

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 8 November.



IOM Jordan Emergency Transportation Assistance/ Reception Services, November 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Syria:** IOM continues emergency operations and plans to expand the distribution of winter kits despite increasing levels of violence.
- **Jordan:** The number of Syrians fleeing Syria into Jordan continues to increase (from **2,533** last week to **3,217**). IOM is now operating in three locations (Thnebe border area, Mafrag transit facility and Za'atri refugee camp) where refugees are most in need of emergency transport.
- **Lebanon:** IOM continues to distribute winter kits and shelter support items to Syrian refugees and a vast majority of Lebanese returnees. IOM also continues to conduct psychosocial support sessions for Syrian refugee and Lebanese returnee children.
- **Iraq:** The local government in Ninewa has requested that IOM construct a 45,000-litre water tank in Alkasek camp. IOM will respond to the request in coordination with UNICEF and UNHCR.
- **Turkey:** The Vietnamese Embassy in Turkey has expressed interest in contributing to humanitarian efforts with blankets for Syrian refugees in camps.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

SYRIA

The situation in Damascus continues to be tense, and clashes are reported in many areas around the city. Violence levels are still high in many cities. Sporadic explosions frequently take place in Damascus and the Damascus countryside. The security situation remains highly unstable and unpredictable in many areas, especially in Aleppo.

Nevertheless, IOM is committed to continue providing assistance to IDPs through provision of emergency NFIs and assisting stranded migrants through emergency repatriation to their home countries. IOM operations will continue as the security situation permits.

JORDAN

There are **61,356** UNHCR-registered Syrian refugees in Jordan and an additional **31,157** with registration appointments.¹ The movement of Syrian refugees crossing the border into Jordan increased again this week as **3,217** Syrian refugees arrived in the past seven days, compared to the **2,533** arrivals last week.

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

LEBANON According to UNHCR, there are **111,982** Syrians receiving protection and assistance in Lebanon from the UN, IOM, and national and international NGO partners; out of this total, **80,357** refugees have been registered and an additional **31,625** persons are awaiting registration.²

An average of 1,000 refugees are being registered throughout Lebanon on a daily basis. Currently, there are **41,648** registered refugees in North Lebanon, **32,217** in the Bekaa governorate, and **3,149** in Beirut and South Lebanon. Refugees report a number of difficulties in reaching Lebanon which include travelling long distances by night in order to avoid areas that are at risk. Many new arrivals originating from Qusayr enter Lebanon through unofficial border points due to the closure of the official Al Qa'a crossing.

As a co-lead on matters regarding Lebanese returnees with WFP and the Higher Relief Commission (HCR), IOM participates in the elaboration of a national program in response to the basic food and non-food needs of Lebanese returnees.

IRAQ There are **47,590** UNHCR-registered Syrian refugees in Iraq.³ According to the Bureau of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), **4,131** Syrian families and **12,473** single individuals are registered in the KRG. Of these, **3,155** families and **6,120** single individuals are living in Domiz camp. UNHCR estimates that a total of 15,000 individuals are living in Domiz camp. Those refugees in the KRG not residing in Domiz camp are primarily living in rented houses or squatting in government buildings. Some individuals have access to daily wage work. They report their priority needs as employment, food, and NFIs.

The two camps in the town of Al Qaim, Anbar currently host a total of **1,700** families. Camp One hosts 750 families and is managed by UNHCR. Camp Two hosts 950 families and is managed by the MoMD. Syrian families living in the camp report an increase in the incidence of diarrhea cases, poor health services, recurring electricity cuts, and food shortages. There is also an urgent need for diapers for children and sanitary items for the women. Cold weather and rain have affected many families and prompted them to ask for winter blankets, clothes and heating.

The **585** families living in Anbar outside of the camps are living with relatives or host families and are in need of NFIs, employment, and access to education. Specific NFI needs include mattresses, blankets, pillows, plastic mats, kerosene heaters, stoves, kitchen supplies, soaps and cleaning products, and rechargeable lights.

On 21 October, authorities closed the Al Qaim border to Syrians due to overcrowding in the two camps. The authorities intend to reopen the border once UNHCR completes work on a third camp. Although the Al Qaim crossing remains closed to Syrian refugees (except for emergency cases), Iraqi returnees are still permitted to use it.

Rabia'a crossing in Ninewa is open to returnees and third country nationals. There are no reported cases of Syrians entering through this border point.

² Ibid

³ Ibid

Iraqi Returnees

Iraqi returnees continue to arrive, mainly through Al Waleed and Rabia'a border points. A small number of returnees cross at Al Qaim due to the deteriorating security situation on the Syrian side of the border. According to UNHCR, the total number of Iraqi returnees to date is **50,728**.

There are no Iraqi returnees living in camps or stranded at the borders. Most of the Iraqi returnees who currently reside in the KRG are originally from non-KRG governorates, however, they are unable to return to those locations due to unstable security situations. Returnees typically reside in homes that they own or rent, or with host families and need NFIs, food, legal assistance, shelter (in the form of rent payments), and access to employment and education.

Many returnee families are reluctant to register with MoMD either because they intend to return back to Syria or because they feel unsafe registering with the government. Furthermore, registration with MoMD is a long process and cash assistance does not arrive immediately. In many governorates, such as Kirkuk and Ninewa, MoMD branches have yet to distribute assistance to any returnee families.

TURKEY

Currently, **111,890** Syrians are registered and accommodated in **14** camps in seven provinces in Turkey.⁴

Borders remain open to Syrian citizens, who can continue to seek asylum. Humanitarian assistance at the zero-point side of the Turkish-Syrian border across from Kilis and Hatay also continues through the Turkish Red Crescent.

IOM is finalizing the procurement of winter items (blankets and tarpaulins) as part of its winterization plan and is coordinating with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) the prioritization of the camps. The distribution plan will be finalized by the end of this week in coordination with TRC.

⁴ http://www.afetacil.gov.tr/Ingilizce_Site/index.html. There are 5 camps in Hatay (12,099 individuals), 2 camps in Şanlıurfa with 34,746 individuals (19,299 of whom are in Ceylanpınar and 15,447 in Akçakale tent cities), 3 camps in Gaziantep with 22,127 individuals (8,292 of whom are in İslahiye and 6,734 in Karkamış and 7,101 in Nizip), one camp in Kahramanmaraş (15,020), one camp in Osmaniye (8,431), in Adıyaman (5,810) and in Kilis (12,934).

COUNTRY OPERATIONS

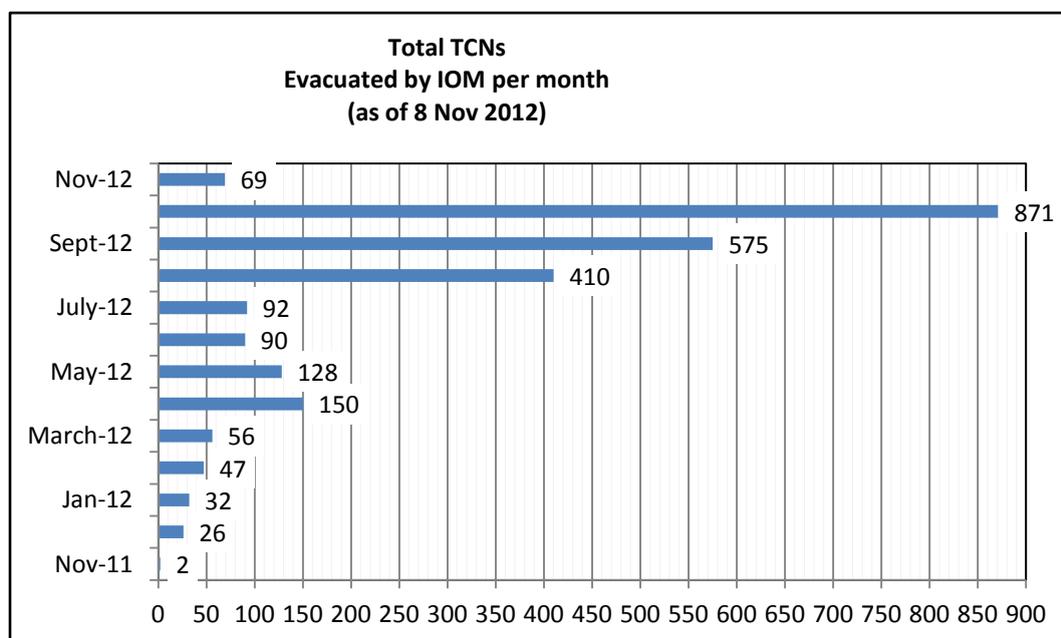
1. Syria Operations

Emergency Repatriation of Stranded Migrants

The number of requests for emergency repatriation assistance continues to increase. To date, IOM assisted the evacuation of **2,552** TCNs. An additional **88** TCNs are booked for departure in November and IOM estimates that the number will continue to increase. Among the total number of TCNs departed, IOM repatriated **100** TCNs from Aleppo Airport. A further **705** TCNs remain in the pipeline.⁵

Since November 2011, **6,229** stranded migrants from **37** countries have requested IOM evacuation assistance to safely return to their country of origin. To date, IOM repatriated nationals from **35** 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, Rif Damascus, Aleppo and Homs.

Furthermore, as of late October 2012, IOM assisted **57** TCNs who crossed the Syrian border to Turkey (22), Lebanon (25) and Jordan (10) by helping them in processing travel documents and identifying them upon arrival to neighboring countries in cooperation with their respective embassies. Out of these, **41** TCNs have already been repatriated. As the situation in Syria worsens, and airport services are disrupted, IOM is prepared to address any substantial increase of TCNs crossing the borders seeking repatriation assistance from neighboring countries.



⁵ Pipeline breakdown: 111 could not be contacted, 139 have been contacted, 94 have been registered, 35 are pending exit visas, 235 are not yet ready to travel, and 91 are pending booking.

Provision of Emergency Non-Food Items (NFIs)

In close coordination with local NGOs and UN agencies, IOM continues the provision of NFIs to Syrian IDPs. About 90% of these NFIs are directly distributed by IOM. IOM has completed NFI distributions in Homs, Raqqa and As Swayda governorates. Plans to distribute emergency NFIs in Quneitra were postponed due to a rise in the security risks on the road between Damascus and Quneitra.



As part of its winterization plan, IOM began the distribution of winter items in early October. Winter items include quilts, pillows and mattresses. The items are distributed either independently or in combinations according to need. Parallel to this, the distribution of hygiene kits continues, also based on need. Depending on the beneficiaries' needs, some have received both hygiene kits and winter items and others only one type of NFI.

IOM NFI Distribution, Damascus (14 August – 8 November 2012)

Type of Kit/Item	No. of Kits	No. of Families	No. of Individuals	Female	Male	Adults	Children 2-12	Infants under 2
Hygiene Kit	3,458	2,918	15,112	7,668	7,444	9,228	4,642	1,242
Winter Kits	20,736	2,873	13,297	7,215	6,082	8,192	3,943	1,162

To date, a total of **5,791** families (**28,409** individuals) have received hygiene kits and winter items across Syria. A total of **3,458** hygiene kits have been distributed to **2,918** families (**15,112** individuals), and **20,736** winter kits to **2,873** families (**13,297** individuals) in Homs, As Suwayda, Rif Damascus, Damascus and Raqqa.

2. Jordan Operations

Emergency Transportation of Refugees

In the past week, IOM facilitated transportation assistance from border areas to Za'atri camp for **3,217** Syrian nationals. Since July 29, IOM facilitated the transportation of **49,582** Syrians from border areas to Za'atri Camp.

As part of the transportation services, the IOM health team provides pre-registration and initial health screenings, including referrals to health care providers at the camp as needed.



Refugees provided transport assistance in the past week	
Date ⁶	# People
1 st Nov	462
2 nd Nov	432
3 rd Nov	260
4 th Nov	452
5 th Nov	598
6 th Nov	489
7 th Nov	524
7-day Total	3,217

Health Services

Since 29 July, IOM assisted **691** individuals with medical conditions requiring immediate referral or treatment at the camp's health clinics as part of the transportation assistance services.

Since March 2012, IOM screened **28,252** Syrians for TB and provided **28,237** Syrians with TB awareness-raising activities in the camp, transit centres, and host communities in Jordan. The number of confirmed TB cases remains **12**, 11 of which are being followed-up for treatment.

Coordination and Meetings

On 4 November, IOM organized a high-level donor field trip with the participation of representatives from the UK Department for International Development, the Australian Embassy and the Swiss Cooperation for Development. The field trip included a visit to Thnebe border crossing, to another border monitoring military facility, to the Mafraq transit centre and

finally to Za'atri camp.

3. Lebanon Operations

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

From 1 to 7 November, IOM distributed winter items to a total of **350** families (**1,112** individuals), while shelter support items were distributed to a total of **52** families (**270** individuals), bringing the total number of beneficiaries this week to **402** families (**1,382** individuals). Of this total number of beneficiaries, **235** families (**540** individuals) were Lebanese returnees, while **167** families (**842** individuals) were Syrian refugees. Items were distributed according to each family's needs and beneficiaries were selected among newcomer families.

Provision of Emergency NFIs – 1-7 November				
Target Group	Location	Winter Kits	Shelter Support Items	TOTAL Number of Assisted Lebanese Returnees and Syrian Refugees
Lebanese Returnees	Fekha, Hermel and Labwe	208 families	27 families	235 families
	(Bekaa Governorate)	(400 individuals)	(140 individuals)	(540 individuals)
Syrian Refugees	in Wadi Khaled, Akroum and Bireh, (North Lebanon)	142 families (712 individuals)	25 families (130 individuals)	167 families (842 individuals)
TOTAL Beneficiaries Assisted with Winter and Shelter Support Items		350 families (1,112 individuals)	52 families (270 individuals)	402 families (1,382 individuals)

⁶ Dates reflect evacuation statistics collected the day of and night before the date stated.

To date, winter kits have been distributed to a total of **4,553** Lebanese Returnee and Syrian refugee families (**26,687** individuals), while shelter support items were distributed to a total of **2,105** Lebanese Returnee and Syrian refugee families (**13,026** individuals) in Lebanon.

IOM continues to profile and map Lebanese returnees. IOM has scheduled a mapping exercise to take place by next week.

Psychosocial Support Services

IOM is planning its next psychosocial forum for displaced Syrians and Lebanese returnees at DARI, the Recreational and Counseling Centre for Families from 9 to 12 November.

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.

From 3 to 5 November, the IOM team in Anbar successfully distributed **500** NFI kits to Syrian refugees in Al Qaim camp #1. This week, the team will begin distribution of a further **250** NFI kits. That distribution is expected to be completed by 14 November. In addition, an IOM representative met with Deputy Minister of MoMD on 5 November and discussed bilateral coordination between IOM and MoMD in response to the needs of the Syrian refugees in Al Qaim camp #2. There is an urgent need for winter kits in the camp, especially kerosene heaters and blankets (in addition to other NFI items). IOM is planning to respond to this need by distributing **950** winter kits by the end of the month in coordination with MoMD and UNHCR.



The IOM team in Dohuk successfully distributed **99** NFI kits to Syrian refugees in Domiz camp (supplementary winter kits including 1 carpet, 1 kerosene heater, 1 plastic cabinet and 1 rechargeable light). This is the first wave of a total of **3,000** NFI kits that IOM has committed to distributing in Domiz camp in coordination with the authorities in Dohuk and UNHCR. IOM also plans to distribute **500** winter kits to Syrians living in host communities in Anbar. IOM will distribute winter kits (including kerosene heaters, carpets, plastic cabinets, and rechargeable lights) to Syrians in Domiz camp as part of the winterization plan coordinated by UNHCR. The winterization plan stipulates that **3,000** kits should be distributed in November and December.

In addition, the local government in Ninewa has requested that IOM construct a **45,000**-litre water tank in Alkasek camp. IOM will respond to the request in coordination with UNICEF and UNHCR. The water tank will contribute to the infrastructure of the camp (which is still under construction) by providing drinking water for a potential influx of Syrian refugees in Ninewa. The camp is designed to accommodate **100** families but is expandable.

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

5. Turkey Operations

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

The Vietnamese Embassy has expressed interest in providing blankets to Syrians in camps through IOM. IOM will facilitate this initiative and will provide around **107** blankets for distribution.

Meetings and Coordination

IOM had a meeting with ECHO representatives who are currently assessing the situation of Syrian citizens in Turkey and the response that is being provided by the Government and UN agencies. A Swiss delegation comprised of the Deputy Head of Mission and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) Program Manager and two consultants also visited IOM on 1 November. The purpose of the SDC mission was to assess the humanitarian needs in Turkey related to the Syria crisis and determine the type of assistance that could be provided.

DONORS



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