

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 4 September.



Distribution of rechargeable lamps in the Bekaa Valley.  
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## HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ IOM Turkey will begin the first rounds of NFI distributions at the end of this week.
- ➔ **1,035** Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) have been assisted out of Syria and have returned home with IOM assistance. Security concerns are hampering operations within Syria.
- ➔ Since the beginning of the operations in Jordan, IOM has supported the transport of **24,978** refugees from collection points on the border to Za'atri camp.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

**SYRIA** The level of violence has increased in many cities, especially in and around Damascus, Aleppo, Der Elzour, and Homs.

As of 2 September, all movements to/from Damascus and Aleppo Airports have been suspended, hampering IOM operations. TCNs and refugees waiting for resettlement booked to depart Syria this week will be rebooked.

Five distribution rounds have been canceled in Damascus due to the deteriorating security situation. IOM will proceed with distributions as soon as the security situation allows.

The Syrian Government has started evacuating IDPs from schools in Damascus as the new school year begins. However, 11 schools hosting IDPs will maintain their status as shelters and 9 new shelters (including sports and community centers) within Damascus have been established by the Government. Damascus governorate and local NGOs have started relocating IDPs to the new shelters and expect to complete the process within the next two days.

**JORDAN** UNHCR reports 47,121 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan.<sup>1</sup> 1,700 Syrians have returned voluntarily over the past six months.<sup>2</sup> To date, 25,612 Syrian refugees reside in Za'atri camp, and 1,250 Syrians in King Abdullah Park.

In a joint appeal with UN, the Government announced that US\$ 700 million is needed to support refugees in Jordan.

Recent improvements in the camp include solar lanterns, electrification of 40% of the camp (outdoor street lamps), and a newly established Youth Friendly Space. However, refugees continue to suffer from the desert environment of dusty winds, high temperatures during the day and frigid temperatures at night.<sup>3</sup>

**LEBANON** The number of Lebanese families returning from Syria continues to increase. In the past month it has been observed that displaced Syrians have begun occupying schools for the first time since the beginning of the Syrian crisis. This emerging trend reflects how stretched the shelter situation is becoming in Lebanon.

Over 57,000 displaced Syrians are receiving protection and assistance through the Lebanese Government, the UN and NGO partners. 43,760 are registered with UNHCR.<sup>4</sup> In response to this population movement, IOM completed a detailed study identifying Lebanese returnee families in need of assistance in terms of livelihood, shelter, food and NFIs. IOM will mostly focus on winterization and sealing shelters through construction support items, for both Syrian refugees and Lebanese returnee population, throughout September.

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

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/30/us-syria-crisis-refugees-idUSBRE87T11T20120830>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/sep/03/syrians-refugee-camp-wretched-conditions>

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

**IRAQ** Al-Qaim border crossing point is still closed with no refugee entry reported. The total number of Syrian refugees in Iraq stands at 18,682<sup>5</sup>.

The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) has declared it will provide a one-off grant of 400,000 Iraqi Dinars for refugee families and 150,000 Iraqi Dinars for individuals. MoDM will also provide refugees with kerosene heaters for cooking, air coolers, and water tanks.<sup>6</sup>

On 2-3 September, IOM participated in an inter-agency visit in Al Qaim and met with the Deputy Minister of MoMD to discuss planning for both returnees and Syrian refugees, as well as and movements between Transit Receiving Centers (TRC) and the camp.

A total of **31,993** Iraqis have returned to Iraq since 18 July.

**TURKEY** UNHCR reports that 80,410 refugees have been registered to date.<sup>7</sup> However, local authorities are informing that this number may decrease as the number of voluntary returns increases. This week, 480 new Syrians were admitted, while 2,037 persons have returned to Syria voluntarily. The returnees are provided transportation to the border by the Government of Turkey.

According to authorities, the two new camps in Kahramanmaraş and Gaziantep-Karkamış are now operational. Priority of transfer to the newly opened camps is given to refugees who are currently accommodated temporarily in schools in order to ensure that the schools are evacuated before the new semester starts.

According to authorities, there are more than 8,000 people waiting at the border to be transferred into the new camps. Humanitarian assistance (food, water, and medical assistance) is provided.

## 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 until early this week. To date, IOM has provided departure assistance for **1,035** TCNs, and an additional **168** TCNs are booked for departure. There remain more than **978** TCNs in the process of registration. The majority of assisted TCNs are women.

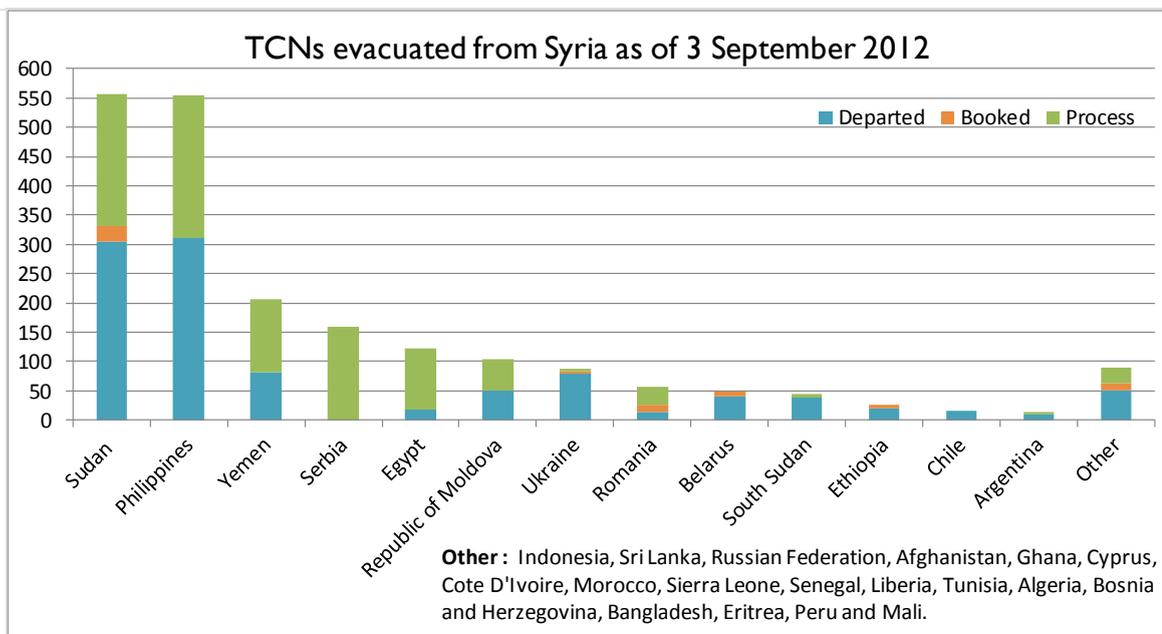
To date, IOM has received requests from embassies to assist **4,879** TCNs, who will depart as soon as security conditions permit and pending availability of funding. IOM assisted two families in Aleppo to Egypt and Moldova.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.



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

To date, IOM has distributed NFIs in **10** collective centers in Damascus. NFIs included hygiene kits (bathing and laundry soap, sanitary pads, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, underwear, diapers and lofas). As per SPHERE standards, kits are designed to last for one month. IOM began the distribution of 250 kits in Swida governorate, however had to halt activities as a result of the deteriorating security situation. Activities will resume once the security situation allows.

IOM teams have developed partnerships with local NGOs to strengthen cooperation and ensure distribution of NFIs to families and individuals in need in the months to come. IOM is awaiting the final IDP lists of the 9 new shelters from the NGOs responsible in order to begin the process of NFI distribution at the new locations.

*Table: IOM NFI Distribution, Damascus (14-25 August 2012)*

	Number of Collection Centers	Number of Beneficiaries	Number of Kits	Number of Families	Male	Female	Adult (Over 12)	Child (2-12)	Infant (0-2)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,354</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>251</b>

### Resettlement assistance

In parallel to the emergency response, IOM provides resettlement assistance for longstanding refugee cases in Syria. Since January, IOM has provided transportation assistance for **3,017** approved refugees for resettlement to various countries including the USA. An additional **475** persons are booked to travel in the coming two months pending security improvement.

## 2. Jordan Operations

### Transport assistance

To date, IOM provided transportation assistance for a total of **24,978** Syrian refugees. In the past week, IOM assisted **4,837** Syrian refugees, marking a radical decrease to the record numbers of Syrian refugees assisted by IOM the previous week (**9,975**).

### Health assistance

Since the end of June 2012, **9,323** Syrians (40% females, 37% 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 **14,895** Syrians and reached **20,483** Syrians through awareness-raising activities in Jordan since March 2012. IOM's medical team has confirmed 9 TB cases, treated 2 extra-pulmonary cases and 6 pulmonary TB cases thus far.

Evacuation Movements		Evacuation Movements	
Date	# People	Date	# People
22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	314	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	776
23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	503	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1155
24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2,224	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	661
25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	223	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	359
26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2,185	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	277
27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	3,290	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	1,586
28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1,236	4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	23
<b>7-day Total</b>	<b>9,975</b>	<b>7-day Total</b>	<b>4,837</b>

## 3. Iraq Operations

### Needs assessments

IOM team visited the Transit Receiving Center (TRC) in Rabia'a, Ninewa and interviewed Syrian families living in the school. According to IOM team, the psychological state of the families interviewed is very poor and they asked to return to Syria as they feel that conditions there are better than in the TRC. A number of families requested to move to neighboring cities and villages after identifying an Iraqi sponsor (process also referred to as "Bailout").

## 4. Lebanon Operations

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

To date, IOM distributed **150** hygiene kits, **100** diaper bags and shelter support kits to **138** households in the North.

As of August 2012, **164** additional families were referred to IOM by other agencies for NFIs and shelter assistance. Through community outreach, IOM has now documented an additional **290** families, raising the number of identified families in need to **990** (totaling **4,775** individuals).

### Needs assessments

As a result of the rapid and increasing number of Lebanese returnee families in April 2012, IOM initiated a Rapid Needs Assessment (RAP) in May-June 2012, to identify areas where targeted interventions and policy changes may have the greatest impact. IOM profiled an initial sample of **536** Lebanese families who used to live in Syria and fled into Lebanon. The assessment identified four major sectors of needs:

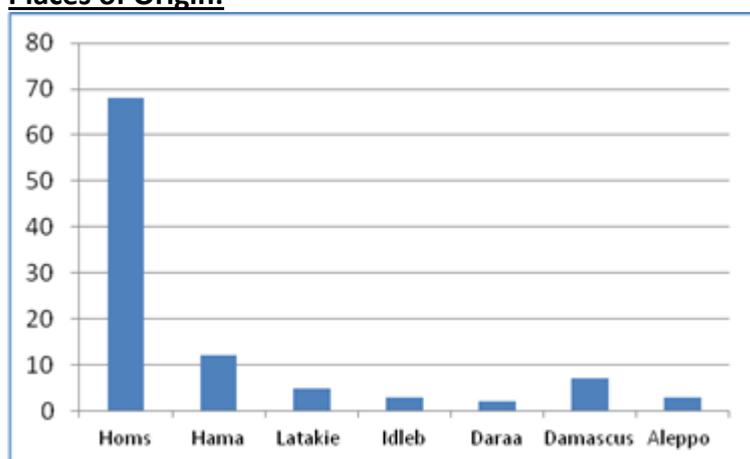
livelihoods, shelter, food and NFIs. The assessment was developed through an active participatory approach from the household and village levels.

**Results of May-June 2012 Rapid Needs Assessment among 536 Lebanese Returnees Families who Fled Syria:**

Location	No. of Families	No. of Individuals	No. of Males	No. of Females	No. of Children below 5	Priorities
Bekaa	162	977	478	499	212	Winterization Items, Relief Core Items, Shelter Sealing
North	337	1,915	857	1,058	515	Winterization Items, Relief Core Items, Shelter Sealing
Mount Lebanon	37	142	69	73	25	Food, Core Relief Items

\*65% percent have been living in Syria 'for 10-15 years'. 6% reported incidents of abuse during displacement.

**Places of Origin:**



NFIs Distribution. Lebanon 2012.

**5. Turkey Operations**

**Third-Country National (TCN) Assistance**

IOM finalized the travel arrangements for 1 TCN family who crossed the border and has now returned to Belarus.

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

IOM is finalizing the procurement of NFIs under a PRM grant. The first round of NFI provision will be distributed at the end of this week in coordination with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC). NFI kits include mattresses, pillows and bed linens. A total of **5,000** bed linens, **2,000** mattresses, and **5,000** pillows will be distributed. Kitchen sets and container showers are in the pipeline for distribution.



IOM staff monitoring the loading of trucks with Non-Food Items. Turkey 2012

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