IOM REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS • 2018

REPORTING PERIOD • August

Raad from Deir-ez-Zor is a barber by trade. Back in his hometown, he owned a thriving salon where he lived with his wife and family. As the conflict worsened, the family had to leave Deir-ez-Zor. Moving almost 350km by land, the family crossed the border into Turkey in search of safety. They had to leave everything behind to escape and arrived with very little. Initially, the family had to rely on aid to survive, which left them in an extremely vulnerable situation. Lack of connections and without many savings, Raad’s only viable option was daily paid work, providing the family with a very unstable source of income. He was earning as little as a dollar a day.

IOM’s livelihoods unit aims to find more sustainable solutions for refugees and migrants in Turkey. One approach is through start-up grants for skilled workers so that they can work in their trade again. IOM’s start-up grant allowed Raad to buy some basic equipment to get back into working as a barber, along with technical and legal support to help get set up in Turkey. Starting with a single chair and some scissors, Raad back into a profession he was skilled at and enjoyed. Slowly but surely, he built up a good reputation in the area, his business began to grow, and Raad was enough to start renting a small space himself. He employed several other Syrian refugees from the area and trained them too.

Walking in today, the salon is busy. Each chair has someone waiting to fill it once Raad or one of his other barbers are finished with their client. Raad currently employs eight people and has even bigger ideas. “I’d love to open a training centre for other young barbers. That’s my next plan.”

Raad with a client in his barber shop in Akcakale, southern Turkey. © IOM 2018 (Photo: IOM Turkey)
On 11 August, airstrikes displaced around 3,100 families from southern Idleb, and about 370 families from northern Hama. If fighting were to escalate in September, UN planning scenarios estimate that up to 900,000 people could be displaced.

CCCM: On 17 August 2018, IOM partners completed construction of a camp in North West Syria which includes all WASH and camp infrastructure, such as shower and latrine blocks, kitchens, child-friendly spaces, and solar lights. The camp will serve 900 IDP families (4,500 Individuals) and provide multi-sectoral services (water, food, health & nutrition, and protection) to beneficiaries. This site is expected to host IDPs displaced by military operations in Idleb.

By the end of August, IOM finished the expansion of two reception centres, which now have the capacity to accommodate up to 1,000 additional IDPs. The completed works included levelling and graveling of the land, casting concrete bases and setting up 10 additional reception tents, constructing shower and latrine blocks, and fencing. IOM began winterization activities by procuring tent insulation materials for the first 1,800 tents in Northern Syria. By Winter 2018/2019, IOM plans to provide 15,000 tents with a complete package of insulation activities for each tent.

Protection: In August, IOM continued provision of integrated protection services in one of its reception centres, reaching over 1,400 beneficiaries with protection monitoring, child protection and psychosocial activities, GBV case management services and awareness sessions, and family tracing and reunification support.

Shelter: During the reporting period, IOM partners delivered shelter units to 68 households in northern Syria. Furthermore, IOM provided shelter repair to over 800 households from the host community and IDP population. This assistance aimed to improve living conditions and empower host community contribution to IDP sheltering needs.

Nada is from Deir-ez-Zor in the north east of Syria and is one of five children. When Nada was very young, and the civil war intensified, shelling worsened in her hometown and her family had to flee. Nada has never had the chance to go to school, but she is bright and loves sewing and embroidery like her mother and her older sister Hamida. A long journey across the country in search of safety led the family to Aleppo, where they eventually settled into a camp.

Nada has been through more than any nine-year-old should; her life so far has had little structure and a lot of uncertainty. According to Save the Children’s report released last year, one in every four children in Syria is at risk of developing a mental health disorder as a result of the conflict. To address the psychosocial wellbeing of children arriving in camps, special activities in child-friendly spaces have been designed by IOM to help young people cope with difficulties they have experienced. IOM also builds the capacity of local staff to design and implement these activities, which include arts and crafts, language education and team games used as tools to help children express their feelings and find sources of support. During the sessions, Nada talks about her dreams to become a doctor one day to help other children in her country.
IOM SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE (3RP) - AT A GLANCE

TURKEY

Social Support Services: IOM continues to support the IBC Community Centre in Sultanbeyli, Istanbul to improve access to information for services available to refugees, increase overall wellbeing and building capacities of both refugee and host communities in the district of Sultanbeyli.

During the reporting period, IBC provided Turkish and English Language courses to 45 Syrian refugees (16 females, 29 males); provides legal awareness and information dissemination sessions for 378 individuals (212 females, 166 males); and MHPSS activities, such as group and individual counselling to 312 beneficiaries (159 females, 153 males).

JORDAN

Middle East Response Project (TB and HIV): In the framework of Middle East Response Project, the Global Fund has approved IOM to conduct an integrated bio-behavioral surveillance study on HIV/AIDS in Jordan. This study will help to update knowledge of HIV/AIDS situation in Jordan.

The aim of the study is to measure the extent to which HIV is affecting populations in Jordan, providing an estimate of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among vulnerable populations. The Health Minister of Jordan has formally endorsed this activity, and the NAP of Ministry of Health and IOM will jointly implement this study. NAP and IOM will also work jointly to develop a five-year National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan for the period of 2019-2023 and a national guideline for clinical management of HIV infection in Jordan. IOM has launched call for proposals to identify qualified persons and/or organizations to support implementing these activities.

Several trainings conducted in August on TB diagnosis, management and care for Ministry of Health doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians in Amman and Aqaba governorates organized jointly by the National Tuberculosis Program and IOM.

LEBANON

MHPSS: During August 2018, IOM team provided psychosocial support services to both Syrian refugees and Lebanese hosting communities. The activities were implemented in the two Counseling and Recreational Centres established by IOM (Dari Centre in Baalbek and Al Multaqa Centre in Bissariyeh), as well as in several informal tented settlements. In particular, IOM’s MHPSS teams assisted a total of 501 Syrian refugee and Lebanese returnee beneficiaries of which 121 are women, 35 men, 166 girls, and 179 boys. These beneficiaries were provided with various psychosocial support services, which entailed activities such as individual and group counselling, focus-group discussions, storytelling, educational and recreational activities, and art-mediation activities).

Furthermore, the MHPSS team has also contributed to an IOM stabilized program by implementing MHPSS sessions of community-based initiatives for members from two informal committees in Akkar governorate (Machha and Kherbet al Daoud). The MHPSS activities aimed at increasing awareness of the participatory process, promoting collective processes, enhancing self-confidence and improving critical thought.

EGYPT

Training of Community Health Volunteers: Medical Health Support: From 8 to 9 August, IOM conducted a CHV Training for nine participants (7 women, 2 men) with medicine and pharmacy backgrounds from Watan NGO. Topics discussed during the training included: IOM health awareness activities (first aid training, medical screenings), personal hygiene, nutrition, child health promotion, perinatal health care, and identification of the most vulnerable groups among migrants (VoT). At the end of the training, the CHVs were advised on how to identify community needs and transfer the information they received in the training to enhance the health awareness of their communities.

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