



IOM Regional Response to the Syria Crisis

25 October 2012

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 25 October.



IOM NFIs distribution in Turkey

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Syria:** IOM's first distribution of emergency Non-food Items (NFIs) to internally displaced Syrians is currently on-going in Raqqa governorate, northern Syria.
- **Jordan:** IOM is organizing a donor visit in early November in the north of Jordan to observe IOM's emergency transportation assistance activities for Syrian refugees.
- **Iraq:** IOM completed a Rapid Assessment highlighting the urgent needs of Syrian nationals residing in host communities outside of camps in the Anbar governorate. The report includes recommendations on the best ways to address their needs.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

SYRIA The security situation in and around Damascus and Aleppo continues to deteriorate. The need for emergency NFIs to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and emergency repatriation of stranded migrants is becoming greater as winter is rapidly approaching.

JORDAN There are **58,622** UNHCR-registered Syrian refugees in Jordan and an additional **31,094** with registration appointments.¹ The Jordanian government estimates that some **200,000** Syrians have entered the country since March 2011.

The weather at Za'atri camp is changing rapidly, underlining the need for winter items, winterized tents and the installment of a drainage system for the camp.

LEBANON The number of Syrians receiving protection and assistance in Lebanon through the efforts of the Government of Lebanon, IOM, UN and NGO partners has now reached approximately **100,000**. To date, **72,301** refugees are registered with UNHCR and an additional **29,311** have been in contact with UNHCR to be registered. Out of the total registered population, there are **38,462** refugees in North Lebanon, **29,792** in Bekaa and **2,186** in Beirut. This week, the majority of individuals have come from Homs, Qusayr, Damascus, Zabadani, Rif Damascus and Tal Kalakh.

During the reporting period, an influx of some **1,700** refugees (357 families) entered Aarsal in the Bekaa, arriving from villages in Homs where violence has reportedly escalated. An additional few hundred families entered through Mashari al Qaa, of whom **500** refugees (100 families) and **250** Lebanese returnees (50 families) have remained in the area with the rest continuing through to Aarsal.

IRAQ There are **41,955** UNHCR-registered Syrian refugees in Iraq.² According to the Bureau of Migration and Displacement, the total number of registered Syrian individuals in the Kurdistan region is **27,851**. Of this number, **13,000** are living in Domiz camp in Dahuk. The remainder of registered individuals are primarily living in rented houses or hosted in government buildings.

At Al Qaim camp in Anbar, the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) reports **7,889** individual Syrians living among its two camps. The **1,000** families in both camps report an increase in the incidence of diarrhea cases and poor health services. There is also an urgent need for hygiene kits. Several Syrian families report they want to return to Syria from Al Qaim camps after Eid due to lack of NFIs and overcrowding.

IOM staff in Anbar report that Syrian families are able to live outside of the camp if they know an Iraqi citizen who will vouch for them. There are **585** Syrian families living in Anbar with relatives or host families outside of the camps³.

¹ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

² Ibid.

³ Of these 585 families, **45** are living in Anah, **90** are living in Rawah, and the remaining **450** are living in Al Qaim.

Since 18 July, the total number of Iraqi returnees is **47,052** (UNHCR). Returnees typically reside with host families and are in need of NFIs, food, legal assistance, shelter, employment, and education.

TURKEY Currently, **101,834** Syrians are registered and being accommodated in **14** camps in seven provinces in Turkey.⁴

Officials in the camps reported that they have already started providing heaters, additional blankets, and clothing to the refugees. They have also begun replacing the existing tents in Şanlıurfa-Akçakale with winterized tents.

COUNTRY OPERATIONS

1. Syria Operations

Emergency Repatriation of Stranded Migrants

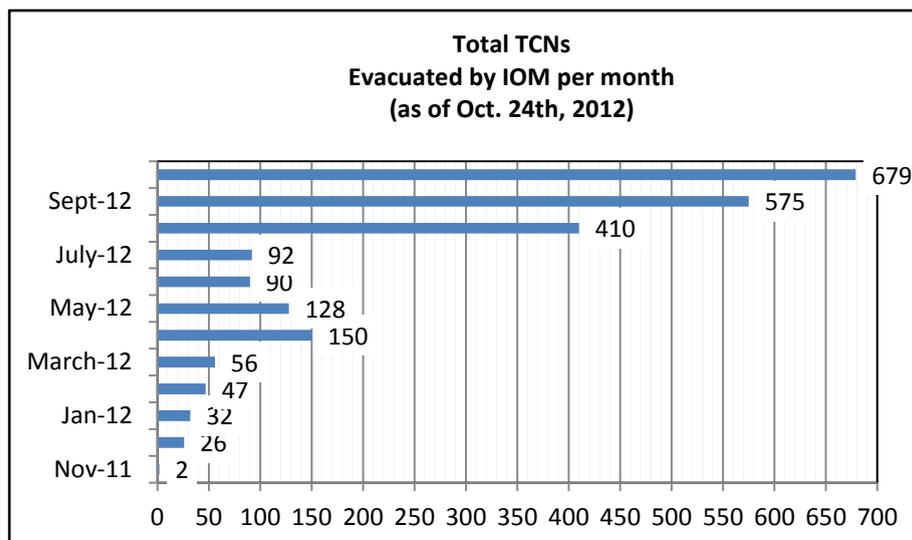
The number of requests for emergency repatriation assistance continues to increase. IOM has to date received a total of **6,103** requests from embassies and individual migrants asking for evacuation assistance. In October, **679** TCNs have already been repatriated to their countries of origin and IOM estimates that the number will continue to increase. To date, IOM assisted the evacuation of **2,286** TCNs, an additional **135** TCNs are booked for departure in October and November, and **756** TCNs remain in the pipeline. Among those departed, IOM repatriated **77** TCNs from Aleppo Airport.



Since November 2011, **6,103** stranded migrants from **37** countries have requested IOM evacuation assistance to safely return to their country of origin. To date, IOM repatriated nationals from **31** countries from Syria to their countries of origin. Assisted TCNs include, among others, citizens from the Philippines, Indonesia, Sudan, Yemen, South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Eritrea, and Mali. A large number of these migrants are stranded female domestic workers living in Damascus and rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs.

Furthermore, as of late October 2012, IOM or assisted **45** TCNs that crossed the Syrian border to Turkey (10), Lebanon (25) and Jordan (10) and requested IOM assistance through their Embassies. Out of these, **35** TCNs have been repatriated and 10 are in the pipeline. As the situation in Syria worsens, and airport services are disrupted, the most likely scenario will be a substantial increase of TCNs crossing the borders seeking repatriation assistance from neighboring countries.

⁴<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>



Provision of Emergency Non-Food Items (NFIs)

In close coordination with local NGOs and UN agencies, IOM provides NFI kits to Syrian IDPs. 90% of these NFIs are directly distributed by IOM. On 8 October, IOM began the distribution of winter items in parallel to distributions of hygiene kits.

To date, a total of **16,156** beneficiaries (**3,354** families) received **3,370** hygiene kits. Out of this total, **4,003** beneficiaries (**1,016** families) also received **3,768 winter kits** (composed of one quilt and one pillow) in Homs, As Suwayda, Rif Damascus and Damascus.

IOM has started distribution of winter items in Homs and Raqqa Governorates. It is expected that distributions activities in Homs will be completed by 25 October, while distributions in Raqqa will be completed next week.

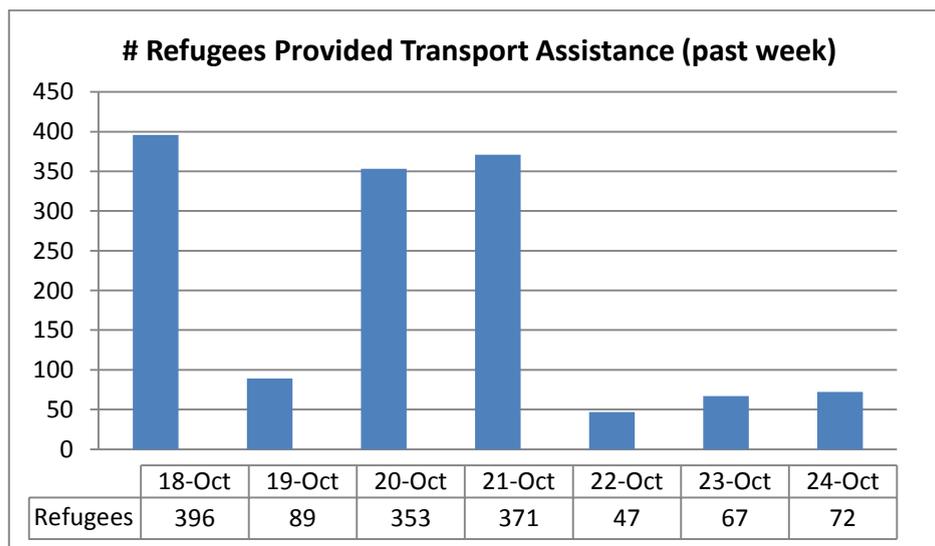
IOM NFI Distribution, Damascus (14 August– 24 October 2012)

Type of Kit	No. of Kits	No. of Families	No. of Individuals	Female	Male	Adults over 12	Children 2-12	Infants under 2
Hygiene Kit	3,370	2,830	14,677	7,446	7,231	8,934	4,521	1,222
Winter Kit	3,768	1,016	4,003	2,161	1,775	2,668	1,025	310

2. Jordan Operations

Emergency Transportation of Refugees

In the past week, IOM facilitated transportation assistance from border areas to Za'atri camp for **1,395** Syrian nationals. Since 29 July, IOM has facilitated the transportation of **43,832** Syrians from border areas to Za'atri Camp.



Health Services

IOM provides initial health screening, and health referrals as needed, for all Syrian refugees arriving at the Za'atri camp as part of the transportation assistance services. In total, IOM provided health checks to **659** individuals with medical conditions requiring immediate referral or treatment at the camp's health clinics. In addition, the IOM medical team attends bi-weekly Za'atri camp health coordination meetings.

Since March 2012, IOM screened **23,208** Syrians for tuberculosis (TB) and provided **24,545** Syrians with TB awareness-raising activities in the camp, transit centres, and host communities in Jordan. IOM's medical team confirmed **12** TB cases and is providing follow-up treatment for all cases. In addition, IOM is currently investigating suspected TB cases and screening people that were in contact with the confirmed cases.

IOM is organizing a donor visit in early November to the north of Jordan to observe IOM emergency transportation assistance activities for Syrian refugees.

3. Lebanon Operations

Provision of Emergency Non-Food Items (NFIs) – Winter Kits

The onset of the winter season continues to be the most pressing concern for a large proportion of Syrian refugees and Lebanese returnees. From 16 October to 23 October, IOM distributed winter kits⁵ and shelter sealing items⁶ based on each family's need.

In Baalbeck, Hermel, and Central and West Bekaa, **403** Lebanese returnees (**65** families) and **1,093** Syrians (**192** families) received winter kits and shelter sealing items. In North Lebanon, in the towns of Wadi Khaled and Akroum, **267** Lebanese returnees (**46** families) and **881** Syrians (**138** families) received winter kits and shelter sealing items.

Moreover, IOM started mapping and profiling newly arrived Lebanese returnees who recently fled into Lebanon and settled in the North (Wadi Khaled), the Bekaa (Hermel) and the South (Saida and Nabatieh).

Psychosocial Support Services

For the third time (from 16 to 19 October), IOM organized a psychosocial forum for Syrian refugees and Lebanese returnees in Baalbeck. The forum was convened and organized at DARI, Recreational and Counseling Centre for Families.

This event served as an opportunity for capacity building of local caregivers on child protection and hygiene promotion. They were sensitized on how to create safe spaces for children to play and receive support while also having to deal with the harsh realities of violence and conflict they are facing. The programme included:

- 1) Training and resources for teachers, educators and community workers on learning difficulties, child protection, positive discipline and psychosocial activities
- 2) Interactive and occupational games, learning tools, handicrafts and other participatory activities in relation to Child Rights and Child Participation. The team is enlarging the scope of these activities, in order to integrate those who are in need of counseling support in the specialized services delivered at DARI.



4. Iraq Operations

Provision of Emergency Non-Food Items (NFIs)

IOM field staff visit camps and MoMD branches on a regular basis in addition to conducting site visits and family interviews in order to monitor numbers, circumstances, and needs of refugees and returnees.

On 18 October, **18** gas stoves were distributed to **72** Syrian individuals in Domiz camp. IOM will distribute winter kits to **72** Syrians in Domiz camp as part of the winterization plan coordinated by UNHCR who is distributing other items.

⁵ Winter kits include blankets and carpet.

⁶ Shelter sealing items include plastic sheets (floor and roof), sieve nets, ropes, nylon, pins, and hammer.

In Al Qaim camp, IOM is planning the distribution of **750** winter kits to Syrians. Field staff in Anbar is working in coordination with MoMD and UNHCR to deliver the kits no later than 15 November. IOM also plans to distribute **500** winter kits to Syrians living outside camps in Anbar.

To date, IOM has distributed NFI kits to over **4,000** Syrian refugees in Iraq.

Rapid Assessment of Syrians in Host Communities in Anbar

Fighting in Syria has left hundreds of families displaced along the Iraq-Syria border. The IOM Rapid Assessment and Response Team (RART) was made aware of numerous Syrian families that had been displaced in a number of cities in the governorate of Anbar, who have either been living in schools, mosques or hosted by relatives.

In close coordination with MoMD and the local authorities at the governorate level, IOM RART staff carried out an emergency needs assessment in Rawa, Anah and Al Qaim and identified a total of **585** vulnerable families in need of urgent assistance.

As a result of the assessment, it was determined that Syrian refugee families are distributed among 3 major cities in the Anbar governorate:

Location	# of Syrian families
Al Qaim	450
Rawah	90
Anah	45
Total families	585

IOM visits to Anah and Rawah showed that these families are in need of education, employment, and NFIs. Specific NFI needs include mattresses, blankets, pillows, plastic mats, kerosene heaters, stoves, kitchen supplies, soaps/cleaning products, and rechargeable lights.

IOM organized a meeting with the members of the local council of Al Qaim who stressed the importance of supporting the Syrian families outside the camps and living with host communities. As a result, IOM came to an

Single Mother Iraqi Returnee Story

On 20 October, the IOM Iraq RART team conducted a follow-up visit of a single mother Iraqi returnee with five children. She initially reached out to IOM for help on 13 August.

In 2006, she was forced to flee Iraq due to the fact that her husband was wanted by militias and the entire family was in danger. The family moved to Syria where her youngest child was born with mental and physical disabilities.

The outbreak of violence in Syria prompted her return to Iraq where she has been living with her brother in his small and overcrowded house since 14 July. She was forced to make the painful decision of splitting up each child to stay with various relatives due to the fact that her brother could not support them all with his job as a taxi driver.

To assist this vulnerable Iraqi returnee and her family, IOM coordinated with two local surgical doctors to provide a free medical check-up and medication for her cancer. IOM also facilitated the provision of a wheelchair for her youngest child and primary health care for her entire family. The returnee was extremely thankful for the assistance and IOM continues to make periodic follow-up visits.



⁷ These kits are composed of: kerosene heaters, carpets, plastic cabinets, and rechargeable lights

agreement with the local authorities on the date and methodology of an emergency distribution of 700 NFIs to these vulnerable families.

5. Turkey Operations

Provision of Emergency Non-Food Items (NFIs)

IOM staff visited Karkami camps on 17-18 October to monitor the installation and operation of the **15** containers (showers and WCs) delivered by IOM to the camp for installment in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay). During the monitoring field visit, staff ascertained that 10 out of 15 containers were operational whereas the remaining five were assembled and ready to be placed in the camp for use this week. AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) and Kizilay expressed their satisfaction with the quality and delivery of the IOM-supplied containers, and requested more of the same containers in the future.

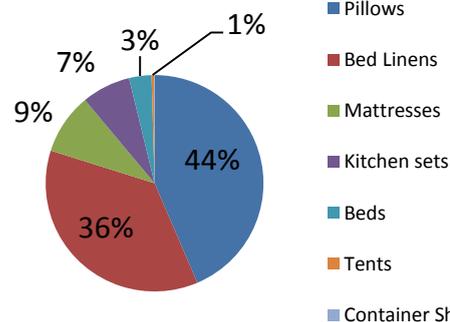


To date, IOM has distributed a total of **27,625** NFIs including essential household items such as, beds, mattresses, bed linens, kitchen sets, pillows, tents and containers (showers and latrines) to five different camp sites in Turkey.⁸

Emergency Repatriation of Migrant Workers

On 22 October, IOM facilitated the repatriation of an Indonesian female migrant worker to her country of origin. The stranded migrant from Indonesia was referred to IOM by the MFA after residing in the camp for six months. IOM Turkey coordinated with the Embassy of Indonesia and arranged the travel and safe exit.

NFI Breakdown



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⁸ Ceylanpinar camp, Yagladgai camp, Islahiye camp, Akcakale camp, and Karkamis camp.