

## Emergency: Syria Humanitarian Crisis

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### 1. Syria Programme Manager's Analysis

*The visit of Oxfam GB Deputy Humanitarian Director in the region coincided with the \$1.5 billion funds bid in Kuwait bringing hope and enabling organisations such as Oxfam to get the financial resources desperately needed to support a growing programme.*

*The funding situation is still dire. UN agencies are possibly interested in a partnership in WASH for new transit camps in Lebanon and in the extension in Za'atari camp of Jordan. Again this week the influx of refugees required amounts of creativity and adaptation for teams to respond in a timely matter.*

*Distributions by Oxfam GB partners have finally started in Lebanon reaching 600 people, while Oxfam's light version of the emergency response is reaching 9,500 people in Za'atari where UNHCR plans to boost the area to hold 12,500 extra people. UNICEF estimates the camp population at 75,000 people.*

*The alleged attack on the Syria and Lebanon border by Israel and the tensions in Northern Lebanon between pro and anti Assad groups both demonstrate the fragility of the country's political situation. However the discussion between EU /US and the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Syrian opposition chief Moaz al-Khatib seems to open the path for possible transition in Syria.*

### 2. General Humanitarian Situation<sup>1</sup>

*The total number of registered refugees and individuals awaiting registration is 733,196 as of 31 January. This includes 6,338 Syrian refugees registered in North Africa. The latest UNHCR Regional update (17 Jan) provides more details per country.*

[http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SyriaRegionalRefugeeResponse\\_ExternalUpdate\\_17January2013.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SyriaRegionalRefugeeResponse_ExternalUpdate_17January2013.pdf)

- **Jordan:** The population of Zaatari Camp has increased to 95,703 according to UNHCR. IOM recorded over 48,000 new arrivals from Syria into Jordan in January with 1,172 arriving on the 2nd of February.
- ACTED house to house mapping of Zaatari found the population as of the 24th of January to be approximately 33,000 ppl; considerably less than the UNHCR quotes figure of the time of 73,000 ppl.
- **Lebanon:** UNHCR registered 38,000 Syrian refugees in January (compared to 24,000 in December). Currently, more than 242,000 Syrian refugees receive assistance from UNHCR, 165,000 are registered and 77,263 are scheduled to be registered. Current distribution of the registered population is as follows: **North Lebanon:** 80,450. **Beqaa:** 63,288. **Beirut and South Lebanon:** 21,265.
- Despite the increased capacity for registration, delays in registration are still a problem for UNHCR. A new centre in Beqaa is to open early February and in Tyre late February. In addition UNHCR is negotiating for additional land in Beirut to expand capacity in the capital.
- UNHCR is moving from in-kind towards cash assistance and have stated that families will receive a grant of US\$240 a month to contribute to their monthly rent and living costs. The majority of registered refugees (60%) live in rented accommodation, 27% with host families, 5% live in tented settlements, and 2% in renovated collective shelters. The remainder live in unfinished host community houses which are being rehabilitated by UNHCR (with NRC and DRC). In exchange for the renovation work, owners provide this accommodation rent free to refugees. Although this programme has proved successful, many of the 'rent free' periods will soon come to an end.
- To date more than 20,000 Palestinian refugees have sought safety in Lebanon and are now entirely dependent on UNRWA for social, education and health services.

### 3. Humanitarian Community

- **Syria:** For updates on the sectoral responses happening in Syria download the latest Syria Humanitarian Dashboard (26 January)

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on UNHCR (and partners) responses in the region, please visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php> for information on Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey

[http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SYR\\_dashboard\\_130126.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SYR_dashboard_130126.pdf)

- **Jordan:** A number of meetings were attended including the camp coordination meeting, WASH coordination, Hygiene Promotion and Accountability Working Group and Area Coordination Meeting for Northern Jordan.
- UNICEF have proposed the possibility of Oxfam adding another module in Za'atari camp and increasing the contingency line of the actual PCA
- **Lebanon:** During the UNRWA national coordination meeting it was stated that in February there would be a blanket cash distribution for Palestinian refugees with all families receiving \$130 for rent plus \$20 per person (av. 5 per family) so a total of \$230. The Deputy Humanitarian Director raised the discrepancy between UNHCR and UNRWA grants as it's possible one family living next to another might receive differing amount – thus exacerbating the already tense conditions - suggesting there should be better coordination between the 2 agencies, this was met with agreement but we have yet to see if action will actually be taken.
- At the UNHCR meeting, Oxfam were asked to be the partner WASH agency for the 2 transit sites ('camps') being established for refugees from Syria. The idea of the sites is to provide shelter for 2 x 5000 refugees while they go through the registration process. Considering the huge backlog of registrations and the small size of these sites it will barely ease the pressure but it's possible these sites are the first step towards the Government of Lebanon softening their firm opposition to no camps (in the traditional sense) in Lebanon. The WASH Advisor will now conduct a site visit with the UNHCR WASH representative and UNHCR site planner.
- The Deputy Humanitarian Director, the WASH Advisor and Lebanon PM also attended the first UNRWA national coordination meeting. The meeting was to start the coordination process between UNRWA and the NGOs and sector meetings were planned in shelter, health, education etc.

#### 4. Programme Activities

##### Jordan

- The contractor has started work for permanent WASH buildings. Excavations are underway and sewer piping installed on first 2 buildings. Work will speed up as the work becomes repetitive.
- The new Oxfam Rapid deployment Water Kiosks with adult and child handwashing and water collection points are under construction expected on site in the coming days. The demo is already on site.
- The new Oxfam 'light' latrines are under construction and expected to have the first batch on site within the next few days.
- PHP met with ACTED and JEN to discuss hygiene promotion activities in the camp and to discuss the coordinated approach of social mobilization in Module 1 and 2 before THW rehabilitated WASH block vandalized in this section of the camp.
- PHP met with Handicap International to discuss the new designs for the temporary disabled Latrines, then field visit to module 4 and 5 to see the portable latrines and permanent latrine blocks with disabled latrines.

##### Lebanon<sup>2</sup>

- **OGB:** NAVTSS and PAWL had already started the procurement process and so will now extend their distribution to include the hygiene kits and clothing along with their planned bedding distributions. AMEL can now receive 100% of their funding and expect to start procurement this coming week.
- The PM and Logistics Manager attended one of the first partner distributions; PAWL distributed bedding items to 120 Syrian families in Burj Shemali camp, Tyre. Originally 168 Syrian families had been identified in this camp to receive NFIs but due to an increased rate of new arrivals PAWL has supplemented the distribution and increased the number of Syrian beneficiaries to 205 families. The remaining 85 families will receive on Monday.
- NAVTSS have begun procurement and will start their distributions in Beirut and Tripoli in the coming week.
- Several days of discussions were held with ABAAD with regards the VOICE project. It became clear this is going to be a much larger scale project than the activities currently planned in the SIDA proposal and as such ABAAD will conduct the gender based activities as outlined in SIDA as a precursor to the larger scale VOICE project which will need longer term and increased funding.

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<sup>2</sup> All activities currently taking place in Lebanon are being implemented through partners

### 5. Beneficiary numbers

Country/Affiliate	Beneficiaries Reached last week (to 3 Feb)	Cumulative beneficiaries (since 1 Jan)
<b>Jordan</b>		
Oxfam GB	<b>4,760</b>	<b>4,760</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>		
Oxfam Novib	-	9,500
Oxfam GB	600	600
Oxfam Italy	-	659
<b>Lebanon Sub-Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>10,759</b>
<b>SYRIA CRISIS TOTAL</b>	<b>5,360</b>	<b>15,519</b>

Please note, where exact numbers aren't known, an average family size of 5 is used to calculate the total number of beneficiaries in both Jordan and Lebanon<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> In Lebanon, this was agreed at the UNHCR Lebanon WASH Sector Working Group 20 Nov. In Jordan, UNICEF is advising an average of 5 people per household.