

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 12 September.



IOM NFIs Distribution, Akcakale camp in Turkey. IOM 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ **Syria:** A flight chartered by IOM returned **263** Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) from Damascus to the Philippines on 11 September.
- ➔ **Jordan:** IOM has started operating in Thnebe, 1km away from the Syrian border, however security conditions are currently hampering operations.
- ➔ **Lebanon:** IOM assisted a total of **3,345** individuals (**697** families) with winterization NFIs and household shelter support items.
- ➔ **Iraq:** IOM completed an assessment regarding the migration patterns, livelihoods, registration and needs of Syrian refugees and Iraqi returnees. IOM staff conducted **65** interviews with Syrian refugee families, **196** interviews with Iraqi returnees.¹
- ➔ **Turkey:** IOM Turkey distributed **2,500** mattresses, **7,000** pillows and **5,000** bed linens in Akcakale camp in the past week.

¹ Full Report at: <http://www.iomiraq.net/Documents/SyriaReport.pdf>

SITUATION OVERVIEW

SYRIA

All movements to Damascus and Aleppo Airports were suspended by UNDSS from 2 to 7 September. Additionally, some airlines also cancelled flights to Damascus. IOM has now resumed TCNs and Resettlement operations. IOM is working to reschedule TCNs starting next week mostly on Syrian Airlines flights, to Amman and Beirut.

Following a request from the Government of the Philippines, IOM worked closely with the Philippines Embassy in Damascus and Syrian authorities to evacuate **263** Filipino nationals. The Syrian authorities agreed to waive all exit fees and contractual penalties for the group. In addition, a group of **54** Sudanese nationals was assisted by IOM, and departed to Sudan on the same day.



Filipino nationals at Damascus

Note from IOM Philippines

263 female Filipino nationals stranded in Syria safely arrived on 11 September at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The returnees were met at the airport by the Philippines' Vice President Jejomar Binay, along with Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto del Rosario, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the IOM delegation. The Vice President and several high ranking officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs thanked IOM in a message during the short informal welcome ceremony.



JORDAN

UNHCR reports **49,236** registered Syrian refugees in Jordan.² The number of Syrians crossing into Jordan has remained relatively steady at around **4,000** per week. To date, **30,093** Syrian refugees reside in Za'atri camp, and **1,250** Syrians in King Abdullah Park (KAP). As of 20 September, IOM will handover Primary Health Care services in KAP to the Jordanian Ministry of Health.

Following a visit to the Thnebe border crossing, IOM deployed staff on 5 September to work in this crucial location - 1 km away from the Syrian border. However, security conditions are currently hampering operations. IOM will provide registration, reception, medical assistance, blankets and hygiene kits, among other services, to arriving refugees.

LEBANON

An increasing number of Syrians are reporting difficulty in crossing the border due to checkpoints on the Syrian side. The security of refugees living in border areas is a major concern, as border villages continue to be affected by daily shelling on the Syrian side.

² <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

Over **65,000** displaced Syrians are receiving protection and assistance through the Lebanese Government, the UN and NGO partners, **48,072** of whom are registered with UNHCR.³

IOM completed a detailed study identifying Lebanese returnee families in need of assistance with regard to livelihood, shelter, food and NFIs.⁴

IRAQ

With the Al-Qaim border crossing point still closed, no refugee entry was reported from 31 August to 6 September. The total number of Syrian refugees in Iraq stands at **22,563**⁵. IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO conducted a joint assessment estimating that **3,000** Syrians are currently in the Al-Qaim border area waiting to cross into Iraq. Should the border reopen, it is estimated that some 10,000 refugees would cross from there into Iraq.

In coordination with the education working group led by UNICEF, it was decided that five additional classrooms will be constructed in Domiz camp. IOM will contribute by equipping the classrooms with air-conditioning units and large water filters to provide safe drinking water for the students.

TURKEY

UNHCR reports that **80,104** refugees have been registered to date.⁶

Approximately 10,000 Syrians are waiting to cross into Turkey, at the Kilis and Hatay borders. The delay in admitting refugees is due to procedures and security checks allowing for only small groups of people to enter at a time. Also, lack of space in the camps is a concern while priority is given to people currently living in schools and public buildings.

COUNTRY OPERATIONS

1. Syria Operations

Evacuation assistance

In close liaison with embassies and partners, IOM continues to provide assistance to TCNs and vulnerable migrants affected by the crisis in Syria. To date, IOM has assisted **1,362** TCNs to depart, and an additional **179** TCNs are booked for departure. The majority of assisted TCNs are women.

To date, IOM has received requests from embassies to assist **4,966** TCNs, who will depart as soon as security conditions permit and pending availability of funding.

In the largest single repatriation negotiated between the Syrian and Philippine governments, IOM assisted **263** vulnerable migrants from the Philippines to return home. An IOM-chartered flight departed Damascus on 10 September with a group who has been hosted in the Philippines Embassy in Damascus. The TCNs are all female domestic workers. IOM has carried out fit-to-travel medical examinations and registration. It was reported that all had experienced difficulty finding food and obtaining medical assistance.



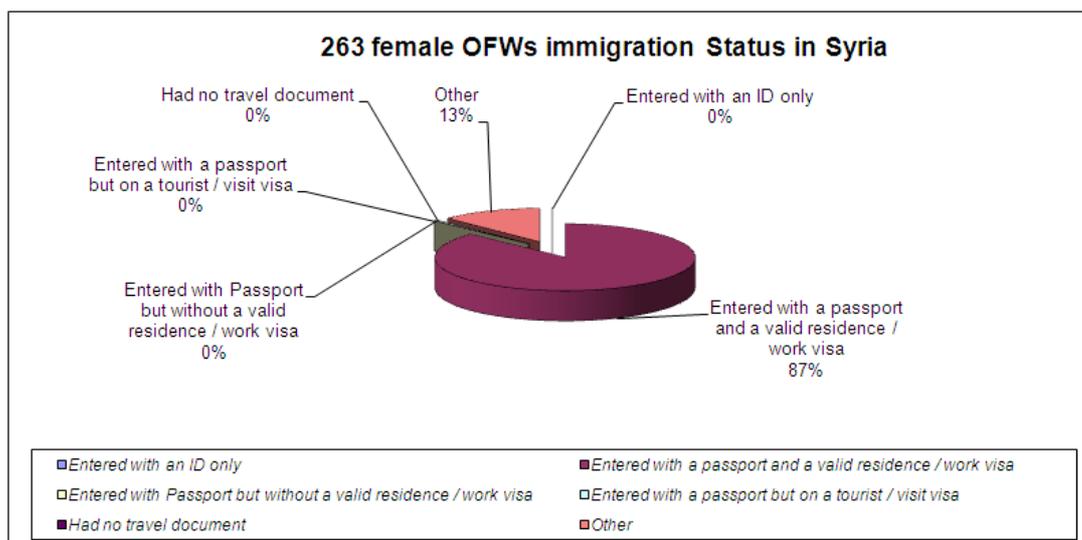
IOM providing pre-embarkation assistance at Damascus, Syria

³ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

⁴ The full report will be available on the UNHCR portal by next week.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.



Distribution of Non-food Items (NFIs)

To date, IOM has distributed NFIs in **14** 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.

Table: IOM NFI Distribution, Damascus (14 August -10 September 2012)

| | Number of Collection Centers | Number of Kits | Number of Families | Number of Beneficiaries | Female | Male | Adult (Over 12) | Child (2-12) | Infant (0-2) |
|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| TOTAL | 14 | 1,184 | 779 | 4,753 | 2,327 | 2,426 | 2,787 | 1,521 | 445 |

IOM halted distribution activities several times in the past weeks because of the deteriorating security situation. Nevertheless, in close cooperation with local NGOs and UN partner agencies, IOM managed to distribute **296** kits this past week in Suwayda Governorate (Khrba Village), Damascus Governorate (Kafar Souseh and Qassaa), and Damascus Suburb Governorate (Sahnaya and Jaramana).

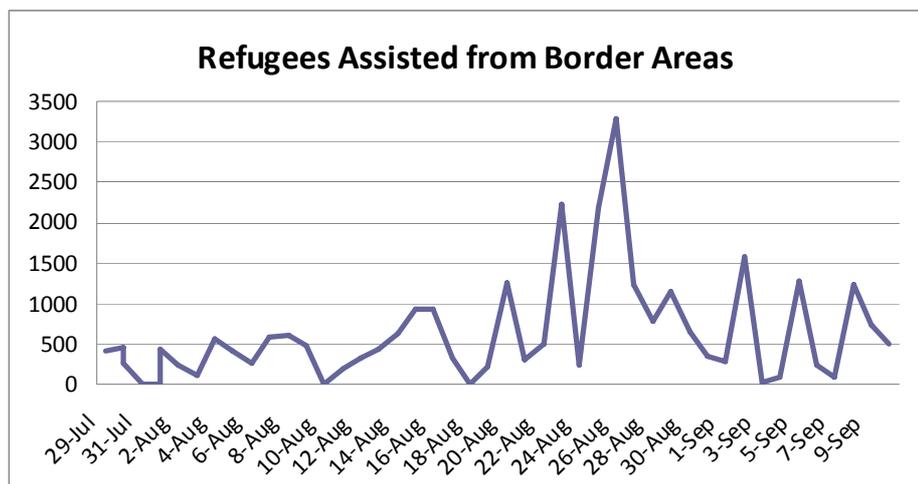
Resettlement assistance

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 **3,054** approved refugees to various countries. An additional **612** are booked to travel once conditions permit.

2. Jordan Operations

Transport assistance

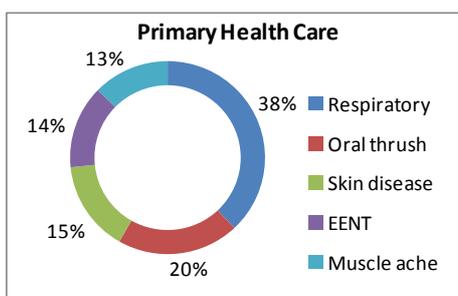
To date, IOM has provided transportation assistance for a total of **29,123** Syrian refugees. In the past week, IOM assisted **4,145** Syrian refugees.



| Evacuation Movements | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Date ⁷ | # People |
| 5 th Sept | 83 |
| 6 th Sept | 1,281 |
| 7 th Sept | 239 |
| 8 th Sept | 83 |
| 9 th Sept | 1,226 |
| 10 th Sept | 734 |
| 11 th Sept | 499 |
| 7-day Total | 4,145 |

Health assistance

As a first responder agency, IOM provides all assisted individuals with fit-to-travel health checks. In the past week, IOM staff identified **68** 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, **10,282** Syrians (40% females, 39% children under 15 years of age) have received health care and referral services through IOM’s Primary Health Clinic at King Abdullah Park (KAP). The most common illnesses are asthma, sinusitis, allergic rhinitis (respiratory); oral thrush; skin disease; eye, ear, nose, throat (EENT); and muscle ache.

IOM has provided tuberculosis (TB) screenings to a total number of **16,041** Syrians and reached **20,792** 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.

On 7 September, IOM was asked to evacuate from Thnebe CA1 due to an intensification of military activity on the Syrian side of the border. The JAF is now processing a formal clearance for IOM to resume operations at CA1.

3. Iraq Operations

Needs assessments

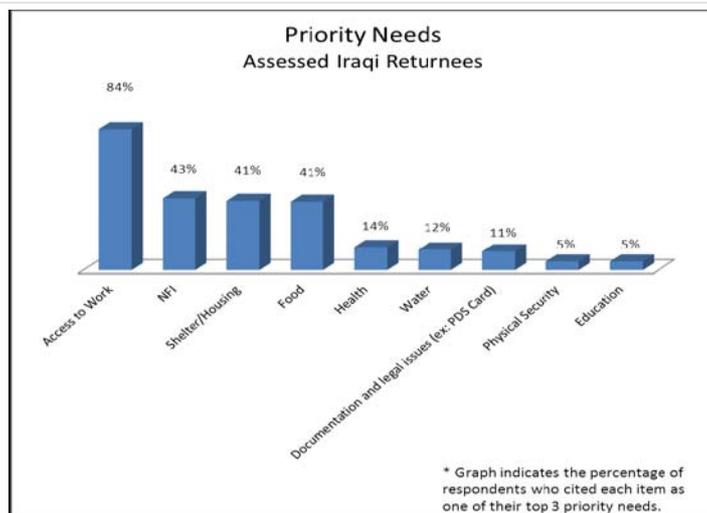
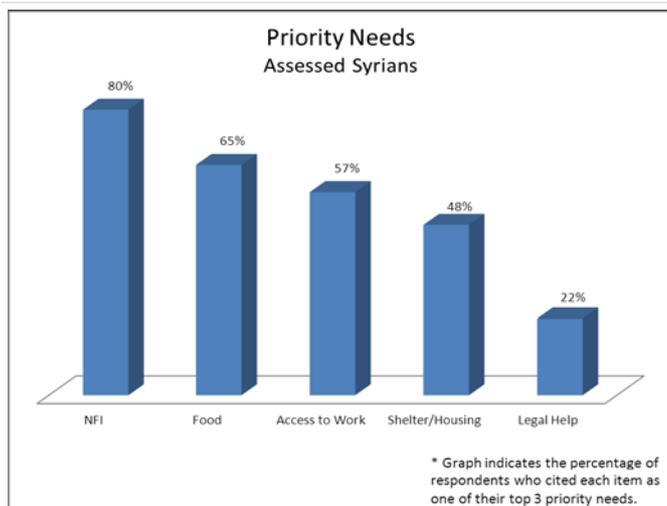
From 1 to 14 August IOM conducted a needs assessment of Syrian refugees, Iraqi returnees and key informants, including border representatives, representatives from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), local council representatives, and camp/Transit Receiving Center (TRC) managers.⁸

The report identifies causes for leaving, priority needs, and future plans (see full report).⁹ According to MoMD and local council representatives, top priority needs include employment, shelter, non-food items, and assistance securing legal documents. In addition, they indicated that access to financial aid, health care, food, water, and hygiene were equally important.

⁷ Dates reflect evacuation statistics collected the day of and night before the date stated.

⁸ Full Report at: <http://www.iomiraq.net/Documents/SyriaReport.pdf>

⁹ Ibid.



MoMD and local council representatives suggest that the best way to assist Iraqi returnees is by helping them find jobs that fit their skills and providing them with financial assistance as well as legal advice.

It is anticipated that the arrival of displaced Syrians and Iraqis returning from Syria may present challenges for host communities. MoMD representatives expect that large numbers of arrivals could increase rental rates and competition for jobs in certain areas. Iraqis returning from Syria have generally been welcomed by host communities, but many of the families hosting returnees already face economic challenges. Most Iraqi returnees are currently hosted by relatives or local families, further stretching already limited resources.

4. Lebanon Operations

Distribution of Non-food Items (NFIs)

IOM launched a round of NFIs distribution in the north of Lebanon on 11 September consisting of blankets and household shelter support items (material for sealing unfinished buildings/precarious huts and metallic containers). A total of **3,345** individuals (**697** families) were assisted.

Another round of NFI distribution will be organized in Baalbeck and the surrounding area on 14-15 September, also comprising winterization NFIs and household shelter support items. It is anticipated that up to **3,200** individuals (**571** families) will be reached. Beneficiaries are selected among the most vulnerable families. Distributions are balanced between Syrian refugees and the Lebanese returnee population.

5. Turkey Operations

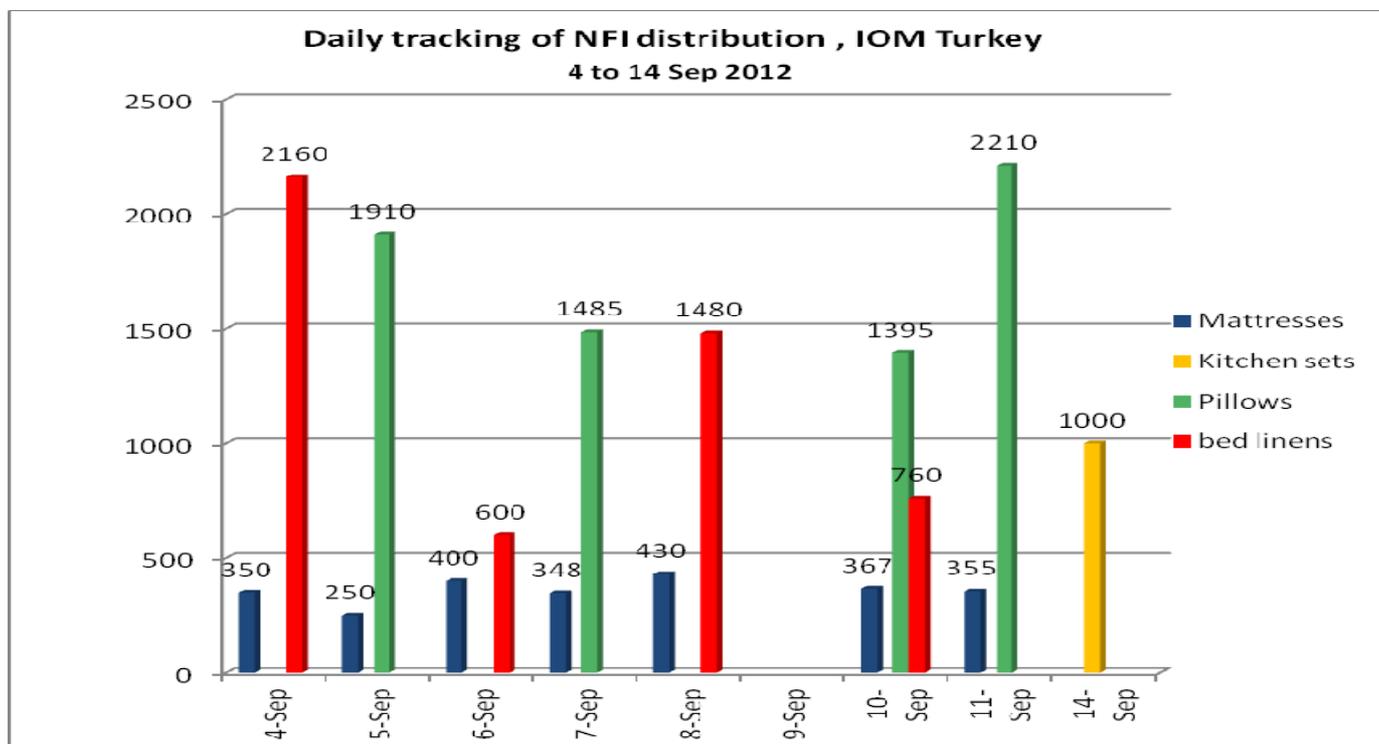
Transport assistance

To date, IOM has assisted in the return of **24** TCNs to their home countries; 2 Moldovan families, 1 Belarusian family and 8 Chinese nationals who had fled from Syria to Turkey.

Distribution of Non-food Items (NFIs)

IOM initiated the distribution of NFIs on 4 September in coordination with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), thanks to the support from the United States Government. From 4 to 11 September, IOM distributed **2,500** mattresses, **7,000** pillows and **5,000** bed linens in **Akcakale camp** (camp population: **9,682 persons**) in SanliUrfa.

Kitchen sets and container showers are in the pipeline for distribution. **1,000** kitchen sets are due to arrive to the camps on the 14 September. **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. The identification of these items was coordinated with the Turkish Red Crescent, taking into account specific needs of people with disabilities.



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