



Newly arrived Syrian refugees walk through the reception center in Za’atri camp. In the past week IOM improved and extended the reception center by erecting two tents and fencing off the compound.

IOM Jordan © IOM 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ **Syria:** IOM registered requests for repatriation from five vulnerable stranded migrant families who currently lack diplomatic representation within Damascus and approached IOM directly.
- ⇒ **Iraq:** IOM completed a rapid assessment of water and sanitation facilities for an estimated **8,000** refugees in three camps located near Al Qaim town.
- ⇒ **Jordan:** In the past week, IOM facilitated transportation of **16,921** Syrian refugees from border areas to Za’atri camp.
- ⇒ **Lebanon:** IOM will begin a project to support identification, registration, and profiling of up to **25,000** Lebanese returnees from Syria.

REGIONAL RESPONSE

IOM’s Regional Response is focused on the following activities:



Provision of Emergency Shelter Materials



Distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs)



Needs Assessments/ Needs Analysis



Emergency Healthcare and Referrals



Transportation: Transport assistance for refugees; resettlement assistance for refugees; repatriation of stranded and vulnerable migrants

Syria Operations



Assistance to Stranded Migrants: Since January 2013, IOM has received **514** requests from diplomatic missions within Syria to provide repatriation assistance for stranded migrants and their families. During the reporting period, IOM also registered requests for repatriation from five vulnerable stranded migrant families who currently lack diplomatic representation within Damascus and approached IOM directly. The families are requesting assistance to return to: Morocco (**20**), Egypt (**8**), and Somalia (**1**). IOM is increasingly receiving requests from stranded migrants whose travel documents or passports have expired.

Resettlement of Refugees. IOM organized transportation of **26** refugees, approved for resettlement to Canada, from Damascus through to Beirut. IOM is finalizing travel arrangements for resettlement cases from 17 February to 26 March. Refugees who form part of this caseload will travel to: United States of America (**333**), Canada (**251**), Australia (**169**), Romania (**44**), Switzerland (**37**), Sweden (**7**) and Finland (**3**).

Iraq Operations

Rapid WASH assessment in three camps near Al Qaim



town: IOM completed a rapid assessment of water and sanitation facilities in three camps for Syrian refugees outside of Al Qaim town. Findings of the assessment indicated the following

needs:

- Camp One: 6 water tanks (1000 L storage capacity), 800 jerry cans, and hygiene kits;
- Camp Two: 210 water tanks (1000 L storage capacity) to be installed in the communal bathrooms, 48 water tanks (1000 L storage capacity) for use in the kitchen areas, hygiene kits, and the construction of three toilet and bathroom units within a tented section of the camp;
- Camp Three: no immediate needs were identified as the camp is recently established and currently there are no residents. Teams report that in Sector one, there is a lack of a surface sewage network to drain excess rain and washing water so water is accumulating and stagnating between the tents;
- Camp One and Camp Two: IOM report a need for potable water storage tanks to enable constant provision of water which is unaffected by the electricity supply (supply is motorized and shortages are experienced during periods where electricity is cut);
- The results of the assessments are being shared with partners responsible or interested in providing WASH services at the camps.

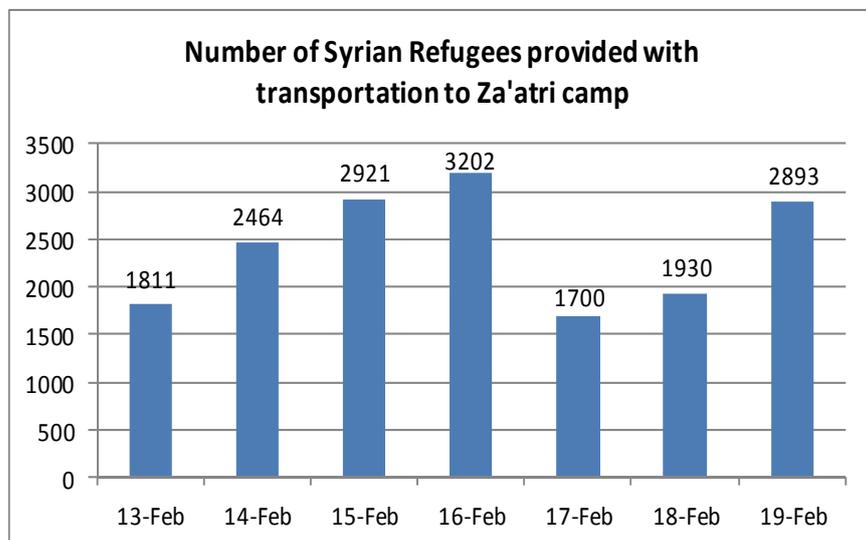


In Al Qaim, Syrian refugees receive bread rations donated by local communities from Mosul and Ana. IOM Iraq © IOM 2013

Assessment of human-trafficking activities within Domiz: On 14 February, IOM completed a mission to Domiz to assess the nature and extent of human trafficking within Syrian refugee communities in Domiz. IOM conducted interviews with government and humanitarian partners and Syrian refugees. Based on IOM's preliminary assessment international, organized trafficking in persons does not appear to be taking place in the context of Syrian displacement; however, IOM was advised of issues and trends which indicate increasing abuse of positions of vulnerability. Specifically, IOM was informed that some Syrian women have entered into marriages for a lower dowry than would have been expected in Syria. While some cases of under-age marriage were also identified, reports of forced or temporary marriage were not verified. Despite holding the right to work in Iraq, Syrian men are also reported to have entered into employment without contracts (enabling non-payment and reduced payment of wages). There are reported cases of Syrian children who are under pressure from their families to engage in begging in nearby cities. On the basis of initial findings, IOM will conduct a more targeted survey of vulnerable groups identified in this mission. IOM is also in discussion with camp managers on the need to organize awareness-raising activities on human trafficking issues as well as screening and identification methodologies.



Emergency Transportation of Refugees: The number of Syrian refugees crossing into Jordan increased to **16,921**, compared to **11,242** who arrived in the previous week. Since the transport assistance operation began in July 2012, IOM has facilitated the transportation of **163,720** Syrians from border areas to Za’atri Camp. IOM has provided transportation assistance to over approximately **60%** of UN OCHA reported **278,000** Syrians who have entered the country since March 2011.



Above - An IOM health worker speaks with a Syrian refugee in Za’atri camp. **IOM Jordan, © IOM 2013**

Emergency Health Assistance upon arrival in Jordan: IOM is the first point of contact for refugees seeking humanitarian assistance upon arrival at transit centres/border crossing points in Jordan. IOM health teams operate day and night shifts at the border to receive and escort refugees to the camp. All Syrian refugees requesting transport assistance are medically screened by IOM teams before departing from the border areas. IOM teams identify refugees with chronic conditions in need of emergency assistance and refer these cases to partners operating ambulances in order to transport them directly to hospital. Non-chronic cases are referred to health partners upon arrival at the camp. During the reporting period, IOM identified **137** Syrian refugees with medical conditions who require immediate treatment or referral to health partners upon arrival. To date IOM has referred **1,331** such cases.

TB Diagnosis and Prevention Activities: Since March 2012, IOM has screened **136,166** Syrians for tuberculosis (TB) and provided **54,349** Syrians with TB awareness-raising activities in Za’atri camp, transit centres, and host communities in Jordan. IOM has confirmed **44** cases (two in the past week) and is providing follow-up treatment for **41** cases. Follow-up treatment involves four to six courses of medication over a two-year period for multi-drug resistant patients. An IOM team works daily within the camp to investigate suspected TB cases and to provide follow-up and direct observation of treatment.

Extension of Reception Center: The reception center in Za’atri camp is less congested after IOM erected two additional tents, one for initial processing, and the second which serves as a storage area for luggage and a waiting area for families. IOM also completed construction of a fence to enclose the center which protects staff and humanitarian assets. Daily demonstrations continue in the camp where residents protest against harsh conditions.

Distribution of Non-Food Items: In response to the surge in new arrivals to the camp in the past week, IOM will distribute **3,875** blankets during registration. Distributions will begin for new arrivals later this week.

Re-construction and Management of a New Camp: Preliminary site assessments have been completed for the construction of a new camp. IOM and partners are in discussion with the Government of Jordan to determine roles and responsibilities at this new site which will be developed to accommodate approximately **13,000** refugees.

Lebanon Operations



Profiling of Lebanese Returnees: IOM will begin a project to identify, register, and profile Lebanese returnees (**25,000**) from Syria. The project will be implemented in the six national governorates over a six-month period from February to August 2013. The need for profiling and registration of returnees was set out in the agreement between the Higher Relief Commission (HRC), WFP and IOM, which was signed in November 2012. Within the scope of the agreement, IOM and partners agree to provide targeted assistance to the most vulnerable Lebanese returnees. The project aims to improve the knowledge on the extent of patterns of displaced populations and their exposure to protection risks in order to prevent the caseload from falling through a 'protection gap'. The findings will be shared with the HRC and humanitarian partners to facilitate and guide the preparation of assistance to Lebanese Returnees.

Livelihood Assistance to Iraqi Refugees from Syria: IOM has identified **34** vulnerable Iraqi refugee families in the Bekaa Valley in need of livelihood assistance. During the course of the next week, IOM will complete profiling of each household in order to identify specific equipment to procure. According to initial findings, returnees are engaged as electricians, plumbers, painters, carpenters, seamstresses/tailors, bakers, blacksmiths, and those involved in repairing wheels.

Assisting vulnerable Lebanese returnees with winter kits and basic shelter materials: IOM is preparing to launch a project on 1 March 2013, which aims to provide **1,250** families in the Bekaa Valley and southern areas of Lebanon, with the NFI kit which includes **3** blankets, **1** large tarpaulin sheet and mosquito nets.

Transit Services/Assistance for Stranded Migrants and Refugees from Syria: On 20 February, IOM escorted **26** Iraqi refugees (**11** male, **15** female), accepted for resettlement to Canada, from the Lebanese-Syrian border until their departure to Canada through Rafic Hariri Airport in Beirut. To date, IOM has submitted **233** transit visa applications to the General Security Directorate of the Ministry of Interior; **61** transit visas have been approved. In the next week, IOM will submit **520** additional applications. Since the suspension of most international flights from Damascus airport in November 2012, transit through Lebanon has been the only option for many refugees accepted for resettlement who were living in Syria.

Turkey Operations



The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) report that there are currently **282,621** registered Syrian refugees in Turkey. **182,621** Syrian refugees are hosted in **17** camps that are established and managed by the Government of Turkey and the remaining **100,000** refugees are accommodated in urban settings. During the reporting period, IOM continued discussions with the Government on areas of potential support, namely procurement and distribution of NFIs, healthcare and psychosocial services, transport assistance, and technical support. IOM has been working with the Government in Turkey to address issues of regular and irregular migration since 1991.

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