

*This report is produced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on its humanitarian response for the crisis in Syria. The summary covers events and activities until 20 September.*



Distribution of winterization items in Lebanon, 2012.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ **Syria:** IOM continues to provide evacuation assistance to Third Country Nationals (TCNs) and distribute NFIs despite the deteriorating security situation.
- ➔ **Jordan:** IOM is currently negotiating a written MOU with the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) regarding IOM transportation assistance of Syrian refugees in order to resume the operations that had been suspended for security reasons.
- ➔ **Lebanon:** 7,275 individuals (1,322 families) in the North and 5,691 individuals (837 families) in the Bekaa Valley benefited from the latest distribution round of NFIs and household shelter support items.
- ➔ **Iraq:** Al Qaim border crossing re-opened on 18 September, after having been closed on 13 August.
- ➔ **Turkey:** IOM in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent plans the distribution of 1,000 kitchen sets and 15 containers to begin on 28 September.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

**SYRIA** Despite the deteriorating security situation in Syria, IOM continues to carry out its activities, namely evacuation assistance to Third Country Nationals, distribution of Non-Food Items and health assistance. IOM also continues to receive formal requests for assistance from embassies, and has recently witnessed an increase in the number of direct individual requests by migrants with no official diplomatic representation in Syria.

**JORDAN** UNHCR reports **51,417** registered Syrian refugees in Jordan.<sup>1</sup> To date, **30,460** refugees reside in Za'atri camp.

**LEBANON** Over **65,000** displaced Syrians are receiving protection and assistance through the Lebanese Government, the UN and NGO partners. In total **51,121** are registered with UNHCR.<sup>2</sup>

The lack of available shelter options in north Lebanon continues to pose a serious concern for UN partners. Displaced families previously living with host Lebanese are now leaving in search of alternative accommodations as these homes are getting increasingly overcrowded. Lebanese border villages, such as Kfartoum and Akroum, also no longer have the capacity to host the growing refugee population and rent options are scarce.

A number of Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) were identified and reported recently among the displaced community. In most cases, parents had sent their children ahead with family or friends and then themselves encountered obstacles in leaving Syria. Specialized partners continue to conduct assessments and ensure the children are presently in the company of appropriate care givers in adequate shelters and with the necessary psychosocial support. From the cases IOM referred so far, one case resulted in family re-unification.

**IRAQ** The Al-Qaim border crossing point opened on 18 September after having been closed since 13 August. **112** Syrians were admitted on the date, although a significantly larger number of new entries were expected. Though the Government of Iraq had planned to refuse entry to men aged 15 to 50, this criteria was not enforced on opening day. The total number of Syrian refugees in Iraq stands at **25,508**.

A total of **35,267** Iraqis have returned to Iraq since 18 July. Most Iraqi returnees have indicated that they are heading to Baghdad, Diyala, or Anbar (UNHCR).

**TURKEY** UNHCR reports that **80,177** refugees have been registered to date.

According to the Regional Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the number of people across the borders is fluctuating due to the security situation in Syria. Despite the number of people admitted on daily basis, the number of Syrians waiting entry into Turkey

is still estimated at 8,000-10,000 (calculated according to the number of food packages delivered as humanitarian assistance to those still waiting at the zero point of the border).

According to the local officials, large numbers of Syrians are entering Turkey; however, there has been an equal number of voluntary returns to Syria from various camps, mainly from Akçakale and Ceylanpınar camps in Şanlıurfa. Reportedly, during the week of 10-16 September, more than 2,000 Syrians voluntarily returned. Some of the returnees stated that they wanted to go back because of the secure situation in their place of origin while others explained that they would like to return temporarily to assess the situation.

## COUNTRY OPERATIONS

### 1. Syria Operations

#### Evacuation assistance

In close liaison with embassies and partners, IOM has continued to provide assistance to TCNs and vulnerable migrants affected by the crisis in Syria. To date, IOM has assisted in the evacuation of **1,493** TCNs, and an additional **117** TCNs are booked for departure. There remain **776** TCNs in the pipeline. The majority of assisted TCNs are women. IOM continues to receive requests from embassies for evacuation assistance. An estimated 5,155 TCNs are still in need of assistance to depart.

#### Distribution of Non-food Items (NFIs)

To date, IOM has distributed NFIs in 21 collective centers in Damascus. NFIs included hygiene kits Kits are designed to last for one month.

IOM works in close coordination with NFI/Shelter working-group and remains in close cooperation with partner agencies in order to identify and address the most pressing needs.

***Table 1: IOM NFI Distribution, Damascus (14 August -17 September 2012)***

	Number of Collection Centers	Number of Kits	Number of Families	Number of Beneficiaries	Adult (Over 12)	Child (2-12)	Infant (0-2)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>7,266</b>	<b>4,489</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>621</b>

#### Resettlement Assistance

In parallel to the emergency response, IOM continues to provide resettlement assistance for longstanding refugee cases in Syria. Since January, IOM has provided resettlement assistance for **3,131** approved refugees to various countries since January 2012, mainly to the United States. An additional **525** are booked to travel in the coming two months.

## 2. Jordan Operations

### Transport assistance

To date, IOM has provided transportation assistance for a total of **32,538** Syrian refugees from the Ramtha Police Directorate, Jaber Border (Mafraq), and transit sites to Za'atari Camp.

From 12 to 18 September, IOM assisted **3,052** Syrian refugees as per below table:

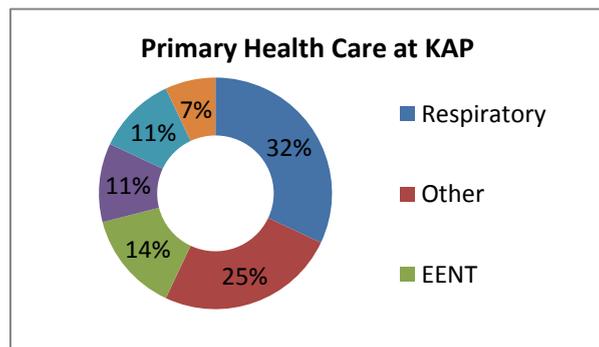
Transportation Assistance – 12 – 18 September	
Date	# People
12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	607
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	455
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	465
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	60
16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	592
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	378
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	495
<b>7-day Total</b>	<b>3,052</b>



Pre-departure medical screening and transport assistance

### Health assistance

As a first responder agency, IOM provides all assisted individuals with fit- to-travel health checks. From 12 to 18 September, IOM staff identified **75** individuals with injuries or serious medical conditions requiring immediate referral to a hospital or treatment upon arriving to Za'atri camp.



Since the end of June, 11,205 Syrians (40% females, 40% children under 15 years of age) have received health care and referral services through IOM's Primary Health Clinic at King Abdullah Park (KAP).

IOM has provided tuberculosis (TB) screenings to a total number of 16,116 Syrians and reached 20,792 Syrians through awareness-raising activities in Jordan, since March 2012. IOM's medical team has confirmed 10 TB cases.

In Iraq, IOM participated in a joint assessment mission in Al-Qaim Camp along with UNHCR, UNICEF, UNAMI, WHO and WFP. The mission focused on assessing the needs of Syrian refugees living in the camp in order to provide better tailored assistance. Particular issues evaluated included health, nutrition, protection and water/sanitation/hygiene

### 3. Lebanon Operations

#### Distribution of NFIs

The RAMA school was rehabilitated in Wadi Khaled to host Syrian refugees. IOM received several reports that hosted refugees feared eviction by local communities. A visit to the school was organized to assess the vulnerability and provide assistance to newcomers. IOM distributed winterization items and held a group dialogue with Syrian refugees and Lebanese community leaders.

**Table 2: IOM NFI Distribution, Lebanon (11 -19 September 2012)**

Location	Dates	Type of Kit	No. of Families	No. Individuals	Lebanese Returnees (LR)/Syrian Refugees (SR)
Wadi Khaled	11-13 Sep 2012	Household Shelter Support Items (sealing shelters)	200	1100	LR/SR
	11-13 Sep-12	Winterization Items	999	6160	LR/SR
Bekaa	14- 19 Sep-12	Winterization Items	753	4141	LR/SR
	14- 19 Sep-12	Household Shelter Support Items (sealing shelters)	253	1391	LR/SR

## 5. Turkey Operations

### **Distribution of NFIs**

IOM is coordinating the distribution of kitchen sets and containers with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC). A total of 1,000 kitchen sets arrived to TRC warehouse in Gaziantep on September 14. The TRC will inform IOM on the date of distribution of these items. In addition, 15 containers (8 WC containers, 7 shower containers) are due to arrive on site on 28 September and are expected to be functional within 10 days of their arrival date.

**Contact: Preparedness and Response Division | Mario Lito Malanca | +41.22.717.94.55 | [prd@iom.int](mailto:prd@iom.int)  
Donor Relations Division | +41.22 717 92 71 | [drd@iom.int](mailto:drd@iom.int)**