative coping mechanisms were reported, including the sale of assets, food vouchers and taking out loans. Access to appropriate medication is a critical concern: 80% of the individuals with specific needs assessed had been receiving medication in Syria yet only 40% were receiving medication in Lebanon. Many were skipping medication, using alternative drugs or depending on painkillers. Some travel back and forth to Syria to receive treatment or to obtain medicines. (MPDL 2013/012)

Top 3 reported notifiable communicable diseases among Syrian refugees

		Leishmaniasis	Viral Hepatitis A	Measles
2013	January	18	10	1
	February	51	14	32
	March	93	26	28
	April	99	8	31
	May	89	6	50
	June	63	11	28
	July	108	7	27
	August	107	16	16
	September	78	15	2
	October	66	27	1
	November	43	40	5
	December	39	3	1
2014	January	22	46	6

Protection

A November NRC assessment highlighted the fact that growing numbers of refugees are in an irregular legal situation. There are 3 types of groups which live with limited legal status:

- Refugees who entered through unofficial border crossings, but hold the required identity documentation to enter Lebanon;
- Refugees who entered through unofficial border crossings, and do not have the required identity documentation to enter Lebanon; and
- Refugees who entered through official border crossings, but who have not renewed their legal stay in Lebanon.

Individuals face many challenges as a consequence of their limited legal status, including legal challenges (registering newborn babies, lack of access to justice), limited freedom of movement, exploitation and decreased access to basic services. Other challenges faced by refugees include rising tensions with host communities and eviction from their dwellings. Some refugees with limited legal status engage in harming coping strategies, including paying bribes to obtain documentation; paying for forged documentation; using other people's documents; or returning to Syria to obtain the required documents. (NRC 2013/12/13, UNHCR 2013/12/16)

As of 31 January 2014, over 165,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR had arrived in country more than 12 months ago and would be required to pay fees to renew their residency coupon. This number will increase with a further 310,000 to more than 490,000 by end of June 2014 and, by end of 2014, more than 800,000 Syrians will be required to renew. (UNHCR 2013/01)

UNHCR reports that some 39% of registered refugees have been identified as having specific needs, including persons with disabilities, older persons, women and children at risk, persons with serious medical conditions and SGBV survivors. (UNHCR 2013/12/30)

The number of municipalities enforcing a curfew for Syrian refugees is increasing. In December, Saadnayel municipality in the Bekaa imposed a curfew. According to this curfew, movement for Syrian refugees is prohibited between 20:00 and 06:00. Other municipalities in the North, South, Bekaa and Mount Lebanon are still imposing curfews. (NRC 2013/12, Daily Star 2013/12/06)

WASH

- According to the RRP6, 27% of refugees and affected populations will be in need of water support, 29% in need of sanitation assistance and 80% will require hygiene promotion support by the end of the 2014. ([UNHCR 2013/12/30](#))
- The current wet season (from October to March) has seen below average rainfall, with only 230mm rainfall recorded up to 20 January compared to the 30-year average of 440mm. It is reported that if there is no above average rainfall before March:
 - Water availability will drop considerably.
 - Water quantity (production) will be severely affected.
 - Water quality will reduce further (higher abstraction rates coupled with lower recharge rates for groundwater will increase seawater intrusion).
 - There is a risk of conflict/ tensions at water points (and beyond).
 - Potential unregulated over-exploitation of existing sources and unregulated development of new sources to keep providing expected quantities of water. (WASH WG 2013/01/26, [Daily Star 2014/01/21](#))

Livelihoods and food security

- A winterisation baseline survey among over 700 households identified as vulnerable indicated that the lack of job opportunities is the main constraint to be able to generate an income (around 90% of responses), followed by medical conditions and disability. (UNHCR and partners 2013/12)
- Both the VASyR and the winterisation baseline survey showed that food and rent are the main expenditures for households. Borrowing has been reported as a common coping strategy across all regions. During the winterisation baseline survey, the large majority of households reported having borrowed money to buy food or are buying food on credit. 30% of families assessed had debts, between USD 201 and USD 600. (UNHCR and partners 2013/12, [VASyR 2013/06](#))

Education

- The second shift system in the public school system has officially started in 38 out of the 89 planned schools. However, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has indicated that only 85,000 refugee children can be accommodated in the public school system meaning that some 500,000 Syrian children will need to access education outside the formal public system. ([IA 2014/01/16](#), [UNHCR 2013/12/30](#), [UNICEF 2014/01/14](#))

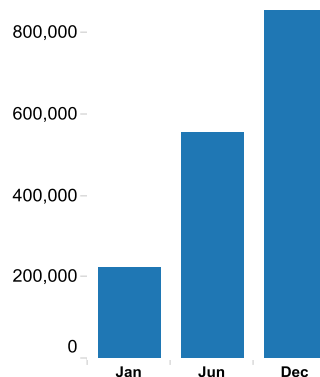
Non-Displaced

- Lebanon is hosting a number of registered Syrian refugees and recorded Palestinian refugees equal to 25% of the total estimated Lebanese population. The RRP6 projects that 1.5 million Lebanese will be in need by the end of 2014 as a result of the influx of Syrian refugees. This is primarily due to the additional pressure on basic public services. In Aarsal, an area with a high refugee concentration, for instance, one primary healthcare clinic reports that 75% of its caseload are Syrian refugees. ([IMC 2013/12/26](#))
- The Syrian conflict continues to spill over to Lebanon, with multiple security incidents in January and December, including:
 - Rocket attacks on the border region, including rockets fired from the eastern areas in Syria on Hermel. A group affiliated to the Jabhat al-Nusra in Lebanon claimed the latest attacks on Hermel. As Syrian Armed Forces recently retook control of the hills around Joosie in Homs, an area allegedly used to shell Hermel, attacks are expected to reduce at least temporarily.
 - Car bombs targeting Hezbollah strongholds in southern Beirut, the latest one on February 3 which killed at least 2 people in Choueifat. For the first time since October 2012, a car-bomb exploded in the centre of Beirut on 27 December, killing former minister Mohammad Shatah, along with 5 other people.
 - Clashes in Tripoli, where the conflict has aggravated existing sectarian tensions between the Jabal Mohsen neighbourhood and Bab al-Tabbaneh, 2 neighbourhoods that support opposing sides of the Syrian conflict. Human Rights Watch reports increasing targeted attacks against Alawites in Tripoli. ([Daily Star 2014/02/03](#), [Daily Star 2014/01/25](#), [Daily Star 2013/12/18](#), [Daily Star 2014/01/12](#), [AFP 2013/01/17](#), [Daily Star 2013/12/05](#), [Daily Star 2013/12/19](#), [Daily Star 2014/01/06](#), [HRW 2013/12/20](#))
- The Syrian conflict continues to affect agriculture and food security in Lebanon, with Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TAD) and large livestock losses, as well as the lack of food and phytosanitary control at the Lebanon-Syria border continuing. Disruptions in trade since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict have led to a significant decrease in farm gate prices, while the costs of agricultural inputs and services continue to rise. ([UNHCR 2013/12/30](#))

Lebanon – Key developments 2013

- Sudden influx of refugees:** During 2013, the number of refugees registered with UNHCR increased almost fivefold. There are no official figures on daily arrivals to Lebanon, but it is estimated that between 60,000 and 75,000 people were entering from Syria each month in 2013. This number temporarily increased during and following specific battles in Syrian areas bordering Lebanon, notably during the battle for Al-Qusair in May and in the Qalamoun area in November:
 - Just before and after the battle for Al-Qusair (19 May and 6 June 2013) a large number of families fled the region to Lebanon. There are no exact numbers available on this influx, but between the start of May and the end of July, over 16,000 people from Al-Qusair district registered with UNHCR, compared to 3,000 in the 3 months preceding May.
 - Between 15 and 21 November, over 18,000 Syrians arrived in Aarsal from the contested Qalamoun area. ([UNHCR 2013/12/20](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/11](#), [PI 2013/09/20](#), [DRC 2013/06](#), [IA 2013/05/20](#))
- Response:** In response to the growing humanitarian needs, an increasing number of humanitarian agencies have established activities in Lebanon – at the start of 2013, 22 INGOs participated in the RRP4, by December 2013 (RRP6), this number increased to 51. Within the RRP 5, organisations requested USD 1.2 billion to respond to the crisis in Lebanon. To cover the projected needs in 2014, USD 1.7 billion has been requested through RRP 6. The requested funds increased to USD 1.7 billion. However, funding has not kept pace with the increasing needs and by the end of 2013 targeting of the 70% most vulnerable refugees replaced blanket aid delivery. The impact of this targeting system, including the negative coping mechanisms applied by those no longer eligible for aid, has yet to be consistently tracked.
- During the year, cash-based programming has become a more important part of the response, with a large proportion of the winterisation aid provided in the form of cash instead of in-kind relief.
- Operational constraints have increased since the start of the year, partly due to the deteriorating security situation. In addition, 2013 saw an increase in the number of municipalities hosting refugees (from 700 to 1,600 locations),

Refugees registered/awaiting registration
(January - December 2013)



making effective assessment and delivery of aid more difficult. While GoL restrictions towards structural shelter interventions have eased slightly, for most part of the year, these restrictions were one of the main factors hampering effective shelter and WASH support. ([UNHCR 2014/01/03](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/22](#), [RRP4 2013/01](#), [RRP6 2013/12](#))

- Priority needs:** In the absence of countrywide multi-sectoral surveys, any change in priority needs over time are difficult to gauge. However, throughout 2013, access to adequate shelter has been consistently highlighted as a key priority. At the start of the year, approximately 30% of refugees (52,000) lived with host families but the large number of new-comers during 2013 has exhausted hosting capacity. By November, a similar number of people were residing with host-families (50,000 individuals), representing 6% of the total number of registered refugees. As a result, refugee families have been forced to find alternative accommodation and an increasing proportion is residing in informal tented settlements (from an estimated 5% of registered refugees at the start of the year to 14% in August). ([RRP5 2013/01/17](#), [IA 2013/01/17](#), [Oxfam 2013/05/20](#))
- Freedom of movement:** By mid-2013, Syrians faced increasing restrictions on their freedom of movement. Although the border remained open to refugees, in July 2013, the GoL imposed stricter border controls that require Syrians above the age of 15 to present full, undamaged documentation. A number of people have been turned back, particularly Palestinian refugees from Syria. The tightened security measures are reportedly a result of growing concerns on the economic and security costs of the refugee crisis. In addition, by mid-2013, curfews from 21:00 to 06:00 for Syrians were reported in multiple Lebanese municipalities, while checkpoints are increasingly strict on undocumented or irregular Syrians. ([Protection Working Group 2013/07/19](#), [Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#), [UNFPA 2013/09/01](#), [Daily Star 2013/08/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/08/16](#), [IA 2013/08/06](#))
- Spill-over of violence:** The second half of 2013 saw an escalation of the spill-over of violence into Lebanon, with frequent cross-border shelling and multiple large bomb-attacks. At least 47 people were killed by 2 IEDs in the northern city of Tripoli on 23 Aug, a week after a car bomb killed over 30 people in south Beirut. Tensions increased when fighters from Hezbollah openly provided support to the SAF during its offensive on Al-Qusair in May. Several Al-Qaeda related groups have targeted Lebanese areas dominated by Hezbollah in retaliation for its support to President Bashar al-Assad. The use of suicide bombings, which have not been seen since the Lebanese civil war, by these and other extremist groups highlights the deterioration of the security situation. Conflict also erupted in Tripoli between Jabal Mohsen and Bab Al Tabbaneh neighbourhoods. At the start of December, a 6-month state of emergency was declared in Tripoli, in an attempt to end the recurrent sectarian fighting. ([AlertNet 2013/05/21](#), [Jordan Times 2013/05/27](#), [AFP 2013/05/26](#))

Jordan

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

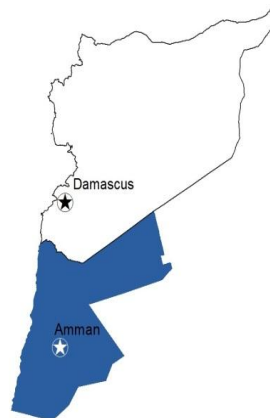
Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	594,000
% registered and awaiting registration in camps*	15 %
Unregistered Syrians	736,000
Palestinian refugees from Syria	11,000
Syrian returnees	90,000+
Syrian migrants	Unknown

Non displaced

Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown
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* An undisclosed number of Syrians living in the southern governorates are awaiting UNHCR-organised transport to the registration centre in Amman.

Source: [UNHCR 2014/02/06](#), [UNRWA 2014/01/27](#), [Ad-Dustour 2014/01/07](#)



Key issues December and January

- There is increasing recognition among humanitarian actors of the use of inefficient and ineffective aid interventions in Jordan. The Government of Jordan (GoJ) requirement for aid agencies to include Jordanians as beneficiaries in projects targeting Syrian refugees has been justified by the pressing need to reduce tensions between refugee and host communities, however, the interventions rarely meet the needs of vulnerable Jordanians and humanitarian project timelines are inappropriate for long-term interventions. Recent GoJ arrests of refugees working illegally has increased their vulnerability and are likely to further erode coping mechanisms and contribute to the increasing number of returns to Syria. While cash assistance has proven to be an effective short-term solution for refugees to meet immediate needs, households quickly fall back into debt and return to negative coping mechanisms once cash assistance ends, often after a 3 or 6 month period. Sustainable solutions involving a GoJ policy shift on refugees' right to work should be considered in order to support Syrian refugees in Jordan in the long-term.
- In late December, authorities in Mafraq began evicting Syrian refugees residing in informal tented settlements (ITS), particularly those on public land, affecting several hundred households. The evictions began following approval by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and are believed to have been spurred by increased attention by the media and humanitarian community on tented settlements. Refugees in ITS were given little notice to leave, and in

some cases shelters were destroyed by the authorities. Refugees were told to return to Za'atari camp, but most had originally left the camp due to insecurity and tribal tensions, and therefore refused to return. Evicted refugees either returned to Za'atari camp, pooled their resources by selling their assets with other evictees to rent accommodations, or returned to Syria. Tented settlements located on private land with the approval of landowners have been allowed to remain. The closure of other ITS in Amman and Balqa governorates is expected to occur at the end of winter. ([Ad-Dustour 2013/12/30](#))

- The Al-Qaeda takeover of Anbar province in Iraq has led to a fivefold increase in the number of Iraqi asylum seekers (to 1,300) in December compared to an average monthly arrival rate of 200-250 in early 2013. This trend continued throughout January. Unlike Syrian refugees, Iraqis must undergo the refugee status determination (RSD) conducted by UNHCR and the increase in Iraqi arrivals is overstressing UNHCR's capacity to assist non-Syrian refugees, leading to long waiting periods for RSD appointments. While the number of Sudanese in Jordan is small, the number of those approaching UNHCR for asylum is also increasing. ([Reuters 2014/01/16](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/16](#))

Data sources and limitations

4 assessments have been made publicly available in December and January:

- UNDP and MoPIC published a study of the impact of the Syrian crisis on Jordan.
- UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP published a secondary data review on the situation of Syrian refugees in Jordan.
- UNICEF and REACH conducted a multi-sectoral assessment of ITS in Balqa, Irbid and Mafraq governorates, however, the findings may no longer be accurate due to the GoJ's dismantling of a number of the assessed settlements in Mafraq since the report's publication.
- Premiere Urgence - Aide Medicale Internationale (PU-AMI) published a multi-sectoral assessment of refugees living in East Amman and sub-districts in Zarqa governorate. ([PU-AMI 2014/01/21](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/08](#), [UNICEF/REACH 2013/12/29](#), [MoPIC/UNDP 2013/11](#), [Oxfam 2014/01](#))
- There is no systematic data collection on the reasons for refugees returning to Syria. UNHCR regularly monitors and counsels refugees who would like to return but the information is not collected systematically or analysed.
- 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.

- The official number of Syrians residing in Za'atari refugee camp is not accurate and is undergoing an extensive verification exercise led by UNHCR. While the registration figures provide the official number of residents, initial verification findings show that 75,000 people – 30% fewer than the official number – were residing in the camp in November 2013. Aid agencies are generally using WFP's bi-weekly food distribution figures for planning. Thousands of refugees have left the camp, both officially and unofficially for urban areas in Jordan, or returned to Syria. ([RRP6 2013/12/16](#), [REACH 2013/11/19](#))

Various assessments are ongoing :

- UNHCR is collating data from home visits to Syrian refugees and finalising a joint multi-sector assessment of Syrians in the Jordan Valley.
- Oxfam GB finalised an assessment of the impact of cash transfers on 8 refugee households.
- UNICEF is finalising a study on early marriages among Syrian refugees in Jordan.
- UNRWA is conducting a multi-sector needs assessment of Palestinian refugees (PRS) who have fled to Jordan from Syria.
- UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP are undertaking a joint nutrition assessment.
- IMC is conducting an assessment of health issues and obstacles to accessing health services identified by refugees in urban areas.
- ILO is conducting an assessment on child labour in Jordan.

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 MoPIC. In November, a number of winterisation projects were not approved in time for the target date of 1 December to complete distribution. In addition, 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](#))
- Winter storm Alexa in mid-December shut down the majority of humanitarian activities due to poor road conditions. Aid agencies evacuated hundreds of refugees living in tents in Za'atari camp, which were flooded by freezing rain, to educational facilities. Operations in Za'atari camp continued with limited capacity but there was a temporary drop in arrivals during the storm due to a decrease in border patrols by the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF).

Registered refugees

- **New arrivals:** The rate of daily arrivals temporarily increased in December 2013 with 374 arrivals per day. This rate in January returned to an average of 276 daily arrivals. The majority of new arrivals continue to enter Jordan through the eastern border areas. An estimated 15% of new arrivals were previously registered in Jordan, confirming that a significant number of those returning to Syria do so only temporarily. ([UNHCR 2014/01/16](#))
- **Projections:** Within the Regional Response Plan (RRP6), it was projected that the number of Syrians in need of assistance in Jordan by the end of 2014 would reach 800,000 with a contingency for an additional 200,000. UNRWA projects that by the end of 2014 there will be 20,000 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) in Jordan. ([UNHCR 2014/01/16](#), [UNRWA 2014/01/24](#))
- **Location:** About 15% of the refugee population resides in Za'atari camp and Emirates Jordan camp (EJC). For those living outside camps, the vast majority of registered refugees reside in Amman (32%), Irbid (29%), Mafraq (14%) and Zarqa (11%) governorates. ([UNHCR 2014/02/06](#))
- Since 29 December 2013, Syrian refugees entering Jordan are screened and registered at Raba al-Sarhan reception centre, then transferred to the refugee camps. All refugees over age 6 are now issued a joint UNHCR and GoJ 'enhanced service card' and their legal identity documents are no longer confiscated by the authorities. Raba al-Sarhan centre is designed to process 2,000 people daily once it reaches full operating capacity. ([UNHCR 2014/01/16](#))
- Approximately 2,000 defectors from GoS forces are being held at Jordanian military premises in Mafraq 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:** As of November, the majority of Syrian refugees in Jordan originate from Dar'a (53%); other Syrian refugees originate from Homs (15%), Damascus (8%) and Hama (4%) governorates. ([RRP6 2013/12/16](#))

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

- **Number:** Around 11,000 PRS are recorded with UNRWA in Jordan. On average, about 633 new PRS were registered per month in 2013. ([UNRWA 2014/01/27](#))
- 190 PRS and their family members are being held in the Cyber City transit facility and are not permitted to enter the camps or urban areas of Jordan. ([UNRWA 2014/01/14](#))
- Since May 2012, hundreds of PRS have been subject to refoulement by Jordanian authorities following a GoJ announcement that PRS would not be allowed to enter Jordan. The number of PRS in Jordan recorded by UNRWA remains low and many are believed to be living in hiding fearing arrest and

refoulement. Generally, PRS do not come forward for assistance until several months after their arrival, their resources and coping mechanisms are exhausted. There are no estimates of PRS not recorded by UNRWA.

- 🚩 **Demographic breakdown:** 52% of PRS are female and 48% are male, with 46% under the age of 18. PRS originate primarily from Rural Damascus, Damascus and Dar'a governorates. (UNHCR 2014/01/16, [UNRWA 2013/01/14](#))

Unregistered refugees

- 🚩 There is no information available on the number and locations of unregistered refugees. The GoJ has stated that there are 1.33 million Syrians in Jordan, double its July estimate of 600,000. The difference between the GoJ estimate of 1.33 million and the number registered with UNHCR gives an estimate of 736,000 unregistered refugees. ([AFP 2013/09/12](#), [Ad-Dustour 2014/01/07](#), [UNHCR 2014/02/06](#))

Syrian returnees

The GoJ estimates that over 90,000 refugees have returned to Syria in 2013. Refugees continue to return in 2014. The reasons for return include: difficulties surviving in Jordan (in both camp and urban settings), lack of livelihood opportunities and temporary returns to collect salaries/pensions, attending funerals and unifying with family members. 115 PRS have reportedly returned voluntarily. ([UNHCR 2013/12/16](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/16](#))

Refugee needs and concerns

Protection

- 🚩 Authorities in Mafrq began evicting Syrian refugees residing in ITS in late December, affecting several hundred households. No notice was given to ITS residents and in some cases shelters were destroyed by the authorities. Refugees were told to return to Za'atari camp from which most had originally left due to insecurity and tribal tensions. Evicted refugees returned to Za'atari camp; pooled their resources by selling their assets with other evictees to rent accommodations; or returned to Syria. Tented settlements located on private land with the approval of landowners have been permitted to remain. The closure of other ITS in Amman and Balqa governorates is expected at the end of winter. ([Ad-Dustour 2013/12/30](#))
- 🚩 There were increased reports of arrests and detention of those working without legal authorisation. While some foreign migrant workers have been deported to their country of origin, Syrian refugees have reportedly been temporarily detained and asked to sign papers that they would not work again while others who had not left the refugee camps through official

channels were returned to Za'atari camp, from which it has become more difficult for people to leave due to increased scrutiny of the bailout process. This is likely to increase the vulnerability of families in urban areas as they lose a breadwinner and become separated for extended periods of time. In November, the Ministry of Labour reported that 5,700 Syrians were arrested in Jordan for working without legal authorisation. ([PI 2014/01/23](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/16](#), [Al-Iqtisadi 2013/12/28](#))

- 🚩 The Al-Qaeda takeover of Anbar province in Iraq forced has led to a fivefold increase in the number of Iraqi asylum seekers (to 1,300) in December compared to an average monthly arrival rate of 200-250 in early 2013. This trend continued throughout January. Unlike Syrian refugees, Iraqis must undergo the refugee status determination (RSD) conducted by UNHCR and the increase in Iraqi arrivals is overstressing UNHCR's capacity for non-Syrian refugees, leading to long waiting periods for RSD appointments. While the number of Sudanese in Jordan is small, the number of those approaching UNHCR for asylum is also increasing. ([Reuters 2014/01/16](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/16](#))
- 🚩 In recent months, the GoJ have increased their scrutiny over the 'bail-out' process in Za'atari which allows refugees to leave the camp with a Jordanian sponsor. While these efforts will likely reduce corruption and bribes paid by refugees, it will be more difficult for refugees to leave the camp. This is a particular concern for those who face protection issues within the camp and those who left the camp unofficially and want to register legally in host communities. ([UNHCR 2014/01/14](#))
- 🚩 UNICEF's study of early marriage in Jordan showed that while it is not an unusual phenomenon among Syrians and Jordanians (12% of all registered marriages in Jordan in 2011), there was a 50% increase in early marriages registered in Jordan among Syrians between 2011 and 2012. Early marriage in Jordan is defined as those involving persons between the age of 15-18 and requires special authorisation from a religious judge. Key findings include:
 - Syrians do not always legally register their marriages through the religious courts and the lack of marriage registration could have legal repercussions due to the lack of civil marriages in Jordan. Syrians often do not understand the legal importance of marriage registration in Jordan or how to access the registration process. Many Syrians have not registered their marriages due to their hope of returning to Syria or because they do not see it as a priority among other urgent needs.
 - In 51% of cases, girls married men aged 18-26 and 48% married men who were at least 10 years their senior. 5% married men who already had wife.

- The reasons for early marriage among Syrians have changed. Prior to the conflict, reasons included poverty, family customs and protection. Now, Syrians cited improved access to entering Jordan, access to the bail-out system from the camps (in which refugees require a Jordanian sponsor), poverty and protection as the primary reasons for early marriage. (UNICEF 2014/01/21)
- An inter-agency safety audit conducted in Za'atari camp in September 2013 found that:
 - Over 75% of respondents living in districts 5,7,8,9 and 11 perceived these areas to be unsafe. 75% of respondents living in districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10 and 12 were perceived to be safe.
 - 39% of respondents perceive their district to be unsafe for women and girls, compared to 25% who believed their district to be unsafe for men and boys.
 - 50% of those surveyed reported that lighting in the camp, particularly around WASH facilities and access roads, was inadequate.
 - 59% of respondents reported a lack of privacy for women and girls, which places them at risk of sexual abuse.
 - 62% of those surveyed reported that they did not use communal toilets. Respondents highlighted the proximity of the male and female bathrooms.
 - Water, NFI and food distribution points were noted as an area at risk of violence due to crowdedness. Due to this, it was reported that most women are not involved in water distribution. (Inter-agency safety audit 2014/01)

Health

- Initial findings of IMC's assessment of health issues and obstacles facing refugees in non-camp settings include:
 - There is a significant gap in the availability of reproductive health services as health facilities are overwhelmed. Reproductive health services were primarily accessed for delivery purposes and antenatal visits were rarely sought among Syrian refugees.
 - There is lack of specialised services, medicine and equipment for people with disabilities.
 - Those with chronic diseases lacked consistent access to medicines and proper monitoring and management of their conditions. (UNHCR 2014/01/27)
- There were 8 reported deaths in Za'atari camp over a 3 week period due to gas leaks and misuse of gas heaters. The misuse of gas heaters in tents

have resulted in fires and burns among refugees. (El Nashra 2013/12/21, UNHCR 2014/01/07)

- There was a spike in neonatal deaths reported in Za'atari in December 2013, with 13 reported cases, compared to 4 in November. The reasons for this increase are under investigation. (UNHCR 2014/01/27)
- There have been 98 confirmed cases of tuberculosis among Syrians in Jordan, 3 of which were multi-drug resistant cases. (UNHCR 2014/01/27)
- The vaccination campaign in Jordan is continuing until March 2014 in response to the polio outbreak in Syria. As of January 2014, health agencies have immunised 87% of registered Syrian refugees. To date, there have been no suspected or confirmed cases of polio in Jordan. (UNHCR 2013/12/15)
- According to the UNHCR-led Jordan Valley assessment, Syrian refugees were unable to access health services in the area because they lack a registration card from the local police station. Syrian children in the Jordan Valley were covered by the polio campaign, however, most children do not receive routine immunisations. (UNHCR 2013/12/17)
- There were reports of increased incidence of Hepatitis A among school children in Mafraq Governorate, which was attributed to the influx of Syrians. (UNHCR 2013/12/17)
- Respiratory tract infections and influenza-like illnesses accounted for the majority of reported communicable diseases in Za'atari camp in December. (UNHCR 2014/01/27)
- There were no reported health outbreaks in Za'atari in December 2013.

Nutrition

No new information became available in December 2013 or January 2014.

Livelihoods and food security

- The produce price index provided by agricultural producers decreased by 25% between October and November 2013. The average prices recorded between January and November 2013 were 18.8% higher than the same period in 2012. (DoS 2014/01/09)
- According to the PU-AMI needs assessment, 50% of assessed households in Marka district located in Amman governorate have a regular income averaging JD 6.5 (USD 9) per day. This population's access to regular income and wage rate is generally higher than found in other assessments of urban refugees, particularly those residing in the northern governorates, due to its proximity to Amman. (PU-AMI 2014/01/21)
- In both the PU-AMI and UNHCR Jordan Valley assessments, refugees reported that accessing the WFP food vouchers is both time- and resource-consuming due to the lack of public transportation in their areas. Refugees

spend up to JD 15 (USD 21) to reach the distribution points and shop at the designated markets. Some respondents in the UNCHR assessment also stated they were charged more for goods when using the vouchers instead of cash. (PU-AMI 2014/01/21, UNHCR 2013/12/17)

- In late November, WFP began to provide food rations and vouchers in Za'atari camp based on the reduced beneficiary list instead of the official registration figures. Two major supermarkets opened in Za'atari camp in late January and are accepting WFP food vouchers. (UNHCR 2013/12/15, Jordan Times 2014/01/20, UNHCR 2014/01/14)

Shelter

- The distribution of gas cylinders in both camp and urban settings was stymied due to the onset of a severe winter storm in December 2013, which led to increased demand in Jordanian markets and a lack of supplies available for aid agencies, despite contractual agreements with suppliers. Fuel suppliers in Mafrqa hold a monopoly and it is believed that supplies are being restricted to drive up prices for aid agencies. In early January, NGOs reported a shortage of about 50,000 gas cylinders for refugees in urban areas. Heaters were distributed in Za'atari camp in December but given the lack of fuel, many heating units have appeared for sale on the black market. Aid agencies are switching to cash or voucher distribution for fuel supplies. (UNHCR 2014/01/07, UNHCR 2014/01/06)
- PU-AMI's assessment findings confirmed that Syrians are paying higher rents (on average 30% more) than Jordanians. In assessed areas of Zarqa and Amman, Syrians paid an average of JD 97.5 (USD 137) compared to an average of JD 73 (USD 103) paid by Jordanians. (PU-AMI 2014/01/21)
- Refugees living in the Jordan Valley are living in tents which they brought from Mafrqa and are renting the land for their tents. Most refugees in the Jordan Valley report cutting down trees to use for cooking and heating fuel. (UNHCR 2013/12/17)

WASH

- Water is being trucked in to Za'atari camp based on the official number of registered refugees, which is about 30% higher than the estimated number of residents. (WASH WG 2013/01/13)
- Refugees living in tents in the Jordan Valley are utilising shared toilet facilities. Refugees in these areas are also purchasing drinking water at a cost of JD 3 (USD 4.23) per cubic meter. (UNHCR 2013/12/17)

Education

- About 2,900 PRS children, about 60% of those age 6-16 are attending UNRWA or public schools. (UNRWA 2014/01/24)
- According to the UNHCR-led Jordan Valley assessment reported that most Syrian refugee children are not attending school due to limited and expensive transportation options and the long distances to education facilities. (UNHCR 2013/12/17)

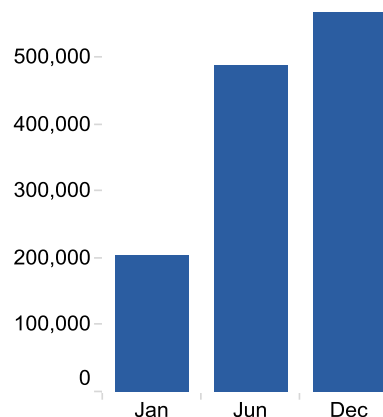
Non-displaced populations

- The GoJ published a draft 3 year National Resilience Plan which calls for USD 2.4 billion to assist the government with the provision of basic services for Syrian refugees. The plan includes USD 751 million for WASH assistance, USD 484 million for the health sector and USD 395 million for education between 2014-2016. (HCSP 2014/01)
- GoJ statistics show that unemployment rates in the 4th quarter of 2014 reached a 4-year low of 11%. Among males, the unemployment rate is 9.5% and 18.7 among females. This is a 3 point decrease from the previous quarter, making for an average unemployment rate of 12.6% in 2013. This compares to an average unemployment rate of 12.2% in 2012 and 12.9% in 2011. (DoS 2014/01/16)

Jordan – Key developments 2013

- **Refugee influx:** At the beginning of the year, the humanitarian community was caught off guard by the unrelenting influx of Syrian refugees to Za'atari refugee camp as agencies struggled to set up operations while simultaneously responding to the needs. Between January and April 2013, an average of 1,700 refugees arrived daily and the camp became the second largest refugee camp in the world and the fourth largest population centre in Jordan. Violent protests and vandalism were regular occurrences as the refugees, who largely came from middle-class urban backgrounds, struggled to adjust to the harsh living conditions, overburdened services in the camp and gangs, formed among some refugee groups, influenced the refugee community. Although new arrivals to the camp decreased in the latter half of the year and security stabilised, there were persistent challenges in building social cohesion among the camp residents and in supporting effective community-based responses.
- **Urban refugees:** As a result of the emergency situation in the camp and its accessibility to the media, much attention and resources were focused there, rather than the refugees living in host communities who formed the vast majority of the refugee population in Jordan. In part due to the problems in the camp, there was a steady trickle of refugees leaving Za'atari to live in urban areas, where refugees were less visible and more difficult for humanitarian agencies to identify. Furthermore, there were additional challenges to providing assistance. While cash and rental assistance was often most appreciated by the refugees, this assistance was short-term and humanitarian organisations were prohibited from supporting livelihood activities among Syrian refugees due to restrictions by the GoJ.
- **Border restrictions:** Daily arrivals from Syria dropped from an average of 1,700 in the first 4 months of 2013 to less than 300 in late May, to just 80 in August. It was reported that Jordanian authorities and Syrian armed groups located in border areas had negotiated to limit border crossings while the GoJ reported that insecurity and conflict prevented people from reaching the border. Refugees reported that they were required to pay bribes of JD 400 (USD 564) to enter at various crossing points located in the west, while

Refugees registered/awaiting registration
(January - December 2013)



Jordanian officials turned others back. Since July, most new arrivals use the eastern border routes and pay smugglers to guide them through the desert to enter Jordan, as these crossings are more porous and the presence of armed groups and militaries (on both sides of the border) is more diffuse. ([RRP6 2013/12/16](#))

- **Increasing tensions between host communities and refugees:** As the vast majority of refugees chose to live in host communities rather than camps, tensions between the two continued to grow throughout 2013 as rental costs increased and jobs in certain sectors became scarce. These factors particularly affected young men, who already faced high unemployment rates prior to the crisis and were unable to marry due to increasingly unaffordable rents. In mid 2013 the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) instituted a policy that 30% of all beneficiaries of projects targeting Syrian refugees should be Jordanian.
- In September 2013, MoPIC, in partnership with UNDP, launched the host community support platform to serve as a coordination and monitoring mechanism for government ministries, donors, UN agencies and international NGOs assisting local communities affected by the refugee influx. The establishment of such a platform has been a much needed and welcome effort, given the limited amount of humanitarian aid available to meet the needs of vulnerable Jordanians. Nonetheless, a number of stakeholders are concerned about the establishment of parallel coordination mechanisms for the refugee and host community responses. ([UNHCR 2013/09/10](#))
- **Refoulement of Palestinians from Syria:** Following a GoJ announcement in 2012 that it would not allow Palestinians from Syria to enter Jordan, the refoulement of PRS increased in 2013. These refoulements reportedly occurred at the border, from the Cyber City holding facility, as well as from host communities. Human rights groups have reported several cases where PRS were killed following refoulement to Syria. ([HRW 2013/03/21](#), [Amnesty 2013/10/31](#))
- **Increased refugee returns:** In August, for the first time since the beginning of the conflict, there were more refugees returning to Syria than those entering Jordan, a trend which continued through November 2013. Although UNHCR has not promoted or facilitated returns, refugees reported returning for a variety of reasons, ranging from family reunification to the challenges of surviving in Jordan. ([UNHCR 2013/11/12](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/13](#), [UNHCR 2013/08/26](#))

Turkey

Individuals affected

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration ~581,000

Unregistered Syrians ~122,000

Sources: [UNHCR 2014/02/05](#), [AFAD 2014/01/17](#)



Key issues December and January

- ✦ The registered Syrian refugee population in Turkey tripled during 2013 from around 175,000 at the beginning of January to more than 594,000 at the end of December. Increased fighting in the border regions of Syria in January 2014 has resulted in an even greater increase of refugees and this above average influx is expected to continue. In the first 3 weeks of 2014, some 17,500 Syrians were registered or are awaiting registration in Turkey, however this is not necessarily a reflection of increased arrival rates, but more likely a reflection of increased registration activity. On 30 January the AFAD, Gaziantep informed UNHCR that they are registering up to 300 persons per day while a few weeks ago this was 200-250 persons per day. Arrival rates, however, are subject to considerable fluctuation as they greatly depend on the security situation in Syria and the status of the border crossings. ([UNHCR 2014/01/27](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/30](#)). Based on arrival trends and as foreseen by the GoT, the number of Syrian refugees in Turkey is expected to reach 1,000,000 by the end of 2014, with 300,000 in camps and 700,000 outside camps.
- ✦ Heavy fighting in areas such as Tel Abyad, Tabqa, Ar-Raqqa City (Ar-Raqqa) and Azaz (Aleppo) has triggered new large-scale displacement into Turkey. On 10 January, local GoT officials informed UNHCR that over 5,000 Syrians have crossed into Turkey via the Akcakale border gate. Some 1,500 new arrivals were also reportedly admitted at the border on 9 January and around 600 new arrivals were admitted on the weekend of 11 January 2014. Officials state that because of the intensified fighting in Telabyad, more arrivals are expected. On 15 January, local officials in Kilis reported an increased number of arrivals at both official and unofficial border crossings due to the fighting near Al Bab and Aleppo city, which pressed people to flee to Azaz (across Kilis). ([UNHCR 2014/01/10](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/27](#); [UNHCR 2014/01/15](#))
- ✦ Conflict in the town of Jarablus, in Aleppo, has led to further displacement into Turkey. 1,440 persons who were admitted from Jarablus to Karkamis town have already been sent to Karkamis, Islahiye and Nizip-1 tented camps. Reportedly 500 of them were sent to Islahiye camp, 512 were sent to Nizip-1

camp and about 400 were temporarily transferred to Karkamis camp awaiting further instruction from AFAD. ([UNHCR 2014/02/04](#))

- ✦ National media reports that about 3,500 Syrians (mostly Turkomans) crossed to Turkey through Elbeyli/Cobanbey, It is the first time that this area is mentioned as a crossing point. ([UNHCR 2014/02/01](#))
- ✦ Migration from conflict affected parts of Syria to the areas bordering Turkey (Bab Al Salame, Jarablus) has been reported over the past 3 weeks, which will likely increase the number of people attempting to cross into Turkey.
- ✦ With refugees arriving in such high numbers, the management of camps throughout the country is facing challenges in terms of registration and provision of aid. ([WFP 2014/01/22](#))
- ✦ In order to accommodate the recent arrivals and considering the possibility of a large number of new arrivals authorities are reportedly considering the establishment of a new camp. The relevant officials are already searching for available land in various provinces in the southeast. ([UNHCR 2014/01/16](#))

Registered refugees

- ✦ **Camps:** As of January 2014, some 37% of the registered refugees reside in 22 camps in 10 provinces in Turkey.
- ✦ Looking at the average number of refugees per camp, the camps in Şanlıurfa are the most populated with an average of about 24,000 people per camp. The next most populated camp is Kahramanmaraş camp with 15,000 people followed by Kilis camp with 13,000 people. ([AFAD 2014/01/17](#))
- ✦ The Turkish authorities reported that as of 16 December, 755 Syrians are accommodated in Viransehir camp which officially opened mid-December. The first transfers to Viransehir camp came from Kilis transit centre, which has been overcrowded. In addition, Government of Turkey (GoT) officials reported that approximately 300 Syrians were also transferred to Viransehir camp from the waiting area in Akcakale camp. Transfers will continue both from the waiting areas in Akcakale and Ceylanpınar camps. ([UNHCR 2013/12/16](#))

Unregistered refugees

- ✦ There is no comprehensive information available on the number and status of non-registered refugees. According to Turkish authorities some 122,000 Syrians are not registered. Hence, about 31%, or one in three refugees residing outside of the camps have not been registered. ([AFAD 2014/01/17](#))
- ✦ However, efforts to register these refugees are on-going: In November 2013, police authorities have started to register non-camp Syrians living in Mardin Province, according to local officials. More than 1,300 Syrians have been

registered and issued identification cards to date. In Mardin City, police are also registering non-camp Syrians in need of urgent medical assistance and providing them with the documentation required for hospital access. Police officials in Mardin have indicated that Syrians, mostly of Kurdish origin, continue to approach the police with a request to return to Syria and that police are facilitating their safe return. The police also reportedly registered 1,953 Syrians and then issued them referral letters to approach one of the camps, as the Syrians stated they had no place to stay. ([USAID 2013/11/07](#))

- ✦ In Kahramanmaraş province, approximately 13,000 non-camp Syrians have been identified, approximately 5,000 of which are not registered. ([UNHCR 2013/11/29](#))
- ✦ **Places of origin:** In 2013, close to 36% of the total number of Syrian refugees in Turkey came from Aleppo City, followed by Idlib City (21%), Ar-Raqqa governorate (11%) and Latakia governorate (9%). ([AFAD 2014/01/17](#))

Refugee needs and concerns

- ✦ **Health:** Without access to the same level and range of services as refugees in formal camps, the population of refugees living outside camps is increasingly vulnerable, having exhausted their own resources. In addition to the lack of resources, the lack of access to health care is a key need for refugees both in camps and outside of camps. 6% of those in the camps and 5% of those out of the camps gave health reasons for their departure from Syria. ([AFAD 2014/01/17](#), [DRC 2013/11/01](#))
- ✦ According to doctors in the border region, which are reportedly struggling to cope with minimal support from the GoT, measles and other infectious diseases such as cutaneous Leishmaniasis, and TB have started to appear in Turkey. In addition, a sharp increase of typhoid and dysentery patients on the Turkish side has been noted over recent months. ([Guardian 2013/11/01](#))
- ✦ On October 10, prior to the detection of the polio outbreak, WHO established a presence in Gaziantep, near Turkey's border with Syria, to work with Turkish authorities to address the health needs of Syrian refugees in Turkey. WHO plans to scale up its field presence to support the Turkish response to the polio outbreak. The GoT launched an immunisation campaign in 7 border provinces. The campaign targeted Syrian refugees and Turkish nationals and took place in 2 rounds in November and December. ([USAID 2013/11/07](#))
- ✦ **Shelter:** In addition, refugees living in abandoned homes, unfinished construction sites and farm buildings are particularly vulnerable to unusually cold winter temperatures. An estimated 25,000 Syrian refugees in Kirikhan, were reported to live facing harsh living conditions and little protection from weather conditions. Many were reported to live in inadequate shelter, including tents and makeshift shelters. Those that are able to rent homes can

usually only afford the worst, damp buildings, badly in need of repairs. ([IOM 2014/01/24](#))

- ✦ UNHCR is in close contact with local officials in Sanliurfa to follow up on the new influx of refugees. While many of these new arrivals are being accommodated in host communities or with relatives in Akcakale and Sanliurfa, officials from AFAD and the local governorate are also preparing alternative accommodation options such as sports halls, communal facilities and guesthouses. Officials have also established tents at the border for the pre-registration of new-arrivals. ([UNHCR 2014/01/16](#))
- ✦ **Food security:** The Food Security Situation and Needs Update found that 99% of Syrians in camps participating in the e-Food Card Programme consume an adequate diet in terms of quantity and variety (with either borderline or acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)). There was no significant variation between male and female-headed households and among camps. Only 2% of households report poor consumption. According to this update, 15% of households surveyed employed coping strategies. The most common mechanism was to rely on less preferred foods, resulting in reduced consumptions of meat and more costly items. Female beneficiaries were more likely to cope by reducing their consumption of least preferred foods compared to men who were more likely to rely on assistance from family members or friends or to purchase food with credit.
- ✦ Planting of winter grains to be harvested from May 2014 is completed. Following an unfavourably dry autumn and a cold snap in December, concerns over poor establishment of wheat and barley prevail in the key Turkish winter grain area in Anatolia (south-east Turkey). Elsewhere in central Turkey, precipitation since early September locally totaled less than 25% of normal, diminishing soil moisture reserves for spring growth. ([FAO 2014/01/28](#))
- ✦ In 2013/14 cereal exports, mainly wheat flour and durum wheat, are forecast to decrease to 3.4 million tonnes, about 5% below the 5year average and about 13% lower than last year. Still, Turkey remains one of the leading exporters of wheat flour in the world. In 2013/14, cereal exports are expected to outperform imports by about 10 % compared to 2 % the previous year. ([FAO 2014/01/28](#))
- ✦ Latest figures from the Turkish Statistical Institute (December 2013) indicate a higher annual food inflation rate of 9.7% while the overall CPI in December 2013 stood at 7.4%. Earlier in 2013, food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation lingered between 6 to 8%. Weakening of the Turkish lira would likely increase the rate of inflation. On 28 January, in an attempt to stop the depreciation of the currency, the national bank raised its overnight lending rate to 12% from 7.75%, its one-week repo rate to 10% from 4.5%, and its overnight borrowing rate to 8% from 3.5% - all much sharper moves than

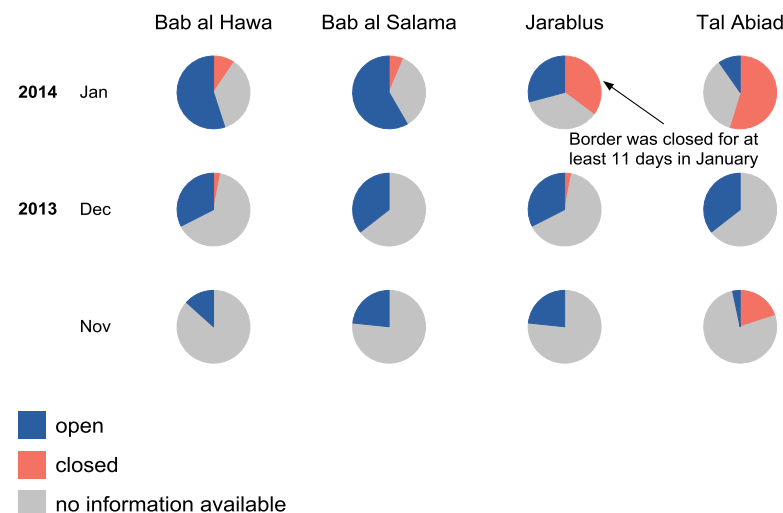
economists had forecast. The currency has gained almost 4% since late on 21 January and almost 10% from a record low of 2.39, in its biggest surge in 5 years. In a statement, the bank said it would maintain tight monetary policy until the inflation outlook showed a clear improvement. That could have a marked impact on Turkey's growth, which the GoT has forecast at 4% this year. The cost of insuring Turkish debt meanwhile rose to a new 18-month high. ([AlertNet 2014/01/23](#), [FAO 2014/01/28](#))

- ✦ Political stability is the cornerstone of the GoT's political and economic success. Wide-spread protests across the country, the recent corruption scandal and economic struggles might shake the confidence of economic actors and lead to considerably slower growth in an already more difficult economic environment in 2014. ([Guardian 2014/01/10](#))
- ✦ As particularly the markets in the North of Syria-such as in Idlib and Aleppo rely heavily on imports from Turkey, a decrease of export of wheat from Turkey into Syria, inflation resulting in higher food prices in addition to the unpredictable supply routes due to frequent border closure already heavily impact the flour availability in Syria.
- ✦ **Education:** GoT officials estimate that there are approximately 4,000 children out of school in Kahramanamaras province. The reason seems to be that no spaces are currently available. ([UNHCR 2013/11/29](#))
- ✦ **Protection:** Frequent and reactive border closures determine the border policy in Turkey, which often results in decreased humanitarian access and impedes the flow of goods and civilians. Due to increased fighting and targeting of border crossings, the Turkish authorities further bolstered security measures along the border and armored vehicles have been deployed to border posts after a shell landed near a Turkish crossing at the beginning of January. Furthermore, ad-hoc checkpoints have been established in the refugee receiving areas and on key routes between the hosting regions. ([Hurriyet Daily News 2014/01/09](#))
- ✦ Clashes erupted between fuel smugglers and Turkish soldiers on the Turkish border - in the Syrian province of Hatay. These clashes led to the injury of 5 Turkish soldiers and resulted in injuries of the smugglers and villagers. ([El-Nashra 2013/12/09](#))
- ✦ **Impediments to entry:** In December and January, several border crossings were temporarily closed or movement was restricted
 - The continued battles between the Free Syrian Army and ISIL in border towns close to Turkey (incl. Tal Abiad and Jarablus) forced GoT to close these borders in many cases. ([Al Akhbar 2014/01/08](#), [Jordantimes 2014/01/28](#))
 - Turkish borders close to Kurdish territories, especially in the North East of Syria, are considered highly restricted for civilian movement.

Incidents of shooting at people trying to cross the borders occurred close to the Syrian town of Derbasiyeh. In general, incidents of harsher and reactive border control particularly with regards to civilians illegally crossing the borders have increased in the last months, resulting in isolated casualties. ([Al Alam 2013/12/03](#), [Al Akhbar 2014/01/11](#))

- GoT closed Tal Abiad border crossing, 2 days before the start of the clashes between ISIL and FSA, fearing the withdrawal of ISIL from Ar-Raqqa and its entering Turkey. ([Al Akhbar 2014/01/08](#))
- On 23 January, 2 car bombs exploded at Bab Al Hawa border crossing after which Turkey closed all its official border crossings with Syria for a limited time. On 22 Dec, an airstrike on the Syrian side of the Bab al Hawa border crossing, prompted Turkey to close the crossing. ([Al-Monitor 2014/01/25](#))
- The majority of Syrians crossing to Turkey have been relying on illegal crossing points to enter the country; this has changed significantly during the last month, due to tightened security procedures at border crossings by Turkish authorities as well as increased control of illegal crossing points.
- ✦ The increased security measures further affect humanitarian operations such as the closure of the Atmeh illegal crossing point, which was being used by many humanitarian actors to distribute assistance to the affected populations in Northern Idlib and the large number of IDPs camps.

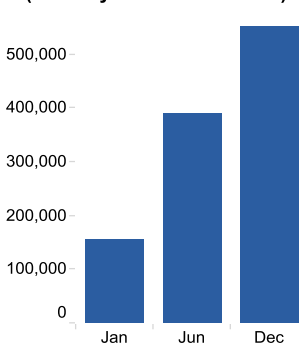
Status of border crossings per month



Turkey – Key developments 2013

- **Refugee influx:** In August, 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 been residing since early 2013. ([Radikal 2013/08/31](#), [STL 2013/08/31](#))
- Owing to hostilities between Syrian Kurds and Jihadist groups in Tel Abiad and Ras al-Ain, some 3,000 Syrians were admitted into Turkey in one go, and the Turkish authorities have reportedly approved entry for as many as 1,500 individuals daily, mainly to Akçakale and Ceylanpınar camps. ([UNHCR 2013/08/20](#), [UNHCR 2013/08/15](#), [Radikal 2013/08/13](#))
- **Restrictions to entry:** The GoT is cracking down heavily on unofficial entry to Turkey from Syria. On 16 November, the Turkish army reportedly killed 3 Syrians crossing the border illegally between Qamishli and Nussaybeen. To prevent illegal movement of goods and people, the GoT is constructing a wall along part of the south-eastern border with Syria. There have been widespread demonstrations against the wall, with those opposing its construction stating that the wall is designed to prevent closer relations between areas with large Kurdish populations in Syria and Turkey. ([Assafir 2013/11/13](#), [Daily Star 2013/11/05](#), [AFP 2013/11/07](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/11/18](#), [AFP 2013/11/17](#))
- In the beginning of 2013, passport holders and those wounded could officially access Turkey without restrictions. In addition, a limited number of Syrians not meeting these criteria were admitted each day, depending on space available in the camps and to prevent people from illegally bypassing its checkpoints and to prevent smuggling. ([UNHCR 2013/10/02](#), [Daily Star 2013/10/07](#))
- **Border wall:** Continued reports of smuggling along the Syrian border coupled with insecurity due to the proximity of fighting as well as a fragile peace process affecting the Kurdish areas prompted Turkey to build a wall along the Syrian border. The construction sparked protests which turned violent 20 October as police dispersed protesters in Mardin province. Construction was subsequently halted. ([ICG 2013/12/01](#), [UNHCR 2013/10/02](#), [Daily Star 2013/10/07](#)).
- **Humanitarian constraints:** INGOs operational in Turkey face several constraints in their work:

Refugees registered/awaiting registration
(January - December 2013)



- Turkey's restrictive rules delay registration of most major foreign NGOs and slow shipments of foreign aid across its borders. ([ICG 2013/04/30](#))
- Turkish authorities are tightening control on INGOs activities in general, including Turkish NGOs: in January the offices of IHH in Reyhanli were raided in accusation of supporting terrorist groups inside Syria. ([Hurriyet Daily News 2014/01/14](#))
- Ad-hoc border closures on the Turkish side impede the capacity of NGOs and INGOs to plan their operations inside Syria. ([Congressional Research Service 2014/01/15](#))
- The GoT continues to restrict Turkish and international NGOs' 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](#))
- INGOs are not permitted to work across Turkey's borders with north eastern Syria, an area where the majority of the population is Kurdish. ([Assafir 2013/08/03](#), [Al-Monitor 2013/08/05](#), [Hurriyet 2013/08/03](#))
- Due to security reasons, several NGOs had to suspend temporarily their operations in Hatay province, especially in Reyhanli town after the attacks of 11 May. ([UNHCR 2013/05/17](#))
- **Widespread demonstrations:** The unrest linked to the Gezi Park protests against GoT policies, begun in May in Istanbul continues in spurts around the country. Clashes recently erupted between civilians and police in Antakya, Hatay province, although to date there has been no negative repercussions on humanitarian operations. Local elections are scheduled for March 2014, and the country's first direct presidential election for August, widespread protests and possible clashes are anticipated. ([Today's Zaman 2013/09/10](#)).
- **Kurdish Peace Process:** On 23 March Karayılan, the PKK military leader in northern Iraq, declared a ceasefire and began withdrawal of approximately 2,100 PKK militants from Turkish territory on 8 May after agreement to establish a commission to monitor the peace process between the GoT and Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). The process however remained fragile over the summer until being reinvigorated when Prime Minister Erdoğan and Iraqi Kurdistan leader Masoud Barzani gave a joint public address in Diyarbakır on 16 November; Erdoğan used the word 'Kurdistan' and visited Diyarbakır municipality run by the pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party (BDP). On first visit to Turkey since 1992, Barzani spoke of Turkish-Kurdish "brotherhood" and urged Turkish Kurds to support PKK peace process. Sporadic army-PKK clashes continue. ([ICG 2013/12/01](#)).

Iraq

Displaced (see annex B for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	217,000
% registered and awaiting registration in camps	40%
Unregistered Syrians	~33,000
Palestinian refugees from Syria	Unknown
Syrian returnees	Unknown
Syrian migrants	Unknown



Non displaced

Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown
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Source: [UNHCR 2014/01/27](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/23](#), [UNHCR 2014/01/14](#)

Key issues December and January

- Security:** With Iraqi forces engaged in conflict with Al-Qaeda elements in Anbar province in western Iraq since December, particularly in Fallujah and Ramadi, the security situation has led to mass internal displacement. More than 140,000 people have been made homeless by the fighting according to Iraq's Ministry of Displacement and Migration. As of 6 January, 5,102 Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in Anbar province. Due to the security situation, many civilians are unable to leave the area, where food and fuel supplies are running low. ([UNHCR 2014/01/24](#), [UNICEF 2014/01/13](#), [Daily Star 2014/01/08](#))
- Entry:** The Peshakapor border between Syria and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), closed since mid-September, opened on 5 January and allowed over 2,500 people to enter. The KR-I authorities decided to allow Syrians claiming they do not want to stay in the country permanently to visit for up to 7 days, allowing them to procure supplies to take back to Syria. Around 400 of the newcomers approached UNHCR to ask for assistance as refugees and were taken to the Gawilan refugee camp. ([Daily Star 2014/01/07](#))
- Since 5 January, several hundred people have crossed into the KR-I every day, according to UNHCR. Between the 5 and 14 January, for example, 5,000 entered, of which only 900 approached UNHCR wanting to register as refugees. Entry to the KR-I is being limited to cases of asylum seekers from areas with ongoing violence. Others have been granted entry on humanitarian grounds to visit relatives in camps and for medical treatment ([UNHCR 2014/01/16](#), [WFP 2014/01/30](#))

- An estimated 2,400 – 2,500 Iraqi families are thought to be seeking refuge in the KR-I, having fled the violence in Anbar. ([WFP 2014/01/28](#)) It has been reported that the IDPs are only granted residency permits for short periods of time (5-14 days) and that some have experienced difficulties in renewing their permits. (Trusted Source 2014/02/02)
- Registration:** According to UNHCR, there are 250,000 Syrians in Iraq, of which approximately 217,000 are registered as refugees. ([UNHCR 2014/01/14](#))
- Camps:** The refugee response in the KR-I has focussed almost exclusively on camp populations, although only 30-40% of the refugee population are camp-based. ([UNHCR 2014/01/14](#))
- The KR-I local authorities have made it clear that they would prefer to host refugee populations within camp environments. Local authorities have been hesitant about providing substantial housing assistance in non-camp settings. In Erbil, the authorities have been pushing to pass legislature that halts NFI assistance to non-camp refugees. (Trusted source 2014/01/20)

Data sources and limitations

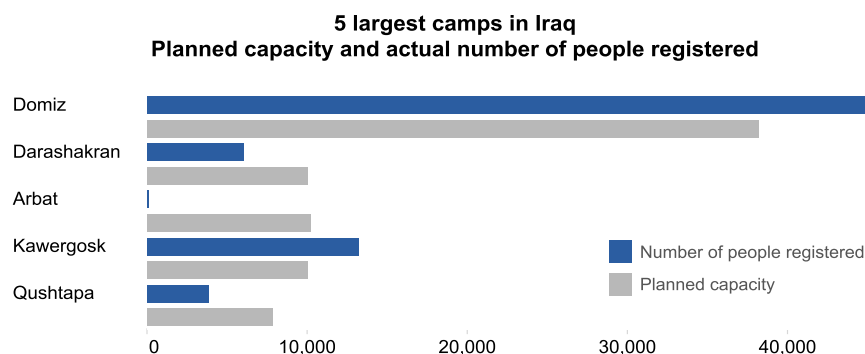
- As the refugee response in the KR-I is led by the local authorities in each governorate, policies and programming differ between the 3 governorates hosting the majority of the refugees. There is no cohesive region-wide response plan and information published on the refugees' condition is often not disaggregated sufficiently to illuminate the precise locations and needs of the most vulnerable.
- Camp profiles are published each month, detailing the humanitarian response in each camp. However, there is still a lack of comprehensive information on the refugees in urban settings, where 60-70% of the refugees are hosted.

Operational constraints

- The conflict in Anbar has been an obstacle to the delivery of services and supplies to the refugees in Al Obaidy camp. Food parcel distribution in the camp early in the year only reached 1,172 refugees out of the 1,933 Syrians then residing in the camp, as delivery of stocks had been hampered by the fighting. All beneficiaries were reached 2 weeks later. ([WFP 2014/01/30](#))
- The overcrowding, particularly in Domiz camp, makes delivering assistance and services problematic. ([RRP5 2014/01/19](#))
- The lack of comprehensive mapping showing the location of the refugees outside of the camps makes assessing their needs and delivering services exceedingly difficult. ([RRP5 2014/01/19](#))

Refugee needs and concerns:

- 🚩 **Shelter:** Winter conditions in northern Iraq are exceedingly harsh; temperatures can fall below zero for consecutive days and weeks during the winter months and heavy snowfall and precipitation are common. The cold weather increases the risk of pneumonia and other respiratory infections, particularly among those living in inadequate shelters. (UNHCR 2013/12/24)
- 🚩 For refugees outside of the camps without stable income sources, the ability to meet rental demands can be uncertain and they are vulnerable to eviction. (Trusted source 2014/01/20)
- 🚩 Over-crowding of accommodation has been reported as a significant source of stress for many refugee families living outside of the camps. (Trusted source 2014/01/20)



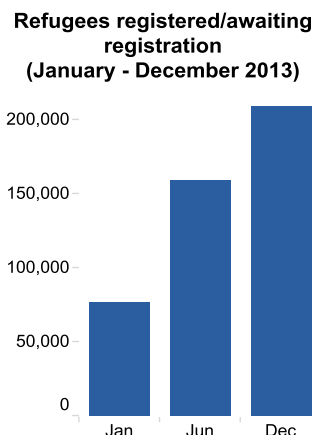
- 🚩 The winterisation programme will only cover distributing packages to up to 40% of vulnerable Syrian families living outside of camps in the KR-I. (UNHCR 2013/12/24)
- 🚩 **Health:** For non-camp refugees, the main need is free access to healthcare facilities. While Syrian refugees have been granted the same rights as the local population, existing services have been put under strain by the refugee influx. Capacity needs to be strengthened to ensure both the refugees and the host communities have sufficient healthcare support. (RRP5 2014/01/19)
- 🚩 One case of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) was detected in Domiz camp. AFP can be a symptom of polio, which can only be determined through laboratory tests. In January, a polio case was confirmed in Al-Hasakeh, where the large majority of the refugees in Iraq come from. (UNHCR 2014/01/28, UNHCR 2014/01/27)
- 🚩 In the camps, the most common acute health condition is Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI), with 43%. (UNHCR 2014/01/04)
- 🚩 **Protection:** A Handicap International assessment conducted in Domiz camp and the surrounding area, using a sample of 6 focus groups, 77 interviews,

and 388 surveys found that 54% of assessed persons with disabilities (PWD) could not read or write. Access to livelihoods was identified as the number one priority for PWD as 30% had been employed in Syria. 99% of the refugees with disabilities were not working, compared to 86% of the non-disabled control group in the assessment. (HI 2013/12)

- 🚩 **Livelihoods and food security:** Since the deterioration of the security situation in Anbar province, food and oil prices have reportedly increased and service provision has decreased, with access being increasingly difficult. (UNICEF 2014/01/13)
- 🚩 In the KR-I, many refugees, the majority of whom worked as labourers in Syria, struggle to find stable employment. Competition for work has increased with the higher number of refugees while rent prices have been driven up. (Trusted source 2014/01/20)
- 🚩 While initially, refugees were given residency permits that granted them the right to work legally, no new permits have been issued since April 2013. (RRP5 2014/01/19)
- 🚩 **WASH:** In the camps, which were constructed in order to house the large August/September 2013 influx, there is a risk of waterborne diseases, which can spread rapidly. Other risks include diarrhoea and dysentery. Pregnant women and newborn infants are particularly at risk. (UNHCR 2013/12/24)
- 🚩 The KR-I's existing infrastructure prior to the refugee crisis was not strong, and lacked a sewage system. The refugee influx has put the WASH infrastructure under immense stress, particularly given the region's deep water table (more than 200 metres). (RRP5 2014/01/19)
- 🚩 **Education:** Education for Syrian refugees continues to be problematic due to the language barrier. While many of the refugees speak Kurdish, they can often not read or write as in Syria they were taught in Arabic. In Dohuk city, for example, there are only 7 schools that teach in Arabic, and in the surrounding villages which host large refugee communities, the availability of an Arabic curriculum is far lower. It is estimated that across the refugee communities in the KR-I living in non-camp settings, only 10% of children are in education. (Trusted source 2014/01/20)

Iraq - Key developments 2013

- **Entry:** Syrians have entered Iraq through Al Qa'im in Anbar governorate, Rabi'a in Ninewa, and Sehela and Peshkapor in the KR-I. Throughout the year, the borders crossing have mostly been closed or have employed strict restrictions.
- In the beginning of 2013, Iraq was hosting a relatively small number of refugees, reaching 68,000 in early January. Between 15 August and 14 September a major influx occurred when the Sehela and Peshkapor border points were temporarily opened, with nearly 40,000 new arrivals registering with UNHCR in less than a month. By early January 2014, there were over 213,000 registered refugees in Iraq.
- Throughout the year, the vast majority (95%) of refugees in Iraq have been hosted in the KR-I and are predominantly Kurdish. Iraqi Kurds display a deep affinity with Syrian Kurds and have been largely welcoming to the refugees. The majority of Syria's Kurds live in the governorate of Al-Hasakeh, with large communities also in Aleppo and in Rural Damascus.
- **Camps:** Domiz camp in Dohuk governorate was initially designed to host 12,500 refugees and has expanded to host close to 4 times that number. While over 86,500 refugees are registered at the camp, the camp population is estimated at 45,000. ([UNHCR 2014/01/23](#))
- The large August/September influx led to the creation of camps and transit sites, bringing the total to 11, hurriedly formed to provide for the huge numbers of people in need. Over-crowding and a lack of adequate shelter are problems in many of the camps.
- **Security:** Violence in Iraq has been at its highest level in 5 years, with nearly 9,000 deaths in 2013, mostly civilians. The security situation, particularly in Baghdad and Anbar province, has deeply impacted humanitarian access. ([Reuters 2014/01/25](#))
- The security situation KR-I is relatively stable, however, a bomb attack in Erbil in September 2013 served as a violent reminder of its vulnerability to attacks by extremist groups.



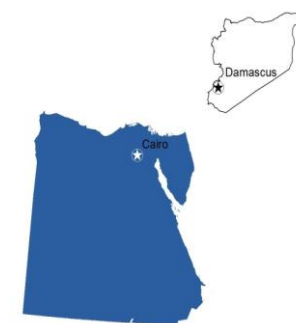
Egypt

Individuals affected

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	133,000
Unregistered Syrians*	167,000
Palestinian refugees from Syria	6,000
Syrian returnees	Unknown
Non displaced	
Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown

* The GoE has not update its 300,000 estimate since July 2013

Source: [UNHCR 2014/02/04](#), [UNRWA 2014/01/27](#)



Key issues December and January

- **Registration:** December saw 3,263 new registrations with UNHCR and 575 incidents of beneficiaries closing their cases. From 1 to 11 January, 628 new refugees were registered against 104 case closures. ([WFP 2014/01/30](#))
- As of early January, 27% of the UNHCR-registered Syrian population are women and 45% children. This unusually high proportion of male refugees is likely tied to the fact that many Syrians initially travelled to Egypt for business or employment opportunities. ([WFP 2014/01/15](#))
- **Security:** The security situation in Egypt is further deteriorating. 4 suicide-bomb attacks took place in Cairo on 24 January – the anniversary of the 2011 uprising that toppled former president Hosni Mubarak. ([BBC 2014/01/24](#))
- As the security situation worsens, the delivery of humanitarian access will be hampered. Also, Syrians are likely to continue to be targets of harassment as the general law and order deteriorates. With the violence and diminished humanitarian support, it is likely that more refugees in Egypt will attempt to leave the country. This leads to multiple protection issues, such as returns to Syria or attempts to leave irregularly, which could result in detention or the dangerous passage by sea to Europe.
- The Government of Egypt (GoE) announced on 10 December that it had released 171 out of 206 persons (mostly women and children) from detention who had been arrested between August and November for attempting irregular departure from Egypt. The Government has issued the refugees with temporary residency permits. ([UNHCR 2013/12/11](#))
- According to a newspaper report, not all of the detained refugees were released. Reportedly, families and the elderly were released, but single

young men still remain in detention in Alexandria and Behaira. ([Al Ahram 2013/12/10](#))

- ✦ **Data limitations:** Current data on the location and needs of the refugee in Egypt and the needs of the host communities is severely lacking. No interagency assessments have been undertaken in recent months, the last one publically released was in June 2013 on data collected in February 2013.
- ✦ **Protection concerns:** In a UN joint assessment, 25% of Syrian respondents deemed Egypt to be unsafe for Syrian women due to increased instances of sexual harassment. This led to restricted mobility and freedom of movement among refugee women. ([UNHCR 2013/12/16](#))
- ✦ 3 incidents of sexual gender based violence (SGVB) in Masaken Osman (Greater Cairo) were reported to UNHCR. The area is an impoverished district of Cairo with no police presence and little access to services. ([UNHCR 2013/12/11](#))
- ✦ **LFS:** The 2013 Inter-Agency Joint Needs Assessment for Syrian refugees found that 73% of respondent households were facing insufficient food availability. The high food prices in Egypt made it difficult to access diversified foods, resulting in negative coping strategies, such as selling assets, reducing the number of meals eaten and borrowing money to purchase food. The lack of employment opportunities and the high rental costs are often cited as the main factors leading to insufficient or barely sufficient food. ([WFP 2014/01/15](#))
- ✦ **Education:** According to the Egyptian Ministry of Education (MoE), as of 2 January, the total number of Syrian school-aged children is 39,232 (age 5-17 years). MoE figures show that 25,571 Syrian children are enrolled in education (18,768 in public schools and 6,803 in private schools) in 27 governorates. ([UNICEF 2014/01/13](#))
- ✦ The Egyptian authorities have allowed Syrian children access to public schools, but refugee children still face obstacles to accessing education. If a child tries to enrol after the start of the academic year or does not have the required documentation, they may not be given a place. In private and some community-based schools, school fees are prohibitively high, and some families therefore prioritise the education of male children. ([UNHCR 2013/12/12](#))

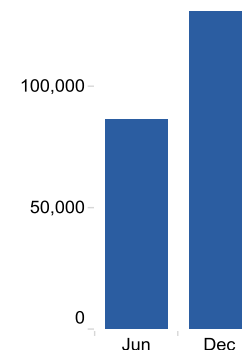
Egypt – Key developments 2013

- **Entry:** Until the uprising that rocked the political establishment in Egypt in July 2013, Syrian refugees had been treated with hospitality and were able to enter the country without visas. In July, this privilege was revoked and Syrians were not permitted to travel to Egypt without a visa prior to travel and security clearance. Visas were near-impossible to gain as the Egyptian embassy in Damascus was not fully functioning.

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- **Registration and closure trends:** In 2013, the total number of registrations was 116,592, while 4,427 individuals closed their files with UNHCR. ([UNHCR 2013/12/11](#))
- September to October saw a 66% drop in registration (from 23,413 to 7,884). The October to November decrease was slightly less at 56% (to 3,440). A total of 4,427 refugees closed their cases in 2013, primarily since the unrest during the month of August. Most of these left Egypt for Turkey, Lebanon or Jordan, with some returning to Syria and others attempting to depart for Europe by sea. ([WFP 2014/01/15](#))
- **Protection concerns:** On 14 August, the Egyptian authorities announced a state of emergency, enforcing a curfew and granting the authorities permission to make arrests without warrants. The state of emergency was imposed until 14 November. During the state of emergency, Egyptian authorities detained over 1,500 refugees from Syria, including Palestinians, women and children. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), many were held for weeks or months and most were deported. The majority had been detained while trying to exit Egypt irregularly, often trying to migrate to Europe. ([Daily Star 2013/11/11](#))
- After several prominent Egyptian personalities spoke out against the Syrian presence in the country and accused them of involvement in the political crisis, national sentiment turned against them and the refugees became subject to harassment and abuse. An assessment mission in November in Damietta governorate revealed that refugee children are subject to harassment and verbal abuse, highlighting the ongoing hostilities towards the Syrian population. ([UNHCR 2013/11/11](#))
- UNHCR stated that as of 27 November, an estimated 90 Syrian and Palestinian children were being held in detention, 5 of whom were unaccompanied and 3 of whom were seriously ill. Refugees being held were told to leave Egypt or face indefinite detention. ([UNHCR 2013/11/29](#))
- **LFS:** Assessments showed that in 2012, the main source of income for refugees was savings brought from Syria. By early 2013, these savings had already been considerably depleted. ([UNHCR 2014/01/15](#))
- Consumer price indices published by the Government's statistical agency show an increase in annual food price inflation from 6 to 16.5% between the end of 2012 and October 2013. The average Egyptian spends approximately 37% of their income on food and the poorest and most vulnerable spending up to 65%. ([WFP 2014/01/15](#))

Refugees registered/awaiting registration (June - December 2013)



Annex A RRP comparison June - December

Regional Response Plan	01/01/2014	RRP 5 2013	RRP6 2014	Change %
Refugees	2,200,000	3,450,000	4,100,000	19
Lebanon	892,000	1,000,000	1,650,000	65
Jordan	590,000	1,000,000	800,000	-20
Turkey	580,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0
Iraq	270,000	350,000	400,000	14
Egypt	133,000	100,000	250,000	150
Palestinians from Syria (Lebanon and Jordan)	62,000			
% of refugees in camps		19%	16%	-16
Number of host community members targeted for assistance		1,880,000	2,760,000	47
Total funding appeal		2,981,000,000	4,264,000,000	43
Host Government plans		830,000,000	583,100,000	-30
Lebanon		1,216,000,000	1,724,000,000	42
Jordan		977,000,000	1,201,000,000	23
Turkey		372,000,000	522,000,000	40
Iraq		311,000,000	552,000,000	78
Egypt		67,000,000	169,000,000	153
Participating agencies		84	106	

- **Strategic objectives:** Both appeals maintain protection and assistance to vulnerable refugees in camp and non-camp settings and members of host communities as their primary strategic objectives. The RRP5 objective of emergency preparedness was discarded and instead, long-term planning for durable solutions and engagement in national development processes and plans were included as strategic objectives in 2014.
- **Projections:** The RRP6 projects that there will be 4.1 million refugees in the 5 regional host countries, a 19% increase over the projection made in the RRP5. At the end of 2013, 2.4 million refugees were registered with UNHCR, which represented 1 million fewer refugees than that projected by the RRP5.
- The main reason for the lower than expected number of refugees was the increasing entry restrictions imposed by all host countries throughout 2013. While Lebanon imposed restrictions on a handful of groups, such as Palestinians and those without proper identity documents, its border policies remain the most liberal in comparison to Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. Thus, one of the largest increases in refugees projected in 2014 is expected to take place in Lebanon with an increase of 65%.

- Surprisingly, the largest projected increase in refugees in the RRP6 is in Egypt, where agencies expect to assist 250,000 Syrians by the end of 2014 compared to 100,000 in 2013. This increase is attributed to the shrinking protection space, which is likely to encourage unregistered Syrians in Egypt to approach UNHCR. Given the restrictions on entry for Syrians and the crackdown on those already in-country, significant numbers of new arrivals is highly unlikely.
- The 2014 planning figures for Jordan are 20% below those projected in 2013 as border management, which drastically reduced the number of new arrivals in the latter half of 2013, is expected to continue throughout 2014.
- **Funding:** The total 2014 appeal augmented by 43% over 2013 while the number of refugees is projected to increase by 19%. Some of this rise is due to the increase in host communities targeted as in refugee projects to support social cohesion. In addition, within the RRP6, there is a greater focus on projects providing durable solutions, which, by nature, are more costly.
- The country allocations of the total appeal remain largely similar, with the exception of Egypt, which has doubled its share of the total appeal to 4% in 2014. Regional support costs were also included for the first time in 2014, making up 2% of the total appeal.
- **Assistance to host communities:** The number of targeted host community beneficiaries has grown by nearly half. This reflects the increasing impact of the crisis on host communities and subsequent pressure, particularly in Jordan and Lebanon, on aid agencies to assist host communities and institutions as part of the refugee response.
- **Assistance requested by host Governments:** Host Government funding appeals included in the appeals (though not included in the total appeal requests) decreased by 30% in 2014. The Government of Lebanon (GoL) decreased its request by two-thirds. The Jordanian Government increased its appeal request slightly (9%) and Egypt appealed for funds in the RRP for the first time.
- **Camps vs. non-camp assistance:** The proportion of refugees residing in structured camps is expected to decrease from 19% to 16% in 2014. This decrease is likely due to the lack of absorption capacity in the existing camps, particularly in Iraq and Turkey. Notably, assisting a refugee in a camp costs USD 1900 per person per year - nearly double the cost (USD 980) of assisting those in living in host communities.
- **Number of participating agencies:** The number of aid agencies participating in the RRP appeal process increased from 84 to 106, including UN agencies and national and international NGOs.

Annex B – 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).

Previous SNAP reports

- **Regional Analysis for Syria** January – December 2013
- **Thematic reports**
 - Aleppo governorate Profile April 2013
 - Legal Status of Individuals Fleeing Syria June 2013
 - Impact of the conflict on Syrian economy and livelihoods July 2013
 - Syrian border crossings September 2013
 - Assessment Lessons Learned September 2013
 - Lebanon baseline data October 2013
 - Cross-border movements of goods December 2013
 - Relief actors in Syria December 2013
 - Jordan baseline data December 2013
- **Scenarios** February/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)** Start April 2013
- **Thematic report:**
 - Governorate profile: Al-Hasakeh February 2013
 - Palestinian refugees in Syria February 2013

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

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

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

