REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

04 April 2014

Part II – Host countries

This Regional Analysis of the Syria conflict (RAS) is now produced quarterly, replacing the monthly RAS of 2013. It seeks to bring together information from all sources in the region and provide holistic analysis of the overall Syria crisis. While Part I focuses on the situation within Syria, Part II covers the impact of the crisis on neighbouring countries. More information on how to use this document can be found on page 2. Please note that place names which are underlined are hyperlinked to their location on Google Maps. The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For more information, comments or questions please email SNAP@ACAPS.org.

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Regional Overview

The first quarter of 2014 has seen a continued influx of refugees in all neighbouring countries due primarily to military operations in Syria such as the battle in the Qalamoun region, fighting in and around Aleppo city, along the border with Turkey and in the southern governorate of Dar'a. New arrivals increased by 40% in Jordan, and in Turkey the camp population increased by 16% since the start of 2014.

Shelter remains of critical concern across the region with many Syrians living in inadequate shelter and those arriving in host countries in the first quarter of 2014 facing severe challenges to find adequate shelter solutions. All countries have limited capacity to host additional refugees and the severe shortage of shelter in Lebanon and Turkey has forced Syrians to seek accommodation in informal tented settlements, mosques and open spaces. In Aarsal in Lebanon, which saw an influx of 15,000 Syrians in February, the refugees outnumber the host population by 2:1, over-stretching hosting capacity and increasing concerns regarding the fragile security conditions. Shortages of shelter are also apparent in Jordan: the eviction of refugees forced to reside in informal tented settlements (ITS) on Mafraq public lands begun in December 2013 but was temporarily halted in early 2014 although several hundred families had already been forced to leave. Evictions are expected to re-start in the spring and expand to other governorates, including in Amman and Balqa, with evictees likely to be pressured into moving into Azraq camp once opened in April. Refugees living in open spaces, tented settlements and other sub-standard accommodation are particularly vulnerable. In Lebanon alone an estimated 30% (300,000) of Syrians live in sub-standard accommodation.

Protection Legal status and access to civil status documentation is of concern for Syrian refugees across the region. In Lebanon, Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria encounter difficulties renewing their residency status, primarily due to the high costs involved (USD 200). As a result, an increasing number of individuals reside in Lebanon without the proper documentation, affecting freedom of movement, access to services and justice. In Jordan, 2014 has seen a significant increase in the number of forced returns of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS), including women, children and older people.

Social tensions: In Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey the perception prevails among the hosting community that assistance is disproportionally benefitting Syrian communities. With an influx of at least 20,000 Syrian refugees into Turkey in the past two months, authorities and humanitarian actors are being forced to prioritise response, which highlights the stretched resources of the comparably well-funded humanitarian response in Turkey.

While access to basic services, including health and education, have not hitherto been key sources of tensions between the communities, Syrian refugees and host communities without sufficient support will be forced to adopt more negative coping mechanisms, which in turn is likely to increase tensions.

Livelihoods and food security: In all host countries, competition for employment and rising rent prices due to the growing refugee populations are leading to a further deterioration of the situation both for the refugees themselves and some of the host population. While in Lebanon, many refugees work in the informal sector with limited risk of punishment, in Jordan the authorities intermittently clamp down on illegal employment. In several of the host countries, child labour among refugees is rife. The recent depreciation of the Turkish Lira further strains financial resources of both host and refugee populations.

Border restrictions: Despite the reopening of one border crossing in Iraq, all neighbouring countries continue to restrict access for those fleeing Syria. The majority of refugees fleeing to Jordan for instance are forced to enter through the eastern desert. Access to Lebanon for Palestinian refugees from Syria is severely restricted, while the Jordanian authorities have strictly enforced a policy of non-admittance for Palestinians, including of those who hold Jordanian citizenship.

Polio: 14 years after Iraq was declared polio free, WHO confirmed the existence of 1 wild poliovirus case in a 6-month-old boy in Baghdad on 24 March – the first polio case confirmed in a country neighbouring Syria. Although the case has no direct links to Syria, the virus is believed to have spread due to the ongoing conflict and displacement in Anbar, which borders the Syrian governorate of Deir-ez-Zor, where polio was first confirmed in October 2013.

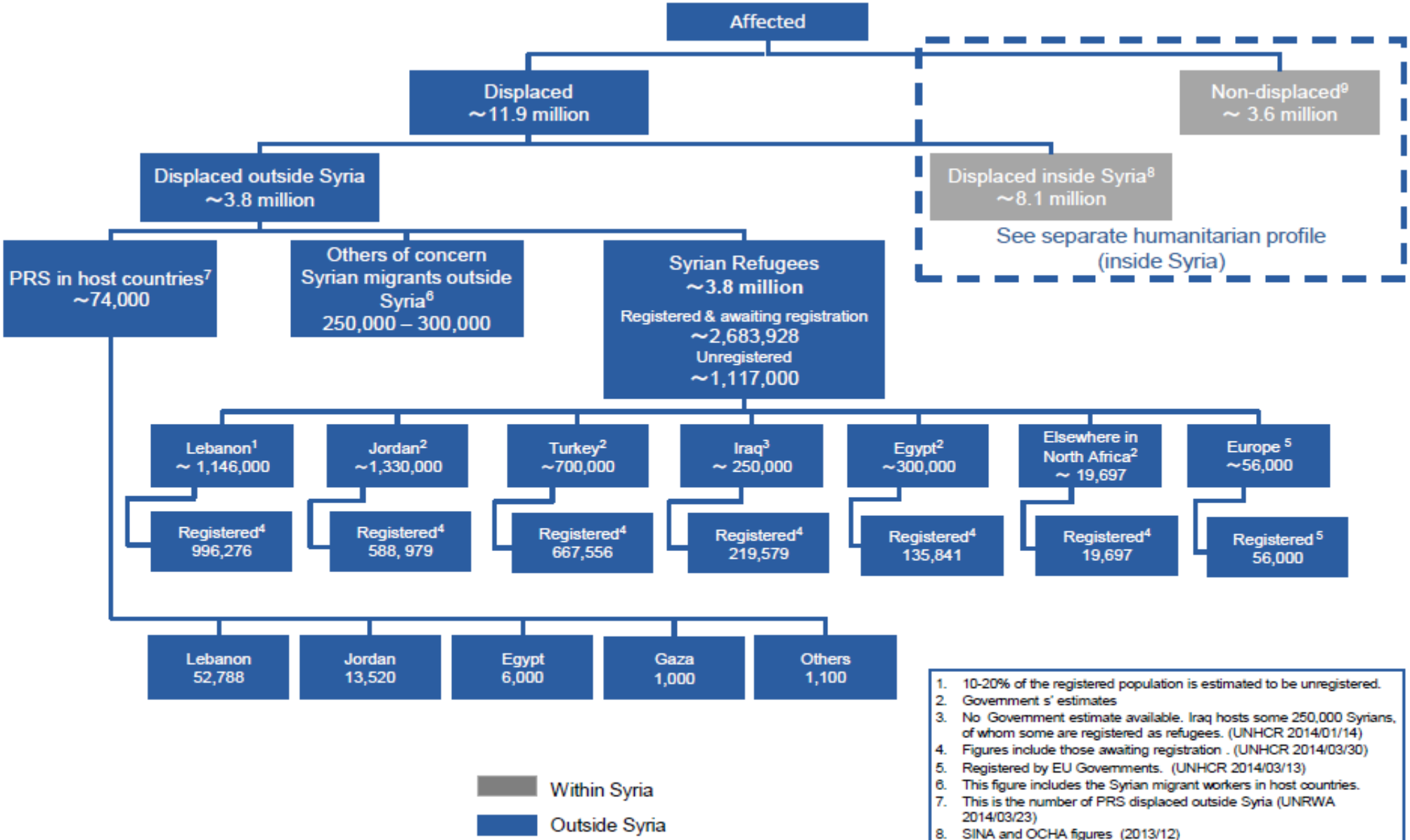
Information sources and gaps

- Information sources in 2014: The country with the least information available on the situation of the Syrian refugees remains **Egypt**. The last publicly available assessment was published in March based on data collected in September 2013. Although UNHCR produces regular situation reports, these reports do not include information on refugee needs. Periodic updates continue to be published on the situation in the refugee camps in **Iraq,** however, there is still a lack of comprehensive information on the refugees in urban settings, where 60-70% of the refugees are hosted. Most assessments continue to be undertaken in **Jordan** and **Lebanon**, including several multi-sectoral assessments. Information on the needs of both Syrian refugees in camps and non-camp settings in **Turkey**, as well as unregistered urban refugees, remains very limited. The main sources of information to date are the UNHCR bulletins. Only AFAD is authorised to collect data on the Syrian refugees. To date there is only one STL report available on the humanitarian needs of urban refugees in one province.
- Information gaps: Secondary displacement of refugees in host countries in search of livelihood opportunities, a more favourable climate, and access to services and security is common. However, there are limited mechanisms available to track this displacement. As a result, there are large information gaps with regards to the exact location of Syrians in the different countries and their movements into Syria.
- A large number of actors are undertaking assessments in the region and their activities are not always coordinated. Information is often not shared in a timely manner or, when shared, lacks basis for comparison. In Iraq, for example, many aid agencies conduct needs assessments unilaterally and coordination structures and information sharing are generally weak and few assessments are published.
- The strain of the continuing refugee influx on host communities and subsequent tensions is one of the region's main concerns. In Lebanon, multiple assessments have been published, outlining the impact of the crisis on the Lebanese economy as well as the perceptions of Lebanese host communities regarding the situation. However, in other countries, this data is not available and there are significant information gaps related to which areas are most impacted by the refugee influx.
- There is insufficient data concerning the returns of refugees to Syria. For example, in Jordan, the authorities have allowed UNHCR to regularly monitor and counsel refugees who would like to return but the information is not collected systematically nor analysed. In Lebanon, the General Security Office started using a new record keeping system to keep better track of inflows and outflows of Lebanon. Data is now channelled to Beirut in order to centralise the information in one single source. However, these are not widely shared.

Possible Developments

- **Water shortages and related health problems:** Due to heavy rainfall during the winter of 2012/2013, water shortages have not been a problem in in the region until now. However, the combination of increased influx of refugees, host countries' overstretched health infrastructure, poor availability of WASH services, water shortages, and spring being high transmission season increases the incidence of communicable diseases, especially measles and polio, particularly in Iraq and Lebanon. Water shortages mainly affect those unable to purchase sufficient water and farmers who depend on rain and irrigation for cultivation. The situation is particularly concerning in Lebanon where, in areas with high concentrations of refugees, already tense relations with host communities reach breaking point and result in localised conflict and an increase in communicable diseases and malnutrition further straining the healthcare system.
- **Malnutrition:** Inadequate interventions to improve the sub-standard living conditions, access to improved WASH facilities, and infant feeding permit the nutrition situation to deteriorate, particularly affecting children under 5, increasing vulnerability to diseases and putting further pressure on the health care system.
- **Social cohesion:** Competition over scarce water resources and livelihoods opportunities increases tensions between host and refugee communities. Widespread tensions impact service delivery to Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities, particularly in areas where municipalities are no longer willing to facilitate support to Syrian communities and areas with a high number of security incidents. In addition, freedom of movement for Syrians significantly reduces, with more restrictive policies such as checkpoints and curfews.
- **Evictions:** Evictions of refugee families, as already seen in Jordan and Lebanon, increase as people fall into debt and exhaust their coping mechanisms. Returns to Syria increase as refugees decide they can no longer cope with the deteriorating living conditions in host communities or in refugee camps. Refugees in informal tented settlements are particularly vulnerable to evictions.
- **Migration:** The security situation in Egypt is subject to further deterioration with upcoming elections in May 2014. Given the political instability, the economic hardships and the ill-will shown towards Syrians, more refugees in Egypt attempt to leave the country to Europe and, to a far lesser extent, to return to Syria. Increasing numbers attempting to leave irregularly are detained and most others risk the dangerous passage by sea to Europe.

Humanitarian profile (see annex A for definitions)



1. 10-20% of the registered population is estimated to be unregistered.
2. Government s' estimates
3. No Government estimate available. Iraq hosts some 250,000 Syrians, of whom some are registered as refugees. (UNHCR 2014/01/14)
4. Figures include those awaiting registration . (UNHCR 2014/03/30)
5. Registered by EU Governments. (UNHCR 2014/03/13)
6. This figure includes the Syrian migrant workers in host countries.
7. This is the number of PRS displaced outside Syria (UNRWA 2014/03/23)
8. SINA and OCHA figures (2013/12)
9. Calculated by deducting IDPs from People in Need

Neighbouring country displacement

January – April 2014

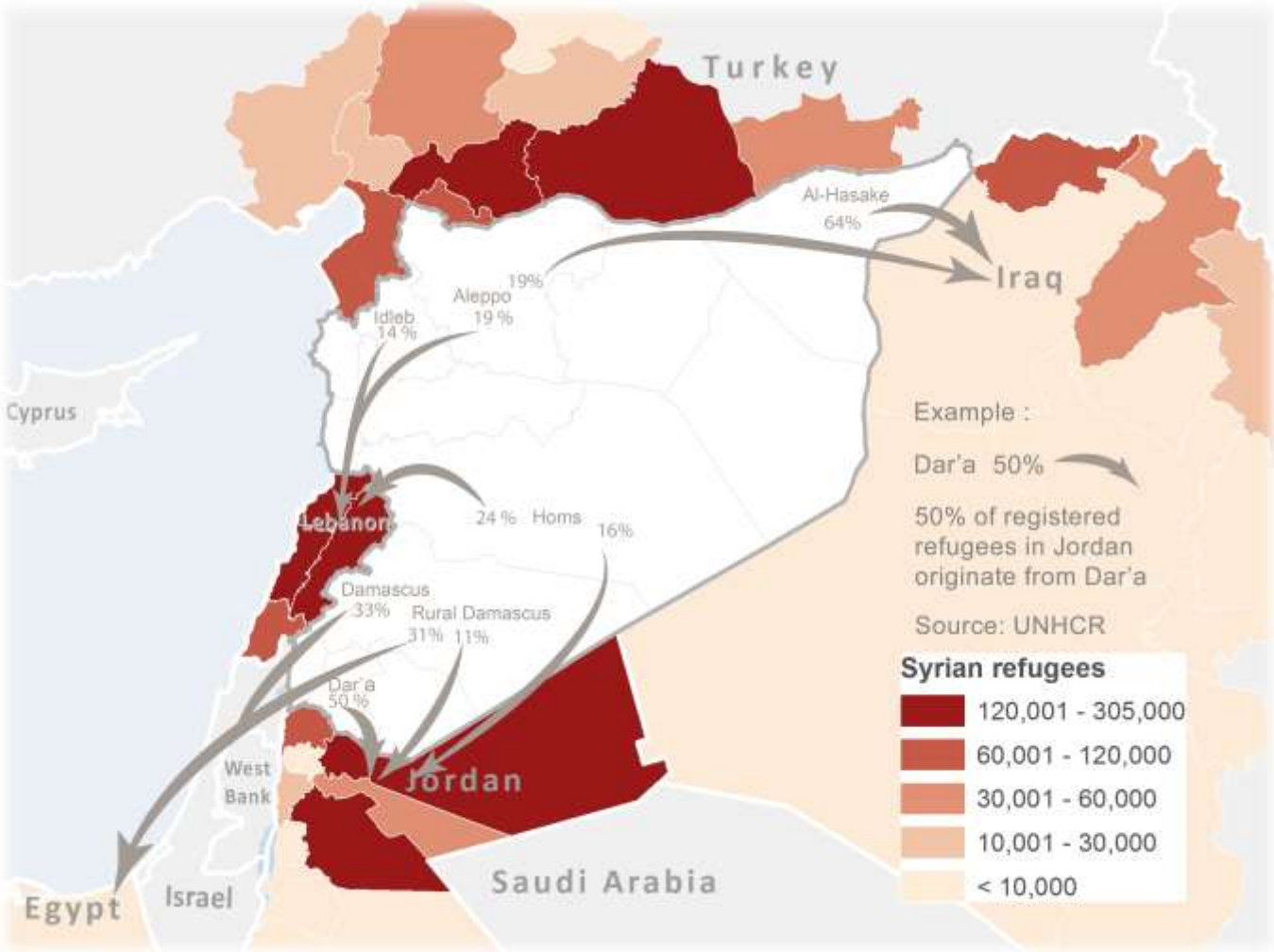
Lebanon: The recent arrival of 15,000 Syrian refugees fleeing violence in the Qalamoun region, brought the total refugee population in Aarsal to more than 80,000 – double the estimated resident Lebanese population – and has led to critical shortages of shelter and WASH services. A deterioration of the security situation, particularly in and around Tripoli, Aarsal and Wadi Khaled has disrupted humanitarian operations. Meanwhile the humanitarian situation has further deteriorated in 2014 with an outbreak of Hepatitis A and increased levels of malnutrition, particularly in the Bekaa.

Turkey: More than 20,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Turkey since the start of the year in the biggest influx since early 2013 due to intense fighting in Aleppo and between opposition groups in eastern parts of Syria. New arrivals face challenges in finding adequate shelter. While insecurity in border areas continues with fresh fighting at the Kassab border crossing, assistance was delivered across the border to Qamishli for the first time.

Jordan: There was a 40% increase in new arrivals from Syria in February and March compared to January due to the escalation of military operations in southern Syria causing significant displacement. Meanwhile the takeover of Anbar province in Iraq by Al-Qaeda led to a fivefold increase in the number of Iraqi asylum seekers in December compared to early 2013. This trend continued throughout January.

Iraq: 14 years after Iraq was declared polio free, WHO confirmed the existence of 1 wild poliovirus case in a 6 month old boy in Baghdad on 24 March. Although the case has no direct links to Syria, the virus is believed to have spread due to the ongoing conflict and displacement in Anbar, which borders the Syrian governorate of Deir-ez-Zor, where polio was first confirmed in October 2013.

Egypt: Trends show that after the deterioration of the political situation there was a peak in the numbers of refugees deregistering with UNHCR; mostly due to refugees closing their case files in the hope of relocating to other countries. As of 15 February 5,653 cases had been closed, most closed since June 2013.



2014 Q1 Main events timeline – host countries

Access to Iraq:
The Peshkapor border between Syria and the KR-I opened on 5 January allowing the entry of over 2,500 Syrians in 1 day. This border crossing is not expected to be open permanently as the relations between the KR-I and PYD-controlled areas in Syria remain tense.

Jordan new arrivals:
A 50% increase in new arrivals from Syria was reported in Jordan due to intense military operations in Dar'a. Azraq refugee camp is announced to be opened on 30 April.

Influx of refugees to Turkey:
More than 20,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Turkey since the start of 2014 in the biggest influx since early 2013 spurred by the increased bombing of Aleppo City as well as infighting in northern Syria. Turkey opened its 22 camp in early January and the number of non-camp refugees has increased by 14%. New arrivals increasingly face challenges in finding adequate shelters.

Anbar violence and displacement towards KR-I:
Starting 21 December, clashes have erupted between ISIL and Iraqi forces in Anbar. Over 400,000 people have been displaced, 5,200 families entering KR-I, already overstrained with Syrian refugees.

Upcoming events:

Presidential elections in Egypt: The first round of Egypt's presidential elections will be held between May 26-27.Army chief El-Sisi, reviled by the Islamist opposition , announced his resignation and his candidacy in the national polls.

Presidential elections in Lebanon: Lebanon entered a 2-month constitutional period to elect a new head of state . The term of President expires on May 25. An electoral session should be scheduled by the Parliament to elect the country's new h ad of state.



Jordan PRS refoulement:

There has been a significant increase in the number of forced returns of PRS from Jordan in early 2014.

Egypt limited refugees:

Egypt has seen on limited new arrivals of Syrians since July 2013, with an average of 225 persons arriving a month, down from nearly 15,000 in June 2013. Because of the ongoing political turmoil and economic deterioration, Syrians have been increasingly facing difficulties in securing adequate livelihoods.

Lebanon refugee influx:
Since mid-February, more than 14,000 Syrian refugees fled Yabroud to Aarsal. In Aarsal, refugees increasingly face restriction of movement as well as a lack of access to shelter and services.

Insecurity on Turkish borders:
An explosion caused damage to Kilis IDP camp at Bab El Salame border post and killed 20.

Increase in security incidents in Lebanon: Shelling and aerial bombardment in Bekaa and north Lebanon have significantly increased. Hezbollah intervention in the battle of Qalamoun has triggered several retaliatory suicide bombings of the southern suburb of Beirut and Bekaa. Since early January, 8 suicide bombings hit Lebanon. Fighting related to the Syrian crisis conflict lines has also raged in Tripoli.

Upcoming events

Presidential elections in August in Turkey: Turkey will hold a presidential election on August 10. A second round will be held on August 24 if no candidate wins a simple majority in the first round. Parliamentary elections set for 2015.

Parliamentary elections in Iraq: On 25 March, Iraqi electoral commission collectively presented their resignation. If the resignation becomes effective, Iraq is left without the required institutional framework to carry out parliamentary polls scheduled for 30 April.

Lebanon



Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	996,276
Palestinian refugees from Syria	52,788
Syrian returnees	Unknown
Syrian migrants	Unknown
Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown

Sources : UNHCR 2014/04/03, UNRWA 2014/03/23

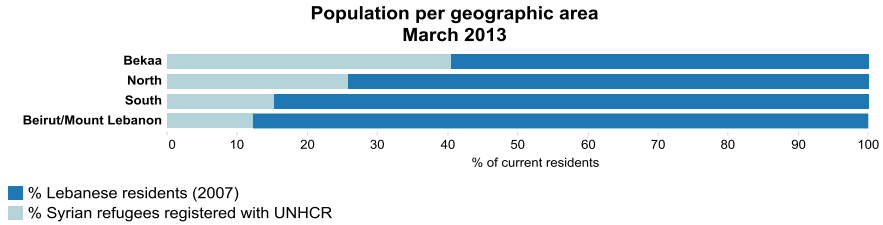
Key Developments Jan-April

- **Humanitarian needs**: Since the start of the year, assessments identified a deterioration of the humanitarian situation, with an outbreak of Hepatitis A, poor levels of malnutrition, particularly in the Bekaa and access constraints to mental health services. Significant child protection concerns have been reported; at least 296,000 children are not enrolled in school and the majority of new-born refugee children are without official birth certificate. Critical shortages of shelter and WASH services have been reported in Bekaa, particularly in and around Aarsal.
- **Aarsal**: Following the eruption of violence in the Qalamoun region of Syria on 9 February, over 15,000 Syrian refugees fled to Aarsal. Just before and after the Syrian Armed Forces (SAF) took control of Yabroud on 16 March, 500 families fled the area to Lebanon. The recent arrivals bring the total refugee population in Aarsal to more than 80,000, exceeding the number of resident Lebanese (estimated at 40,000). There are limited capacities to host the additional refugee population and the severe shortages of adequate shelter have forced Syrians to seek accommodation in informal settlements (IS), mosques and in open spaces. In addition to the over-stretched hosting capacities in the area, increasing concerns exist regarding the fragile security conditions in Aarsal. Approximately 11% of the new arrivals have settled in the outskirts of Aarsal, beyond the Lebanese Army checkpoint, along the border areas, where security is not provided by the Lebanese authorities.
- Freedom of movement for Syrians outside of Aarsal remains restricted, partly due to the restrictive checkpoint linking Aarsal to other areas of Lebanon. New arrivals to Aarsal enter Lebanon through unofficial border crossings and as a result are considered to be irregular residents in Lebanon. The regularisation process has unattainable costs. Without legal stay documentation, Syrians face difficulties crossing the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) checkpoints on the main road from Aarsal to other areas of Lebanon and their movements are largely restricted in Aarsal. Although legal stay documentation is not a pre-condition to receive humanitarian assistance, restricted freedom of movement due to the (perceived) inability to cross checkpoints hinders access to registration. A system of mobile registration appointments has been put in place to facilitate access to registration. Organisations have appealed to the Government of Lebanon (GoL) to continue to support the conditions of the refugees in Aarsal and their freedom of movement. (UNHCR 2014/02/27, IA 2014/03/04)
- **Birth registration**: Syrian refugees face difficulties in registering new-born children, mainly because they have expired residency permits they are unable to renew or have entered Lebanon through an irregular border crossing. A recent survey revealed that 76% (UNHCR registered) Syrian new-borns are without official birth certificates. Without birth certification individuals are stateless and face difficulties in accessing basic services and rights.
- **Operational constraints**: Since the end of 2013, Lebanon has seen an increase of security incidents. Rocket attacks and aerial bombardments significantly increased in March, particularly after the SAF took control of Yabroud and during recent SAF offenses in Homs, which resulted in shelling on the Wadi Khaled region. Tensions have been especially high in and around Aarsal after the SAF, with support of Hezbollah fighters, recaptured the border town of Yabroud on 16 March. The security situation has disrupted humanitarian operations, particularly in and around Tripoli, Aarsal and Wadi Khaled.
- There are concerns over the poor funding (at 14%) of the latest regional appeal, which requests USD 1.7 billion to address the crisis in 2014. Significant funding is required to relieve the pressure on the already weak public infrastructure. In some areas for instance, water shortages can only be addressed through infrastructure projects that require significant funding. Without sufficient funding, no durable solutions to the current crisis can be implemented.
- **Social unrest**: While Lebanese communities overall have remained calm following security incidents, March saw the first widespread demonstrations as a result of a spill-over of the violence into Lebanon. On 18 March, Lebanese demonstrators blocked several roads throughout the country in protest to a temporary blockade of the city of Aarsal by residents of nearby town Al-Labwa. This blockade followed rocket attacks on Al-Labwa which residents blamed on the presence of Syrian opposition fighters in Aarsal. Protests were reported in Beirut, Akkar and Bekaa. Following these protests, the Lebanese Armed Forced entered Aarsal in an attempt to reduce existing tensions. While clashes in Tripoli between supporters and opponents of the GoS are recurrent, clashes erupted in Beirut on 23 March for the first time since the crisis started.

Possible Developments

- **Water shortages:** Due to heavy rainfall during the winter of 2012/2013, water shortages have not been a problem in Lebanon until now. However, water shortages resulting from the poor winter rains coupled with the lack of capacity in the existing water systems and networks to meet the increased demand of a 20% population increase results in a considerable decrease in supply to many areas during the height of summer. As a result, there is over-exploitation of existing sources and unregulated development of new sources. In addition, tensions over water resources occur and agricultural production is impacted. The water shortages mostly affect those who cannot afford to purchase sufficient water and farmers who depend on rain and irrigation for cultivation.
- **Increase in tensions between refugees and host communities:** While the Lebanese community has overall been hospitable, there are significant sources of tensions, including competition over access to public services and livelihood opportunities. In addition, there is a perception among the Lebanese community that Syrians receive preferential access to services and assistance whilst also being the cause of the increases in crime and disease such as polio or measles. These tensions grow as humanitarian assistance becomes more targeted and competition for jobs and resources (health, water etc.) increases. Widespread tensions impact service delivery to Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities, and the attitude of certain municipalities vis-a-vis the Syrian refugee population deteriorates. In addition, freedom of movement for Syrians significantly reduces, with more restrictive checkpoints and a number of municipalities imposing curfews. Meanwhile, Syrian refugees without sufficient support are forced to adopt more negative coping mechanisms, further increasing tensions.
- **Increase in security incidents**: The SAF maintains control of areas in Syria along the border with Lebanon which served as staging grounds for attacks on Lebanon by armed groups. Meanwhile the Lebanese Army continues to largely secure the border on the Lebanese side. Nevertheless, as extremist groups strive to establish a stronger foothold in Lebanon and undermine Hezbollah and Syrian opposition fighters flee areas of Syria taken over by the SAF take refuge in Lebanon, the number of security incidents in north east Lebanon increases, restricting but not prohibiting humanitarian access.
- **Malnutrition:** With few adequate interventions, the nutrition situation amongst those living in sub-standard conditions with poor WASH facilities deteriorates. This particularly affects children under 5, increasing vulnerability to diseases and putting further pressure on the health care system.

Geographical analysis



- **Bekaa**: Bekaa is hosting the largest proportion of refugees (35% of the total registered Syrian refugee population in the country) and has the highest number of Syrians living in informal tented settlements (ITS), with 430 IS identified in the governorate, mostly in Central and West Bekaa. As a result of the expansion of ITS in Central and West Bekaa, many Syrians live without access to improved water sources and sanitation. Access to WASH has been identified as a major gap in the governorate. In addition, the prevalence of GAM is highest in Bekaa, according to a recent joint nutrition assessment, at 8.9% in Bekaa compared to 5.9% for all Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The district of Aarsal is one of the most affected areas, where, in addition to the seriously over-stretched hosting capacities in the area including shelter and WASH, increasing concerns exist regarding the fragile security conditions making its residents particularly vulnerable.
- **North Lebanon**: The North is one of the poorest areas in Lebanon with 40% of the population living below the poverty line according to a 2004 poverty study. Wadi Khaled, an area which traditionally has tight relationships with Syria, has seen increased insecurity as a result of the fighting on the Syrian side of the border. Freedom of movement for Syrians residing in Wadi Khaled is limited for those who crossed through the unofficial border crossing in the area who, due to a lack of appropriate documentation, face difficulties passing through the official checkpoints at Chadra and Akroum village. Restrictions at these checkpoints occasionally disrupted distribution and assistance. Recurrent rounds of violence in Tripoli have affected humanitarian access to the city and its surroundings.
- The situation in the **South and Beirut/Mount Lebanon** is generally considered less urgent than that elsewhere as the security situation is currently more stable and, at the start of the crisis, the majority of Syrians settled in other areas. However, the area is seeing the largest increase in refugee registrations. Only 14 IS have been established in Mount Lebanon/Beirut, an area which hosts over 250,000 Syrians. As a result, a significant proportion of vulnerable Syrians are forced to seek shelter in rented apartments resulting in high rent costs. In general, in more urbanised settings Syrians are more likely to rent apartments. (ITS mapping 2014/02, Global Communities 2014/01/02, ECHO 2014/02/13, IA 2014/03/04, OCHA 2014/03)

Operational constraints

- In specific parts of the country, insecurity continues to be a main challenge for the delivery of assistance to refugees. In February, the highway linking Tripoli with the district of Akkar was blocked due to fighting in Tripoli. While the blockage only lasted for less than a day it marks a significant escalation in the fighting in Tripoli which has, until now, primarily been confined to the same localized areas inside the city. In addition, humanitarian missions to Aarsal and Wadi Khaled have been disrupted due to sporadic security incidents. (WFP 2014/02/04, UNICEF 2014/02/20, WFP 2014/01/22, IA 2014/02/25)
- Access to distribution sites and services for the affected population is constrained by challenges in freedom of movement for undocumented refugees, especially in areas with high security presence, high costs of transport and a lack of information. (ACTED 2014/02/04, NRC 2013/12/13, UNHCR 2014/02/11)
- In addition to a shortage of available housing and increasing rental prices, GoL restrictions on the establishment of camps and local resistance to the rollout of T-shelters are significantly impacting shelter programming. (IA 2014/01/16, IA 2014/01/16, UNHCR 2014/01/17, StC 2013/01/28)
- In March, the newly formed Government of Lebanon (GoL) obtained a vote of confidence from the Parliament. Lebanon has been ruled by a caretaker Government for almost a year following the resignation of the GoL in March 2013. The establishment of a Government could facilitate the coordination and leadership of the on-going response. However, it could also lead to delays in approval of on-going and planned projects.

Data sources and limitations

- In February 2014, a Joint Nutrition Assessment for Syrian refugees in Lebanon was published. The assessment, conducted in October and November 2013, found that around 10,000 Syrian children <5 are suffering from acute malnutrition, including around 1,800 who require immediate treatment to survive. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM), among children 6-59 months of age, in all Syrians in Lebanon was 5.9%, with 8.9% for Syrian refugees in Bekaa and 6.7% in the North of Lebanon. This rate is defined as a poor public health situation as per WHO classification. (Joint Nutrition Assessment 2014/02)
- The results of a winterisation baseline assessment among 735 beneficiary households in November 2013 highlighted that the main expenditures for both households registered with UNHCR and those not registered are food and rent. At least 77% of households assessed were in debt and 30% of families had accumulated debts between $201 and $600. Buying on credit or borrowing money to pay for essential goods (food) was the most common coping strategy reported. (UNHCR 2014/02/28)
- A review of the coverage of the polio vaccination campaign in 2013 by the La Sagesse University, a study requested by WHO, was published and revealed that around 10% of Lebanese children, 12% of Syrian children and 11% of Palestinian children had not received a polio vaccination in 2013, either because they already received vaccination before 2013 or due to a lack of information. (WHO 2014/02/14)
- The health information system started the publication of records on morbidity and mortality per geographic area in Lebanon. Of the 166 Primary Healthcare Clinics (PHCs) & Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Centres supporting Syrian refugees, around 20% currently report into this system. (Inter Agency 2014/03/18)
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, in cooperation with TANA, published a mapping and meta-analysis of existing studies on costs, impacts and the protection situation in Lebanon. (MoFAD/TANA 2014/02/04)
- A December 2013 assessment on the capacity of mental health services by UNHCR found that Syrians face significant constraints in accessing mental health support. (UNHCR 2013/12)
- In January, NRC published an update on birth registration for refugees from Syria that highlighted several limitations to birth registration including a lack of legal status and a lack of required documentation.

Displaced

- **New arrivals:** According to data collected by DRC under the NewComers Programme, the number of individuals entering in January and February remained stable.
- Many of the newcomers in Lebanon have experienced multiple displacements inside Syria before crossing the border to Lebanon and are likely to be significantly more vulnerable than those crossing at the start of the crisis. (AFP 2014/03/17)
- The General Security Office reportedly started using a new record keeping system to keep better track of inflows and outflows of Lebanon. Through this system, data is centralised and collated in Beirut. At the time of publication of this report, no data was yet available. (UNHCR 2014/03/09)

Registered refugees

- By mid-March, UNHCR reported registering on average around 50,000 Syrians per month predicting over 1.5 million Syrians would be registered in the country by the end of 2014 if the influx continued at the same rate. This is in line with the projection made within the RRP 6 in December 2013. (UN 2014/03/18, UNHCR 2014/01/14)
- By the end of February 2014, the average waiting time for registration with UNHCR had decreased to 22 days, the lowest in over a year. As at 18 March around 50,000 people were awaiting registration.
- Until June 2013, refugee attestations were issued for a 1-year period, thus renewal of registration is necessary for the many refugees resident in Lebanon for over a year. 23,000 refugees underwent verification and had their documents renewed in January. (UNHCR 2014/01/09, IA 2014/01/16)

Unregistered refugees

- UNHCR registration data shows that 60% of Syrians are new arrivals (i.e. arrived within 4 months of their registration date). Syrians are estimated to wait an average of 2.5 months from their arrival before requesting an appointment for registration from UNHCR. (PWG 2014/01/29)
- There are no recent estimates of the number of Syrians residing in Lebanon without having registered with UNHCR. For planning purposes, it is estimated that only 80-90% of refugees register. However, the winterisation response, when both registered and unregistered refugees living in IS in the Bekaa were targeted, revealed a much higher proportion of unregistered Syrians. Hence, there is a need to establish a more accurate method of monitoring those unregistered that are of concern to the humanitarian community. (PI 2013/01/27)

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

- **Number**: As of March 2014, there were approximately 53,000 PRS in Lebanon recorded by UNRWA with the vast majority originating from the Damascus area. (ANERA 2013/03, UNRWA 2014/03, UNRWA 2014/02/10, Daily Star 2013/09/06, UNRWA 2014/03/09)
- **Entry and legal status**: While Lebanon has kept the most open border policy among Syria's neighbours, since mid-2013, Lebanese authorities have required undamaged documentation for those trying to cross the border from Syria. An unknown number of PRS has been denied entry since August 2013, although the GoL has stated that there are no official restrictions in place.
- **Legal status**: PRS entering Lebanon are legally entitled to a 7-day visa valid for 15 days and this visa has generally been renewed free-of-charge for a year. Afterwards, a visa renewal is required, at a fee of USD 200. UNRWA has received reports from PRS who have been unable to renew their visa in Lebanon, despite payment of the required USD 200 fee to the General Security Office (GSO). (PWG 2013/12/09, UNRWA 2013/12/16)
- PRS who fail to renew their visas, or have entered the country irregularly, face difficulties in accessing civil documentation processes and are at risk of detention. In addition, the lack of valid documentation can hamper their movements at checkpoints and entry and exit to some Palestinian camps which require valid residency permits to enter. (UNRWA 2012/12/19, RRP 2013/06)

Refugee needs and concerns

Protection

- **Legal status and access to civil status documentation**: Syrians who have entered the country through one of the official border crossings are provided with a 6-month residency coupon, renewable for 6 additional months free of charge. After 1 year residency must be renewed, either by leaving the country and entering again or by paying a fee of USD 200 for renewal of the permit. For many refugees this is unaffordable. As of 31 January, more than 165,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR had arrived in country more than 12 months ago and presumably would be required to pay fees to renew their residency coupon (or have left and re-entered). This number will increase to more than 800,000 by end of December 2014. In addition, an estimated 12 to 30% of the population crossed through irregular borders. As a result, the limited legal status is currently a major protection concern, affecting freedom of movement, access to services and justice. (DRC 2014/03, UNHCR 2014/03)
- The problem is particularly severe in areas in the proximity of unofficial crossings, where most Syrians will have crossed through irregular border crossings. The majority of refugees in Akkar monitored by IRC during protection monitoring visits in January reported problems with legal status (IA 2014/01, NRC 2014/01)
- The lack of legal status severely affects freedom of movement. A local source reported in January that the army no longer permitted recent arrivals from Syria to move outside of Aarsal if they had crossed illegally or without proper documentation. (Daily Star 2014/01/10)
- While deportations of Syrians have not been reported, there have been incidents of Syrians arrested for irregular entry or stay. During a raid on a collective shelter near Tripoli in January, 11 Syrians with limited legal status were arrested. All were released after temporary detention. (IA 2014/01)
- The lack of legal status affects birth registration. A survey of 2,872 newborns registered with UNHCR between 1 August and 31 October 2013 showed 76% Syrian newborns to be without official birth certificates. 41% of these newborns were unable to obtain official birth certificates as parents lack documentation required by civil registries. (UNHCR 2014/01, UNHCR 2013/02/11)
- In addition to limited legal status, additional barriers to birth registration include a lack of information for parents, a lack of awareness among Mukhtars, the head of a village or neighbourhood, on the importance of birth registration and their role in the process, and the complex process. In order to complete birth registration for babies born in Lebanon who are over one year old, a court process is required, in addition to having the relevant documents. There is no easily accessible process to register children who were born but not registered in Syria before coming to Lebanon and Lebanon has no legal obligation to register children that were not born on the Lebanese territory. (NRC 2014/01)
- Palestinian refugees from Syria also face difficulties in birth registration, and are having increasing difficulties obtaining legal stay documentation after 1 year in Lebanon. In addition, Palestinian refugees from Syria have, in many cases, not been permitted to use their family booklets as proof of parents' identity when trying to register a birth. (NRC 2014/01)
- There is a reported sense of distrust within the refugee community, which makes it challenging for individuals to rely on the community as a source for support or to make use of traditional mechanisms to resolve disputes. This is confirmed by earlier assessments in 2013 that found that natural leaders of the Syrian communities have not yet emerged, partly due to the fact that many Syrian families prefer to keep a low profile. (PI 2014/03/19, UNHCR 2013/12)
- **Evictions:** A part of the population continues to be at risk of eviction, either because of inability to pay rent or tensions with the landowner or community. 111 protection monitoring visits conducted by IRC to 52 different villages across Lebanon revealed a heightened risk of eviction for refugees in January as compared to December due to increased rents. (IA 2014/01)
- **Child protection:** A study among 140 children between 10-17 years of age found that the large majority of children have been exposed to violence in their new communities. In addition, begging was highlighted as negative coping mechanism, with many children observed begging on the streets. (World Vision 2014/03/11)
- **Persons with specific needs:** Assessments highlight the following challenges specific to the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community:
  - Due to the Lebanese Penal Code there is a risk of being sentenced for up to one year of detention if charged with having relations that are "contradicting the laws of nature".
  - Exposure to stigma and discriminatory attitudes aggravate existing barriers to access services.

Health

- **Morbidity**: At the end of February, the Health Working Group reported that Hepatitis A cases have been on the rise in the last couple of months, especially in the North and Bekaa. In February, an outbreak, of more than 20 cases, of Hepatitis A in the village of Kfeir in Nabatieh was confirmed. It is unclear whether the outbreak resulted from the quality of water available or the quantity provided by the water networks, or both. (HWG 2014/02/28)

- According to the health information system in Lebanon, the following were the main reason for Syrian refugees accessing primary health care centres in December 2013:

Main health conditions reported by primary health care facilities

Acute health conditions (%)		Chronic health conditions (%)	
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	23	Asthma	24
Lower Respiratory Tract Infection	9	Hypertension	20
Urinary tract infection	4	Diabetes	17

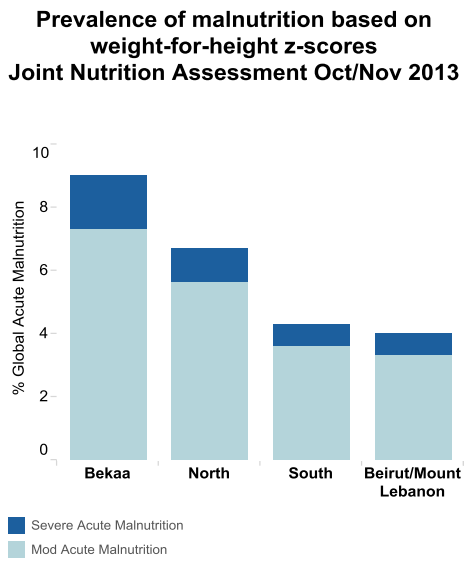
- **Vaccination coverage**: The Joint Nutrition Assessment, undertaken in October and November 2013, revealed a polio vaccination rate of 75%, ranging from 67% in the North to 84% in Beirut/Mount Lebanon. A successful campaign requires vaccination of over 95% of children ages 0-59 months.
- Subsequent to this assessment, 2 rounds of polio vaccination campaigns took place, following the identification of polio cases in Syria in October 2013. WHO reports that 97.5% of all children under 5 years of age residing in Lebanon irrespective of nationality were reached in the second round (December 2013) of the polio vaccination campaign. However, a study of vaccination rates among children showed that around 10% of Lebanese children, 12% of Syrian children and 11% of Palestinian children did not receive polio vaccination in 2013. The main reason for not receiving a polio vaccination in 2013 was that the child already was vaccinated in Syria and a lack of awareness on the campaign. A third vaccination campaign is planned for April 2014. (UN 2014/02/04, WHO 2014/02/14)
- **Access to health care**: A review of mental health services for Syrian refugees highlighted the following general access barriers to health centres :
  - Physical access to health care centres for those who live in remote locations.
  - Short working hours and availability of trained health personnel
  - Cost. UNHCR covers 75% of the hospital expenses for Syrian refugees, while the beneficiaries should cover 25%. A social assessment is conducted in case beneficiaries cannot pay 25%. Despite these contributions many refugees still find it difficult to cover the costs of medical treatment. In addition, medications and diagnostic tests are frequently overprescribed, increasing costs for refugees and UNHCR. Moreover, some providers require upfront payment of costs not covered by UNHCR.
  - A lack of information on available services.
  - Real or perceived fear of being mistreated. (UNHCR 2014/02/11)
- The assessment also indicated that UNHCR's existing network of 18 primary health care centres needs strengthening in order to offer comprehensive services and adequate follow-up of chronic conditions. (UNHCR 2014/02/11)
- Regarding mental health services, the UNHCR assessment indicated:
  - there to be a lack of clarity as to what is called psychosocial activities and on the general framework in which such activities are being conducted,
  - there to be a need to reinforce training and skills of staff. (UNHCR 2013/12)

Livelihoods and food security

- The WFP September 2013-January 2014 PDM highlighted that food consumption scores among WFP beneficiaries has remained stable. However, even among WFP beneficiaries who receive food support, food consumption-based coping strategies have deteriorated with an increase in the number of households resorting to buy lower quality food, limiting portion sizes and reducing the number of meals in a day. 72% households reported buying food on credit and close to 50% of households indicated that they were reducing other essential expenditure to cover their food needs. (UNHCR 2014/02/27, WFP 2014/03/07)
- The results of a winterisation baseline assessment among 735 beneficiary households in November 2013 highlighted that the main expenditures for both households registered with UNHCR and those not registered are food and rent. At least 77% of households assessed were in debt and 30% of families had accumulated debts between $201 and $600. Buying on credit or borrowing money to pay for essential goods (food) was the most common coping strategy reported. (UNHCR 2014/02/28)
- In March and April, the agriculture and construction season will start, which will provide some casual labour opportunities for Syrian refugees. (EMMA 2013/03)

Nutrition

- A Joint Nutrition Assessment in October/November found:
- The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM), among children 6-59 months of age was 5.9% for all Syrian refugees in Lebanon (defined as a poor public health situation as per WHO classification). The prevalence of GAM has increased from 4.4% in 2012, but the difference is not statistically significant. There were no significant differences between boys and girls in the prevalence of GAM.
- The situation was most severe in Bekaa (with GAM 8.9%) and in the North (6.7%). In addition, in Bekaa region, the findings of the assessment showed that the prevalence of oedema was very high (1.7%) and oedema was present in all identified cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).
- The overall total anaemia prevalence among children from 6 to 59 months was 21.0%, ranging from 14% in Bekaa to 26% in the North. According to WHO, rates between 20 to 39% are of moderate public health significance. Children between 6-23 months tended to be the most affected by anaemia.



- The findings indicate that malnutrition is linked to poor hygiene, unsafe drinking water, diseases, lack of immunisation, and improper feeding practices of young children Only 25% of children under 2 years of age were exclusively breastfed.
- Due to aggravating factors (the increase in food prices in winter, risk of food insecurity, increase in numbers and the new arrivals that could be in worse condition), the nutrition situation can change quickly and has the potential to deteriorate rapidly. As malnutrition treatment was uncommon in Lebanon prior to the crisis, some hospitals face difficulties in treating malnutrition. (Joint Nutrition Assessment 2014/02, UNICEF 2014/02/20)

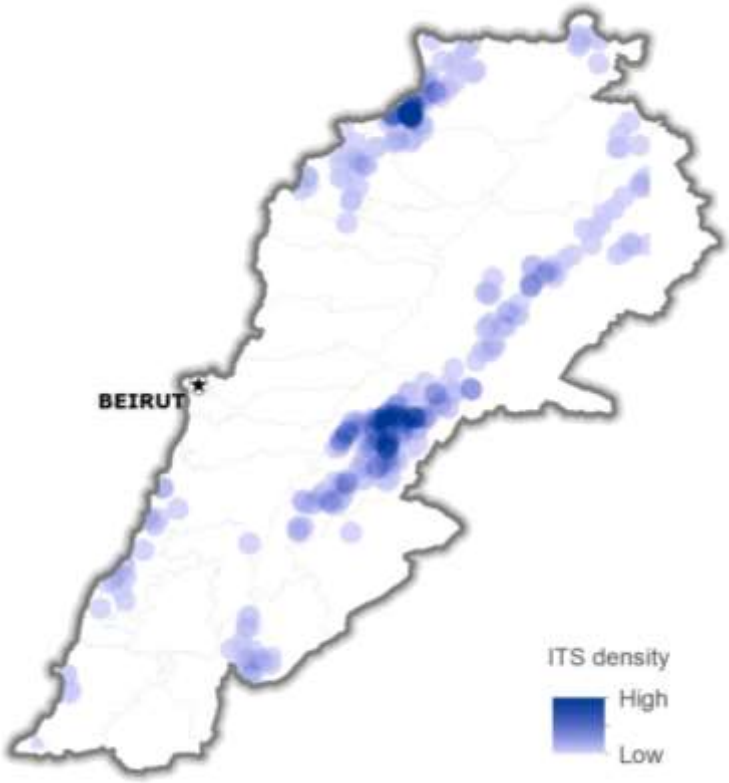
WASH

- The Joint Nutrition Assessment among 1,200 households indicates that only 50% of those assessed used an improved source as their main source of drinking water, ranging from 24% in Mount Lebanon to 71% in the North of Lebanon. Assessments in August and October 2013 in Mount Lebanon highlighted regular public electricity shortages and the limited resources/capacities of the municipalities as regards major issues related to water supply, which could explain the low proportion of those assessed during the Joint Nutrition Assessment using an improved water source in Mount Lebanon. (Joint Nutrition Assessment 2014/02, Global Communities 2013/10, CARE 2013/08)
- The Joint Nutrition assessment results show significant relationship between the prevalence of diarrhoea and the type of toilet used (improved or unimproved). The assessment found:
  - 78% of Households (HH) to use an improved excreta disposal facility;
  - 14% of the HH to use a shared family toilet;
  - 16% of the HH to use the communal toilet;
  - Only 4% of the HH with children under 3 years old, to dispose of faeces safely with 93% discarding into garbage. (Joint Nutrition Assessment 2014/02)
- One of the main WASH gaps identified is in the Bekaa, where the expansion of informal tented settlements in Central and West Bekaa left many Syrians without access to improved water sources and sanitation. (IA 2014/03/04)

Shelter

- The shelter situation remains extremely challenging. A UNHCR shelter survey showed that over 30% of the refugees live in substandard shelter, including 14% residing in informal tented settlements (ITS), unfinished houses and worksites, and congested collective shelters. By February, around 700 IS have been identified, up from 400 in mid-2013. The main concentration of IS is in the Bekaa, with 431 IS identified by February 2014. (RRP6 2014/12/17, PI 2014/03)

Location of Informal Tented Settlements – Inter Agency
7 February 2014



- Overcrowding is a significant issue, with many families forced to share accommodation with multiple other families. During the Joint Nutrition Assessment, 26% of assessed families were found to be sharing their accommodation, mostly with 2-3 other households. (Joint Nutrition Assessment 2014/02)
- In Aarsal, the shelter situation remains of particular concern due to the high number of refugees residing in a relatively small geographic area with limited basic infrastructure. Municipal authorities reported that local shelter capacities were exhausted with the reception of the first 300 families who arrived on 11-12 February. Although the majority of new arrivals had settled in existing settlements inside Aarsal or in private accommodation, many new arrivals were forced to spend the night in public halls, trucks and mosques as agencies struggled to identify appropriate shelter. Pending GoS approval of suitable sites for formal transit sites, a number of independent agencies had begun setting up their own informal settlements. Some of these settlements fall below minimum standards for security, safe site planning, sanitation and hygiene.
- Approximately 13% of all Syrian refugees recently arrived in Aarsal settled beyond the Lebanese Army checkpoint. Humanitarian agencies are particularly concerned about the reported presence of weapons in many IS and are working with local authorities on modalities to preserve the civilian character of these settlements. (IA 2014/03/04, UNHCR 2014/03/09, UNFPA 2014/03/06, UN 2014/02/04, UNHCR 2014/02/19, UNHCR 2014/02/27)

Education

- At the start of the year, the GoL issued a new schedule indicating that Syrian children will be accepted into the first shift as long as it is not necessary to open additional classes and that classes have no more than 50% Syrian students. Second shifts have started in 74 schools, allowing for the enrolment of over 26,000 additional Syrian pupils. (IA 2014/02/07, UNHCR 2014/02/24)
- In total, 121,000 children between the ages of 3-18 have been supported to enrol in formal schools. An additional 45,000 have been enrolled in non-formal education programs. Based on current registration data there are a total of 462,000 children in need of support to enrol in learning opportunities, including Syrian, Palestinian refugees and Lebanese returnees. (NRC 2014/03/14, IA 2014/01, UN 2014/02/04, UNHCR 2014/02/11)
- As a result, at least 296,000 children are not enrolled in school. The actual number of children out of school is likely to be higher as those not registered with UNHCR are not taken into account. Based on current projections, some 693,000 children (Syrians, Lebanese Returnees and PRS children) will be out of school by end 2014. (UN 2014/02/19)
- An education assessment found more than half the 92 pre-schools operating in the Palestinian camps to be in poor condition. Nearly 80% need renovation and refurbishment of classrooms or playground while over 85% of facilities lacked proper equipment for a child-friendly environment. (ANERA 2014/02/26)

Non-displaced populations

Lebanon hosts a number of registere refugees equal to 25% of the total projects that 1.5 million Lebanese wil the influx of Syrian refugees. This is primarily due to the pressure on basic public services and increased competition over jobs. However, there are also positive effects of the crisis with WFP reporting that, through its food security interventions, it injected over USD 16 million into the Lebanese economy during the first 5 weeks of 2014, benefitting shop owners and traders. (UNHCR 2014/03, IA 2014/02/07)

Most vulnerable localities – Inter Agency
30 January - 2014



Social cohesion

- While the Lebanese population has showed great solidarity towards the Syrian refugees, hosting almost 40% of the total number of Syrian refugees in the region, tensions have been reported. In February, community frustrations in and around an IS emerged, primarily over a perceived unfairness in the distribution of humanitarian aid. (UN 2014/02/04, UNHCR 2013/12, UNHCR 2014/02/11)
- Media reports have added to local and sectarian friction over the access to public services. There are reports that communities fear infectious disease outbreaks due to increasing numbers of refugees living in poor hygiene and sanitation conditions. This has contributed to increased prejudices and stigmatisation of refugees and built up frustration among the local community with local and central government.

Public services and livelihoods

- The presence of refugees has put pressure on existing infrastructure and resources including water. Municipalities highlight the lack of capacity to deal with the additional pressure on public services. (World Bank 2014/01/24, UNHCR 2014/02/11)
- The Syrian conflict continues to affect agriculture and food security in Lebanon, with Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TAD) and large livestock losses, as well as the lack of food and phytosanitary control at the Lebanon-Syria border continuing. Disruptions in trade since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict have led to a significant decrease in farm gate prices, while the costs of agricultural inputs and services continue to rise. (UNHCR 2013/12/30)

Insecurity

- Security incidents have been on the increase over the last 3 months, partly due to the presence of extremist groups linked to Al-Qaeda on Lebanese territory. In the last week of January, 2 groups with links to Al Qaeda; Jabhat al-Nusra in Lebanon and a group led by Abu Sayyaf al-Ansari, announced their presence in Lebanon. One of these groups, Jabhat al-Nusra in Lebanon, declared all strongholds of Hezbollah to be legitimate targets and claimed responsibility for a car bomb in the southern suburbs of Beirut and attacks on Hermel in February and March, killing at least 6. It is unclear if there is any relation between the group and Jabhat al-Nusra in Syria. (Daily Star 2014/01/27, Al Jazeera 2014/02/02, AFP 2014/03/07)
- Since the start of 2014, 3 rounds of violent clashes in the Jabal Mohsen and neighbouring Bab al-Tebbaneh districts of Tripoli between supporters and opponents of the GoS have killed at least 15 people. Fighting was triggered by the death of a political leader and events in Lebanon related to the conflict in Syria. At the start of January for instance, violence erupted in Tripoli following the launching of rockets and shells from the Syrian border into Bekaa, killing 7. (AFP 2014/02/20, AlertNet 2014/03/15, AFP 2014/03/16, AFP 2014/01/05, Daily Star 2014/01/06, AFP 2014/01/17)
- The border region in Bekaa continues to witness cross-border rocket attacks and car bombs by opposition groups allegedly in response to Hezbollah's presence in Syria. In addition, air strikes by the SAF have attacked border regions in Aarsal, reportedly to disrupt the movement of fighters and goods into Syria. Tensions increased following the taking over of Yabroud by the SAF, with some opposition fighters allegedly fleeing to Lebanon and increased rocket attacks by extremist groups in response to the role of Hezbollah during the offensive. (AFP 2014/03/04, AFP 2014/03/07, AFP 2014/03/11, Daily Star 2014/01/01)
- At the end of February, Israel bombarded an area on the Lebanon-Syria border, reportedly hitting a Hezbollah position in a remote village in the eastern Bekaa Valley. Over the past year, Israel has carried out several airstrikes inside Syria to halt suspected shipments of advanced missiles. Israel has never confirmed these airstrikes. (Al Jazeera 2014/02/25)

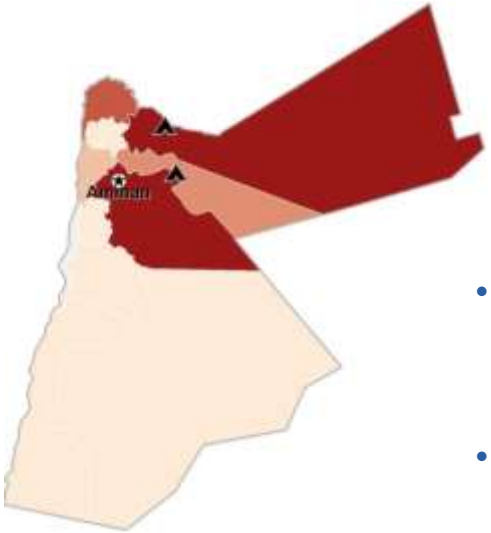
Jordan

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	588,979
% registered and awaiting registration in camps	0*
Palestinian refugees from Syria	13,520
Syrian returnees	90,000+
Syrian migrants	Unknown
Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown

* An undisclosed number of Syrians living in the southern governorates are awaiting UNHCR-organised transport to the registration centre in Amman.

Source: UNHCR 2014/04/03, UNRWA 2014/03



Key Developments Jan-April

- February and March saw a 40% increase in new arrivals from Syria compared to January as the escalation of military operations in southern Syria caused significant displacement. Despite there being an increase in refugees originating from Dar'a governorate compared to previous months, the vast majority of new arrivals continue to enter Jordan through the eastern border crossings, indicating there to be continued restrictions on the western border with Dar'a governorate. Despite the increase in new arrivals, the overall number of refugees in Jordan in early April is similar to figures reported in February due to UNHCR's re-verification exercise of registered refugees, which has led to the de-activation of about 20,000 cases in Za'atari camp.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of forced returns of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in early 2014. Reliable sources indicate that since 2013, over 100 PRS have been forcibly returned by the Government of Jordan (GoJ), including some who hold Jordanian nationality. While the denationalisation of Jordanians of Palestinian origins has been taking place over the past decade, in this case the Jordanian authorities are violating customary international law by forcing the returns of those who have credible fears of returning. The crackdown is believed to be linked to the recent US led diplomatic push for a political settlement between Israelis and Palestinians and ongoing domestic sensitivities in maintaining a demographic balance in favour of the East Banker population (those who resided in Jordan at the time of its independence) and their descendants.
- Following donor pressure and increased new arrivals, the GoJ announced that Azraq refugee camp, capacity 130,000 and originally scheduled to open mid-2013, will open on 30 April. However, the climate in Azraq, very windy and hot, is even more challenging than Za'atari and while the humanitarian community has incorporated many of the lessons from the establishment of Za'atari camp, it is expected that there will be some discontent among refugees. To provide protection from the harsh weather conditions, refugees will reside in transitional shelters, which are more durable than tents. The opening of Azraq also raises the concern that refugees residing in tented settlements could face increased pressure from GoJ authorities to move to Azraq if they are unable to find rented accommodation.
- The eviction of refugees residing in informal tented settlements (ITS) on Mafraq public lands following a December 2013 crackdown by Jordanian authorities was temporarily halted in early 2014. Some ITS residents have reportedly moved from Mafraq to the Badia region of Zarqa governorate in order to evade the authorities.
- Heavy rains in March brought a relief to Jordan's relatively dry winter and filled the Kingdom's 10 major dams to more than 50% capacity. In March 2013, the dams held 55% of their capacity, compared to just 35% in March 2012. While drought appears to have been averted this year, the nearly 10% increase in Jordan's population caused by the Syrian crisis has put major pressure on scarce water supplies. Since last summer, there has been an increase of 100,000 Syrian refugees and tensions between refugees and host communities will likely increase again between June and August, particularly in the northern governorates, where the vast majority of refugees reside. Efforts to increase the human resource capacity of municipalities to improve planning, delivery and infrastructure repair are essential, as well as targeting refugees and vulnerable Jordanians who do not have access to piped water networks.
- As the refugee response and general economic conditions in Jordan begin to stabilise, more development actors, such as UNDP, the World Bank and development donors, are supporting the GoJ's response. This is generally perceived as a welcome step forward as humanitarian agencies are not all well-equipped to address the underlying causes of vulnerability among affected host communities and/or the capacity gaps in the GoJ to respond to the long-term needs of the Syrian crisis. In March, the World Bank approved a USD 250 million loan and the Government of Japan provided a low-cost USD 118 million loan to support the GoJ's development strategy. Despite some progress, there is a continued lack of clarity between programming which falls under the National Resilience Plan (NRP), the GoJ plan to support host communities, and the Regional Response Plan 6 (RRP6), which also aims to support host communities in order to reduce local tensions.

Possible Developments

- The opening of Azraq also raises the concern that refugees residing in tented settlements could face increased pressure from GoJ authorities to move to Azraq. The crackdown is expected to re-start in the spring and expand to other governorates, such as ITS in Amman and Balqa governorates. New evictees are likely to be pressured into moving into Azraq camp once it is opened in April.
- Since last summer, there has been an increase of 100,000 Syrian refugees and tensions between refugees and host communities will likely increase again between June and August in light of decreased availability of water, competition over seasonal livelihood opportunities and access to aid, particularly in the northern governorates, where the vast majority of refugees reside.

Operational constraints

- The Ministry of Interior's Syrian Refugee Camp Directorate, which manages all affairs within the camps, will be transitioning its role to be involved in all Syrian refugee affairs, in both camps and host communities, and has been re-named the Syrian Refugee Assistance Directorate (SRAD). Within host communities, aid agencies have, to date, been working closely with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) and it remains unclear which agency will lead coordination efforts and oversight.
- In recent months there have been increasing demands from authorities in Mafraq for aid agencies to hire locals and to provide information on those hired. However, some aid agencies report that few locals apply for aid-related jobs and thus agencies inform the local authorities to encourage more applications from Mafraq residents via the appropriate channels. (NJCF 2014/03/12)

Data sources and limitations

- 12 assessments were published in the first quarter of 2014:
  - Mercy Corps published an assessment of the impact of the refugee influx on Jordan's water supply and infrastructure. (Mercy Corps 2013/03/11)
  - REACH and UNICEF published: 1) a child-focused assessment of Za'atari camp covering protection, education, health and nutrition and 2) district profiles on non-camp refugees' access to basic services. REACH also finalised a report on the key sources of tension between refugee and host communities in Ajloun, Balqa, Jerash, Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa governorates and an assessment of wastewater from households in Za'atari camp. (REACH 2014/02, REACH/FCO 2014/01, REACH/UNICEF 2014/03, FCO/REACH/UNHCR/UNICEF 2014/01)
  - The Women's Refugee Commission finalised a report on the humanitarian community's integration of gender into planning and programming. (WRC 2014/03)
  - UNHCR published: 1) an Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) assessment of Emirates Jordan camp 2) key findings of its home visit program of non-camp refugees, implemented by International Relief and Development and 3) an analysis of safety and security incidents in Za'atari camp in 2013. (UNHCR 2014/01/05, UNHCR 2014/03, IRD/UNHCR 2014/03)
  - The UN Country Team and MoPIC published a study of the impact of the Syrian crisis on Jordan. UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP published a secondary data review on the situation of Syrian refugees in Jordan. (MoPIC/UNCT 2013/11)
  - Premiere Urgence-Aide Medicale Internationale (PU-AMI) published a multi-sectoral assessment of refugees living in East Amman and sub-districts in Zarqa governorate. (PU-AMI 2014/01/21)
  - Oxfam published an assessment of the impact of its cash assistance intervention in January. (Oxfam 2014/01)
- Various assessments are ongoing:
  - REACH is finalising reports on: 1) a nationwide comprehensive food security monitoring exercise in partnership with WFP 2) mapping and assessment of refugees living in informal tented settlements with UNHCR 3) an assessment of the willingness and intentions regarding return to Syria among refugees in Za'atari camp 4) thematic assessments of youth, education and health in Za'atari camp 5) assessment of challenges in 160 host communities identified as the most vulnerable and 6) a multi-sector needs assessment of Za'atari camp.
  - ACTED, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture are conducting a food security and livelihoods assessment of Jordanians affected by the Syrian refugee influx.
  - Handicap International is finalising an assessment of refugees with disabilities and specific needs in Amman, Irbid and Za'atari camp (as well as in Lebanon), which will be published in early April.
  - UNHCR is expected to finalise its overall AGDM assessment in April.
  - UNRWA is finalising a needs assessment report on Palestinian refugees from Syria in Jordan.
  - FAO, UNICEF and WFP have started their annual assessment of the nutrition status among refugees.
  - JEN is conducting a nationwide assessment of WASH conditions in schools.

- The Education Working Group is planning to undertake an inter-agency assessment of education needs in camp and host communities.
- The Ministry of Health (MoH), with the support of WHO, began publishing weekly epidemiological reports to track communicable diseases across Jordan, although it is too early to detect any overall trends and/or those caused by the Syrian refugee influx. (MoH/WHO 2014/02)
- There is no systematic data collection on the reasons for refugees returning to Syria. The GoJ has allowed UNHCR to regularly monitor and counsel refugees who would like to return but the information is not collected systematically or analysed.

Displaced

- New arrivals: The rate of daily arrivals increased in February and March compared to January. In February, an average of 370 refugees arrived each day, increasing to 393 in early March, representing a 40% increase compared to the average daily in January. (WFP 2014/03/24, UNICEF 2014/03/22)

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

- **Number:** Around 12,000 PRS are recorded in Jordan by UNRWA, with an average of 560 recorded each month since April 2013. (UNRWA 2014/03/23)
- 190 PRS and their family members are being held in the Cyber City transit facility and are not permitted to enter the camps or urban areas of Jordan. (UNRWA 2013/01/14)
- Since May 2012, hundreds of PRS have been subject to refoulement by Jordanian authorities. Since a 2012 GoJ announcement that PRS would not be allowed to enter Jordan, the number of PRS in Jordan recorded by UNRWA remains low. Many PRS in Jordan are believed to be living in hiding due to fears of arrest and refoulement. Generally, PRS do not come forward for assistance until several months after their arrival, when they have exhausted their resources and coping mechanisms. There are no estimates of PRS who have not been recorded by UNRWA.

Unregistered refugees

- There is no information available on the number and locations of unregistered refugees. In January 2014, the GoJ has stated that there are 1,330,000 Syrians in Jordan, 13,000 above its estimate in September 2013 of 1.2 million. The GoJ estimate in July 2013 was 600,000. The difference between the GoJ estimate of 1.33 million and the number of those registered with UNHCR gives an estimate of the number of unregistered refugees, standing at approximately 741,000. (UNHCR 2013/09/02, AFP 2013/09/12, Addustor 2014/01/07)

Syrian returnees

- The GoJ estimates that over 90,000 refugees, including 115 PRS, returned voluntarily to Syria in 2013, although UNHCR reported that the number of returns in 2014 has decreased. The reasons for return include: difficulties surviving in Jordan (in both camp and urban settings), the lack of livelihood opportunities and temporary returns to collect salaries/pensions, attending funerals and unifying with family members. An estimated 15% of new arrivals were previously registered in Jordan, confirming that a significant number of those returning to Syria are re-circulating to Jordan. (UNHCR 2013/12/16, UNHCR 2014/01/16)
- According to an Oxfam survey of 150 refugee households regarding their intentions to return to Syria, the vast majority wanted to return but one third said they could not clearly see themselves returning home. (Oxfam 2014/03/12)

Refugee needs and concerns

Protection

- Non-camp: There has been a significant increase in the number of forced returns of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS), including women, children and elderly people in early 2014. Reliable sources indicate that since 2013, over 100 PRS have been forcibly returned by the GoJ authorities, with over one-third occurring in 2014. The crackdown is believed to be linked to the recent US led diplomatic push for a political settlement between Israelis and Palestinians. (PI 2014/03)
- There were increased reports of arrests and detention of those working without legal authorisation. While some foreign migrant workers have been deported to their country of origin, Syrian refugees have reportedly been returned to Za'atari camp, where it has become more difficult for people to leave due to increased scrutiny of the bailout process. This is likely to increase the vulnerability of families in urban areas as they lose a breadwinner and become separated for extended periods of time. In November, the Ministry of Labour reported that 5,700 Syrians were arrested in Jordan for working without legal authorisation. (PI 2014/01/23, UNHCR 2014/01/16, Al-Iqtisadi 2013/12/28)
- Non-Syrian refugees and asylum seekers: Since December 2013, there continues to be high numbers of Iraqi asylum seekers approaching UNHCR for protection. While some asylum seekers are fleeing the conflict in Anbar, the majority or 58% of those registered in 2014 originate from Baghdad. In 2014, 2,700 Iraqis were registered with UNHCR, compared to a total of 5,100 throughout 2013. Iraqis must undergo the refugee status determination (RSD) conducted by UNHCR and the increase in Iraqi arrivals is overstretching UNHCR's capacity for non-Syrian refugees. Although the number of Sudanese refugees is relatively low, numbering around 700, there has been a notable increase in Sudanese asylum seekers approaching UNHCR for protection. (Reuters 2014/01/16, UNHCR 2014/01/16, UNHCR 2014/03, UNHCR 2014/03/26)
- In recent months, the GoJ have increased their scrutiny over the 'bail-out' process in Za'atari that allows refugees to leave the camp with a Jordanian sponsor. While these efforts will likely reduce corruption and bribes paid by refugees, it will be more difficult for refugees to leave the camp. This is a particular concern for those who face protection issues within the camp and those who left the camp unofficially and want to legally register in host communities. (UNHCR 2014/01/14)

- Camps: The re-verification process of refugees registered in Za'atari has revealed that about 35% of refugees' documents have been misplaced by GoJ authorities. Until the end of 2013, the identity documents of all new arrivals crossing the border from Syria were confiscated by GoJ authorities, which claimed to do so for security reasons. (PI 2014/03/31)
- Residents of Emirates Jordan Camp (EJC), including unaccompanied women and girls, reportedly feel very safe within the camp including in accessing WASH facilities at night, due to a high level of security and surveillance. Despite the positive security situation, female youths reported a lack of privacy and limited freedom of movement, particularly in the evenings. Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10 and 12 of Za'atari camp, were perceived, in September 2013, to be safe by 75% of their respective residents while districts 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11 were perceived by the majority (75%) of their respective residents to be unsafe. The reasons for perceived lack of safety include: lack of adequate lighting, particularly around WASH facilities and access roads; lack of privacy for women and girls; the close proximity of male and female communal toilets; and overcrowding of water, NFI and food distribution points. (UNHCR 2014/01/05, Inter-agency safety audit 2014/01)
- Males and females of all ages in EJC viewed the lack of work and/or productive activities, as well as idleness among men as a potential cause of domestic violence. The perceived causes of domestic violence included:
  - jealousy caused by women speaking to men from other zones of the camp
  - psycho-social trauma coupled with lack of productive activities in the camp
  - increased strictness among some parents in disciplining their children, and
  - economic hardships which force families to marry of their daughters.
- Girls and women generally were aware of which aid organisation they would turn to in the camp in the camp if faced with domestic violence, however, girls who did not attend school and women originating from Dar'a had significantly lower levels of awareness. Refugee women also complained that access to UNHCR protection officers was bureaucratic and slow as the camp management had to approve requests. Early marriage appears to occur on visits to Za'atari or urban areas, despite the strict regulations within the camp. (UNHCR 2014/01/05)

Health

- Non-camp: The MoH/WHO epidemiological bulletins began being published in 2014 to track communicable diseases in non-camp areas. While it is too early to detect major trends or make comparisons to the health situation in camps, according to the most recently published MoH/WHO epidemiological bulletin in late February there are no major outbreaks. In addition:
- In 2014, there were 6 cases of acute flaccid paralysis, although none have been confirmed as polio. The third round of the vaccination campaign in Jordan began in early March 2014 targeting 950,000 children. Jordan has been polio free since 1992. Among those who had refused vaccinations, 50% reported a current illness and 40% lacked awareness of vaccines. (WHO, 2014/03/02, MoH/WHO 2014/02)
- There was one new case of measles of an unvaccinated 9 month old reported in late February in Zarqa governorate, bringing the total number of measles cases in Jordan in 2014 to 9.
- There were 22 cases of Hepatitis A reported in 9 governorates, with Mafraq reporting the highest number, with 6 cases.
- In 2014, there were 20 cases of leishmaniasis reported in Jordan, compared to 30 cases in all of 2013. Most of the cases from 2013 were reported from the Jordan Valley and Kerak. (MoH/WHO 2014/02)
- Camp: There were 3 cases of confirmed measles identified among newly arrived children from Syria in late March. (UNHCR 2014/03/30)
- Heads of households in Za'atari camp reported that nearly 10,000 or 24% of children in the camp have not received measles or polio vaccinations. Since there is a strict vaccination policy upon entry to the camp, it is believed that many parents reported information incorrectly due to confusion and the lack of vaccination documents. According to IOM, some new arrivals were refusing vaccinations saying that they had already been vaccinated multiple times. (REACH/UNICEF 2014/03, IOM 2014/03/06)
- A significantly higher rate of illness burden of 1.5:1 among newly arrived males compared to females was reported, although it was not clear what types of illnesses new arrivals typically displayed. (IOM 2014/03/06)

Reproductive health

- Non-camp: There is a significant gap in the availability of reproductive health services as health facilities are overwhelmed in non-camp settings. Reproductive health services were primarily accessed for delivery purposes with antenatal visits rare among Syrian refugees. (UNHCR 2014/01/27)
- Camp: While health services were generally easily accessible in EJC, women requested a female gynaecologist to be available so that they could discuss issues without hesitation, including family planning. (UNHCR 2014/01/05)

Access to health services

- UNHCR's AGDM assessment of EJC found that while primary healthcare was generally accessible:

- Referrals outside of EJC were bureaucratically challenging and refugees faced difficulties seeking healthcare outside the camp due to the GoJ bailout process.
- Refugees requested additional attention and assistance for mental health issues, given the widespread trauma among the community.
- There was also a lack of adequate assistance for people with disabilities, including targeted activities and physiotherapy. (UNHCR 2014/01/05)
- Initial findings of IMC's assessment of health issues and obstacles facing refugees in non-camp settings include:

- There is lack of specialised services, medicine and equipment for people with disabilities.
- Those with chronic diseases lacked consistent access to medicines and proper monitoring and management of their conditions. (UNHCR 2014/01/27)

Nutrition

- An estimated 55% of children between under 2 years of age are breastfed in Za'atari camp. There is no clear explanation for the relatively low level of breastfeeding (compared to international standards) but it is believed that psycho-social stress and lack of awareness of the health benefits are likely contributing factors. (REACH/UNICEF 2014/03)

Livelihoods and food security

- Camp: There are unofficial estimates of USD 2 million in retail activity within Za'atari camp occurring each month. This does not include illicit economic activities, including the sale of aid commodities, which was estimated by REACH in August 2013 to comprise 27% of income generating activities among refugees. (UNHCR 2014/03)
- In EJC, permitted livelihood opportunities are perceived as inadequate, not paying enough. Adult males in particular desire the opening of a market area to allow livelihood activities among refugees, as well as provide goods which are not available in the camp and which are difficult to access. (UNHCR 2014/01/05)
- Non-camp: According to an assessment of refugees residing in ITS, about 97% are registered with UNHCR and receiving WFP food vouchers. (NJCF 2014/02/26)
- Initial findings from a comprehensive food security monitoring exercise found that nearly 70% of refugees rely on food vouchers and over 50% relied on borrowing money in the week prior to the survey, a common practice among Syrians even before the crisis. (FSS WG 2014/02/26)
- The GoJ is reportedly allowing Syrian companies which invest at least JD 1 million (USD 1.41 million) to hire a certain number of skilled Syrian workers, in addition to Jordanian workers. While this is unlikely to impact the ability of Syrian refugees to cope, it is a first step in allowing exceptions to Jordan's regulations regarding work permits. (PI 2014/01)
- The average national prices recorded between January and November 2013 were 18.8% higher than the same period in 2012. However, between October and November 2013, average prices for basic items decreased by 25%. This decrease is likely linked to the dissipation of the effects related to the removal of various public subsidies in recent years. (DoS 2014/01/09)

WASH

- An assessment of households in Za'atari camp found that while households in some districts are connected to informal disposal systems, the unregulated wastewater disposal poses a public health and environmental risks. (REACH 2014/02)

Shelter

- 15 families were evacuated from their tents in Za'atari camp due to heavy rains and localised flooding. Heavy rainfall in March likely affected a number of refugees living in informal settlements as well, however, there was little information available on their situation. (Jordan Times 2014/03/11)
- Suppliers of gas cylinders in both camp and urban settings reported major shortages, which led to suppliers failing to honour agreements with humanitarian agencies. NGOs reported a shortage of about 50,000 gas cylinders for refugees in urban areas while many heaters distributed in Za'atari camp have appeared for sale due to the lack of fuel. Aid agencies are switching to cash or voucher distribution for alternative fuel heating options. (UNHCR 2014/01/07, UNHCR 2014/01/06)

Education

- About 75% of all Syria refugee children in both camp and non-camp areas are enrolled in formal schools, however, the enrolment rate is lower among children in non-camp settings. About 30% of children are not currently eligible to attend formal schooling due to missed education. (UNICEF 2014/03/20)
- About 85% of Palestinian refugee children recorded by UNRWA are attending either UNRWA or public schools. This is a significantly higher rate than Syrian refugee children. (UNRWA 2014/03)
- An estimated 60% of school age children and 56% of school age children with a disability are attending school full time. Children with disabilities living in

Districts 4, 8 and 12 of Za'atari camp have below average rates of school attendance, ranging from 33% to 44%. The lower attendance level in these districts is reportedly due to cultural or socio-economic reason. 5% of children in the camp have missed 3 years of education and are therefore not eligible to enrol in formal education. (REACH/UNICEF 2014/03)

- UNHCR's AGDM assessment of EJC found that:
  - Refugees across all gender and age groups reported that children are attending schools and that they are safe spaces for children. Girls reported that there was some verbal harassment when the school shifts transitioned from boys to girls and that this was one reason why some girls were not allowed to attend school. Some refugees reported that the Jordanian teachers lacked understanding of the psycho-social traumas experienced by students, which in some cases led to dropouts.
  - The reasons for not attending school included: 1) the perceived bureaucracy and lack of documentation 2) the lack of access to education in Syria during the conflict and 3) differences in the Jordanian and Syrian curricula and lack of clarity on whether the certificates will be recognised in Syria. (UNHCR 2014/01/05)

Host communities

- The REACH assessment of the key sources of tensions between refugee and host communities found that access to health and education services was not the main cause of tension. However, increased prices of goods, rent and the increase in the number of youths (both Jordanian and Syrian) in the streets, have led to high tensions and a widespread sense of insecurity among both refugee and host communities. In addition, it was reported that:
  - The main negative consequences perceived among all respondents were 1) increased tension and 2) overall price increases.
  - 62% of both Jordanian and Syrian respondents perceived that international assistance was not targeting those most in need. Only 24% believed that aid was being appropriately targeted while the remainder did not know or did answer the question.
  - 75% of Syrians and 69% of Jordanians believed that international assistance was helping the communities.
- A Mercy Corps report on the impact of the Syrian refugee influx on Jordan's water supply found that while the crisis has placed a significant stress on scarce resources, many of the problems, particularly the significant leakages, lack of maintenance and personnel and lack of enforcement, are systemic and existed before 2011. The report also found that:
  - The recently opened Disi aquifer project was supposed to cover the country's needs until 2022, however this projection has now been revised down to 2016 by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MoWI) due to the increased pressure placed by the Syrian refugee influx.
  - Water shortages are particularly acute in Mafraq governorate. While local authorities have rented private wells to provide less than 70 litres per person per day (l/p/d) for host and refugee communities, the minimum water required in non-camp settings is 80 l/p/d but some severely affected communities only receive 30 l/p/d.
  - The MoWI is currently USD 1.3 billion in debt and is projected to overspend its 2014 budget by USD 310 million. (Mercy Corps 2014/03/11)
- The GoJ published a draft 3 year National Resilience Plan which calls for USD 2.4 billion to assist the government with the provision of basic services for Syrian refugees. The plan includes USD 751 million for WASH assistance, USD 484 million for the health sector and USD 395 million for education between 2014-2016. (HCSP 2014/01)
- GoJ statistics show that unemployment rates in the 4th quarter of 2013 reached a 4-year low of 11%. Among males, the unemployment rate is 9.5% and 18.7 among females. This is a 3 point decrease from the previous quarter, making for an average unemployment rate of 12.6% in 2013. This compares to an average unemployment rate of 12.2% in 2012 and 12.9% in 2011. (DoS 2014/01/16

Turkey



Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	667,556
% registered and awaiting registration in camps	35%
Palestinian refugees from Syria	Unknown
Syrian returnees	Unknown
Syrian migrants	Unknown
Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown

Source: UNHCR 2014/04/03, UNRWA 2014/03/23

Key Developments – January to March

- As of 2 April 667,556 registered Syrian refugees were registered in Turkey or awaiting registration compared to 578,000 at the beginning of January, an increase of around 90,000 (15%) a large part of who were already residing in Turkey in 2013. The Turkish authorities estimate some 800,000 Syrian refugees to be residing in Turkey implying around 133,000 are unregistered. (UNHCR 2014/03/17)
- As of 2 April some 224,373 refugees (34% of all registered Syrians) were registered and assisted in 22 camps located in 10 provinces. During the first 2 months of 2014, the number of Syrians in camps increased by 6%, while the registered non-camp Syrians in 10 provinces increased by 27%. (UNHCR 2014/03/06 2014/03/07, UNHCR 2014/03/20; UNHCR 2014/03/31)
- At least 20,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Turkey since the start of 2014, the biggest influx since early 2013. Daily arrival rates across official crossing points range between 500 and 2,000. Official border crossings however have been closed frequently since the beginning of the year and thus a large number of refugees who have crossed into Turkey are possibly crossing irregularly. (UNHCR 2014/03/20) This new influx appears to be spurred in part by the upsurge in fighting reported across the border in northern Syria, particularly in and around Aleppo, and the conflict among opposition groups. About one-third of the recent influx, some 7,000 people, is accommodated in camps. Turkey opened its 22nd camp in early January and the authorities are considering opening further new camps to help cope with the new influx. (UNHCR 2014/02/11)
- On 20 March over 600 Kurdish residents of Tal Akhdar, Tal Fandar villages and the town of Tal Abyad in Ar-Raqqa entered Turkey through Akcakale border crossing after ISIL issued a warning against residents to leave their villages. A smaller number of residents fled to Ain-al-Arab town in Syria. ISIL was reported to also have detained dozens of Kurds in the area, releasing them with a warning to leave their villages in the Northern Province, where the jihadist group has a strong presence. (AFP 2014/03/20)
- Spontaneous arrivals to the camps are reported to be a major challenge for camp management. The admissions of spontaneous new arrivals are based on the availability of the space in the camp while priority is given to those who have immediate family members already registered in the camps. (UNHCR 2014/02/20)

Possible Developments

- **Continued refugee influx:** Continued fighting for control of Aleppo City and between ISIL and opposition groups in the eastern parts such as Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh continues to cause displacement. Many seek refuge in Turkey further straining the capacity of Turkish authorities to accommodate new arrivals. With a lack of capacity in the government camps, refugees face increased challenges in finding adequate shelter and access to basic services and the number of non-camp refugees settling in informal settlements and urban areas increases significantly. In addition, some refugees choose to leave camps either in search of better livelihood opportunities or fleeing insecurity in areas where camps are situated close to the border. Crackdowns by the Turkish authorities on informal settlements occur.
- **Social unrest:** The second phase of the electoral campaign leading to the presidential elections in August is coupled with increased protests and social unrest between the supporters of the main competing parties. With involvement of Turkey in the Syrian crisis being a controversial issue in domestic political discourse and Syrian refugees straining local capacities, these campaigns stir up resentment between the host and refugee communities. Localised clashes occur but there is no change in political policy towards hosting Syrian refugees.

Displaced

Registered refugees

- Additional Syrian refugees were reported to be awaiting registration in urban areas in Turkey; many of them are believed to be in vulnerable condition and in need of urgent assistance. (UNHCR 2014/02/11)
- The registration of non-camp Syrians is ongoing in various provinces;
  - In Hatay Yayladagi, local officials report the registration of non-camp Syrians. Syrians living outside camps, in Yayladagi town and its villages, are transported to the registration site and as of 19 Feb, 834 families (over 3,000 persons) had reportedly been registered.
  - In Nizip the local officials have increased their registration capacity and are registering about 80 persons per day but with about 2,500 people who already have appointments, there is now a waiting time of around a month. More than 19,000 have already been registered in Nizip town. (UNHCR 2014/03/20)
  - In Siverek town of Sanliurfa province, police and AFAD had registered 2,935 Syrians (704 families) as of 14 March. Officials estimate that there are around 5,000 Syrians living in town in total, the majority of whom are of Kurdish origin while there are also Arabs and due to the recent further deterioration of the security situation in Aleppo and some Turkomans. Sanlıurfa province hosts the second highest number (more than 163,000) of Syrian refugees, the majority of whom reside outside the camps. (UNHCR 2014/02/23, UNHCR 2014/03/20)
- Despite the increased influx of refugees and number of registrations, authorities in Mardin continue to process the voluntary return of non-camp Syrians through Senyurt border crossing point in Kiziltepe. Between 1-21 March, 7,000 Syrians voluntarily returned from Senyurt Kiziltepe to Derbasiyeh, (Ras-al-Ain district in Al-Hasakeh Governorate). In Derbasiyeh the situation is relatively stable. People who crossed into Turkey since the beginning of the year mainly fled the battles in southern Qamishli district between PYD and ISIL, and could not go to Northern Iraq. Turkish authorities permit the use of the Derbasiyeh border crossing for Syrians returning to Syria. At the same time, no Syrians are permitted to cross into Turkey through this crossing. It was reported in January that the Turkish Armed Forces killed 7 people trying to cross the border irregularly. (UNHCR 2014/03/20, UNHCR 2014/03/31)

Unregistered Refugees

- Unofficial figures point to nearly one million Syrian refugees in Turkey. As Syrian refugees are moving away from the southern border areas, an increasing number of Syrians are visible in the bigger cities of Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya and Mersin according to a recent assessment. There is also evidence of high mobility among Syrians within the country, thus making it a great challenge to identify exact numbers. One possible reason for the high mobility rate is that refugees are constantly looking for employment and cheaper accommodation options. (STL 2014/01/31)

Refugee needs and concerns

- Shelter: New arrivals face challenges in finding adequate shelter. One in four Syrians living outside the camps lives in makeshift accommodation or inadequate shelter such as unfinished buildings, often huddled together in groups of seven or more, according to AFAD. (Reuters 2014/03/26)
- Some 546 Syrians who were transferred from a mosque in Nizip town last week are still accommodated in temporary rub hall tents. Nizip camp officials stated they will do a pre-registration of this group so they can have access to medical assistance when needed. Local authorities in Siverek town also informed UNHCR that some of the recent arrivals (Turkomans from Aleppo) are living under difficult conditions lacking adequate shelter, residing in basements of houses, in shops, etc. Food and non-food items such as coal for heating are being provided to some families by local charities. (UNHCR 2014/03/20, Reuters 2014/03/26)
- In Sanlıurfa province an assessment of urban refugees found that 55% of the 1,812 surveyed families live under poor circumstances, lacking basic items. 17% of the families were identified as requiring immediate assistance. They are in need of the very basic goods like food and hygiene products but also winterisation items such as blankets, heaters and mattresses. (STL 2014/01/31)
- Education: The rate of Syrian children not residing in camps attending an educational programme in Turkey is very low. In Şanlıurfa, only 29% of the assessed urban families were reported to be sending at least one child to an education facility. Even then, there is no evidence that attendance in an education programme is consistent among Syrian children, while there is concern over the quality of the education provided. Many families complain about having no access to education above grade 4. Children in 71% of Syrian households assessed do not have access to education. 48% of out-of school children have not been attending any education programme for the past 2 years. The makeshift Syrian schools that have been set-up lack capacity with overcrowded classrooms. A small number of Syrian refugees have access to higher education as guest students, although this status does not allow the attainment of a degree. Refugee children who will graduate from schools recognised by the Ministry of National Education of Turkey will have the possibility to enter Turkish universities. (STL 2014/01/31, STL 2014/02/20)

- Protection: Protection concerns are heightened in camps close to the border crossings due to the volatile security situation. In February, an explosion believed to have been caused by a car bomb caused damage to Kilis camp at Bab El Salame border post on the frontier with Turkey, killing 20 and wounding over 40 people. The bomb exploded on the main road in front of the camp and affected a 500 meter radius. This road is frequently used by civilians, busses and trucks. However the border crossing remained open after the incident. (Reuters 2014/02/20, AraNews 2014/20/21)
- Insecurity continued in March with intensified armed clashes across the border of Elbeyli camp in the Cobanbey area. According to UNHCR however the fighting had not resulted in an influx of refugees as of 31 March. In addition, despite the continued fighting across the border of Hatay province, no influx into Turkey had been reported. According to unofficial sources, due to security reasons and the proximity of the fighting to the border, it has not been safe for people approach the border. (UNHCR 2014/03/31)
- In addition, an assessment in Sanlıurfa province reported the relatively large family sizes suggesting a young refugee population with many children. Almost half (46%) of the population were under 17 representing a serious challenge in terms of education continuity, as well as a risk for child labour, which is also common among the lowest income families in this part of Turkey. This is especially the case in Viranşehir district where a large part of the population is involved in seasonal agricultural work. Syrian children as young as 10 were observed to undertake paid seasonal agricultural work. The fact that children get paid the same daily rate as adults is an incentive for children to engage in the labour force. (STL 2014/02/20)
- An assessment found that the main source of stress for caregivers was limited access to basic needs such as food, health care, water, electricity and livelihood opportunities. (STL 2014/02/20)
- Health: The GoT has allowed registered Syrian refugees to access the health system, however, access to health services remains a challenge due to the lack of information and the language barrier. Public health services in border provinces face serious difficulties in responding to the increased demand. The consequent decrease in the quality of health services is causing serious resentments within the host communities. (PI 2014/03, (STL 2014/02/20)
- Data limitations: Information on the needs of both Syrian refugees in camps and non-camp settings, as well as unregistered urban refugees, remains very limited. The main sources of information to date are the UNHCR bulletins. Only AFAD is authorised to collect data on the Syrian refugees. To date there is only one STL report available on the humanitarian needs of refugees in one province. AFAD conducted a profiling survey on the Syrian population in Turkey, with the support of UNHCR. The findings were published in late 2013.

Political Developments

- Turkey has introduced a series of major regulatory law reforms since the beginning of 2014, further consolidating the power of the ruling AK Party and the executive branch in anticipation of the local elections scheduled for 30 March.
- Recent reforms by the ruling AK Party, including the tightening of its control over the Internet, judiciary, courts and prosecutors and restriction of social media, have ignited further anti-government protests across the country. In February and March the police used tear gas to disperse anti-government protests in Istanbul and the capital Ankara. Such demonstrations have also become frequent occurrences in city centres. (Reuters 2014/02/18, Reuters 2014/03/21, Reuters 2014/03/21, AlertNet 2014/02/06)
- Meanwhile the GoT has reassigned or dismissed thousands of police officers and hundreds of judges and prosecutors since the graft scandal erupted in December 2013. The secularist CHP has said it will contest the plans in Turkey's Constitutional Court. (Reuters 2014/02/15, Al-Jazzera 2014/02/27)
- On 31 March Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared victory for his Justice and Development Party (AKP) in long anticipated local elections. Preliminary results showed AKP receiving about 46% of the vote while the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) held around 28%. Six people were killed in clashes around the elections on 30 March. Turkey's policy of keeping its border with Syria open despite the war cost the ruling party control of the border province of Hatay where the CHP overturned an 18% lead for the AKP in the last local election five years ago. Hatay province is hosting the third highest number of Syrian refugees in Turkey with around 97,000 people. In the past two weeks fighting over the Kasab border crossing with Hatay has brought the conflict close to the restive province and has required Turkish authorities to retaliate for mortar shells and a rocket, which hit the province on 31 March. (Reuters 2014/03/30, Reuters 2014/03/31, Reuters 2014/03/31, AlJazeera 2014/03/31)
- Kurdish Issue: While demonstrations and small scale clashes were reported in the first quarter of 2014 in predominantly Kurdish areas, the Kurdish leader Ocalan has called for establishing a legal framework for the on-going peace process. It is plausible that if no progress is made on the stalled peace-talks after the local elections, violence could erupt again. He reiterated his support to the peace process in the message he issued at the occasion of the Nevruz celebration on 21 March.
- A Turkish court released 45 defendants, including journalists and political activists, accused of links to Kurdish militants on 27 March, a small step in the country's ongoing efforts to end a Kurdish insurgency. (Reuters 2014/03/27).

- The peace process is closely associated with the AKP Government; the question whether it has a broader national ownership remains unanswered. (Reuters 2014/03/21)
- In February, demonstrators and police fought in side streets in Diyarbakir, the main city in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast while in Cizre, an impoverished town near the Iraqi border, protesters threw petrol bombs at armoured vehicles and police, who fired tear gas. There were also protests in Batman and Sirnak. However the peaceful atmosphere of the Newroz celebrations was interpreted as an achievement of the peace process. (Reuters 2014/02/15).
- Impact of the Syrian Crisis: Since 21 March opposition forces and SAF have been fighting for control of the western border crossing point Kasab in Lattakia. On 23 March Turkish forces shot down a SAF jet reportedly violating Turkish airspace. On 31 March Turkish military fired into Syria in retaliation for mortar shells and a rocket from over the border that hit a mosque in the town of Yayladagi in Hatay province. (BBC 2014/03/23, Reuters 2014/03/31)
- Turkey threatened in mid-March to retaliate for any attack on the tomb of Suleyman Shah, grandfather of the founder of the Ottoman Empire, in an area of northern Ain al Arab district in Syria, close to Qara Quzaq on the Euphrates that links Sarin and Menbij. The area around is under control of PYD and fighting between PYD and Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) close to it was recorded on 19 March. The tomb of Suleyman Shah is a sovereign Turkish territory under a treaty signed with France in 1921, when Syria was under French rule. About two dozen Turkish specialforces soldiers permanently guard the tomb. The Turkish warning follows clashes this week between militants of ISIL an al Qaeda breakaway group, and rival opposition groups in the area of the tomb, which lies east of Aleppo near the Turkish border. Two Turkish F-16 fighter jets are reportedly on duty to protect the tomb. (Reuters 2014/03/14, Hurriyet 2014/03/20)
- The Syrian crisis became a topic in the local electoral campaign which saw increased political rhetoric suggesting that underlying tensions run high. A recent attack against Turkish gendarmerie soldier and policemen was linked to the Syrian context in Nidge province. (Hurriyet 2014/03/21) In response to the attack, Turkish special forces raided buildings in Istanbul used by suspected members of an Islamist militant group active in neighbouring Syria and Iraq on 26 March, leaving three policemen and two suspects wounded. (Reuters 2014/03/26)
- The main republican opposition party CHP has recently also claimed that the ruling party AKP has granted Turkish citizenship to Syrians granting them the ability to vote in the local elections in the Mersin province. The province is currently hosting 8,000 Syrian urban refugees. (UNHCR 2014/02/28)

Economic Developments

- Credit ratings agency Standard & Poor's cut its outlook on Turkey in mid-February citing the risks of a hard economic downturn, affecting also large infrastructure projects. Turkey's finance minister said that Turkey's economy is likely to slow down amid a collapse in consumer confidence. Elections in March are expected to restore political confidence and thus reassure consumers and stabilise the economic situation. Mustafa Koc, chairman of Turkey's biggest company Koc Holding, called on the Government to calm financial markets worried about a corruption inquiry. Koc Holding's interests range from energy to automotive to consumer durables, and the conglomerate's output accounts for almost 10% of the Turkish economy. In January Tupras, the refiner controlled by Koc Holding, was fined 412 million lira (USD 187 million) by a regulator for violating competition rules, just days after recordings were leaked in which Gulen and his associates discussed backing Tupras for overseas contracts. (AlertNet 2014/02/11, BBC 2014/03/18, Reuters 2014/03/02).
- The lira currency has lost almost 9% of its value against the dollar since December amid concerns about political stability, with a record low of 2.39 against the dollar in January. While the currency increased in value after that, it weakened again following allegations over of the misuse of public authority for personal gain by Prime Minister Erdogan. The graft allegations, along with a big current account deficit, have left Turkish assets particularly exposed to the selloff. (Reuters 2014/02/25)

Iraq

Displaced (see annex B for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	219,579
% registered and awaiting registration in camps	30-40%
Palestinian refugees from Syria	Unknown
Syrian returnees	46,500
Syrian migrants	Unknown
Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown

Source: UNHCR 2014/04/03, UNRWA 2014/03/23



Key Issues

- 14 years after Iraq was declared polio free, WHO confirmed the existence of 1 wild poliovirus case in a 6 month old boy in Baghdad on 24 March – the first polio case confirmed in a country neighbouring Syria. Although neither the child nor his family members had links to Syria, it is believed that its reappearance is linked to the same strain found in Syria. Furthermore, the virus is believed to have spread due to the ongoing conflict and displacement in Anbar, which borders the Syrian governorate of Deir-ez-Zor, where polio was first confirmed in October 2013. (IRIN 2014/03/24)
- The Peshkapor border between Syria and the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KR-I), closed since mid-September, opened on 5 January for about 1 week, allowing 5,000 people to enter. Since then, the KR-I authorities decided to allow Syrians who claimed they did not want to stay in the country permanently to visit for up to 7 days. UNHCR reported that the border was open and that the KR-I authorities were only granting access to 'genuine cases of asylum.' In practice, entry has been allowed for the following groups: 1) Syrians able to prove they had family members in the KR-I 2) medical cases who hold supporting documentation and 3) some of those who were coming to study. Many of the new arrivals had been waiting on the Syrian side of the border to enter the KR-I due to border restrictions. (PI 2014/03, Daily Star 2014/01/07, Arar News 2014/02/06)
- While the conflict in Anbar has spread northwards, the KR-I has remained relatively isolated, and there has been no significant overlap in areas and communities where Syrian refugees are sheltering. 5,200 families from Anbar have fled to Shaklawa, a resort town in Erbil governorate, where they are paying to stay in hotels. Most of these IDPs are assisted by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) with cash assistance and are of largely middle or upper-middle class background. The tourist season will begin in the summer and will lead to increased hotel costs, potentially displacing the Anbar IDPs and further depleting their resources. In addition, UNHCR reported that 9,000 IDPs from Anbar have moved to rented accommodation in Sulaymaniyah governorate. There are reports that some IDPs are returning to central Iraq due to the high cost of living in the KR-I. While the situation in Al Qa'im (in Anbar governorate), which hosts Syrian refugees, remains relatively stable, road access is increasingly a challenge due to insecurity. (UNAMI 2014/03/06)
- Dohuk authorities are undertaking an audit of residents of the largest refugee camp in the KR-I, Domiz, as up to 30% of registered residents are believed to be living outside the camp. The Development and Modification Centre (DMC), which is responsible for camp management, is now stamping UNHCR registration documents to distinguish between those living inside and outside the camp. (WFP 2014/03/24)

Possible Developments

- The number of polio cases increases within central Iraq, particularly due to the conflict in Anbar which continues to fuel displacement and stretch the health system's capacity to conduct a successful polio vaccination campaign. The KR-I is also at risk, due to IDP movement and incoming refugees, but to a lesser degree than central Iraq, given the relative safety and security and fact that the ongoing vaccination campaign begun when polio was first detected in Syria in October 2013.
- Violence and indiscriminate sectarian attacks continue in the build up to the 30 April parliamentary elections in central Iraq which, if they happen, will bring little political resolution to Iraq's sectarian fault lines. Meanwhile the governorate council elections in the KR-I, also scheduled for 30 April, occur with heightened security measures, including the closure of the border with Syria. Overall, the security situation will remain tense across Iraq in the run up to the elections and is likely to deteriorate in central Iraq.
- The violence in Anbar spreads northwards and negatively impacts the KR-I, although Kurdish authorities ensure that the violence does not significantly spill over into the KR-I. As a result, security measures are tightened and IDPs from Anbar are not allowed to enter the KR-I. This contributes to the already heightened tensions between KR-I authorities and local communities and refugees from Syria and as a result, the Peshakapor border crossing is completely closed to all new arrivals from Syria.

Context

- Over the past year, the registered refugee population in Iraq, concentrated in the KR-I has increased by 100,000. While the KR-I authorities and local communities initially welcomed the refugees, who were almost exclusively of Kurdish origin, tensions have been heightened due to the influx and policies have become increasingly restrictive over the past year. In particular, the KR-I has one of the more restrictive border policies towards Syrian refugees and is openly limiting the number of people seeking refuge. In addition, KR-I authorities have placed restrictions on the type of assistance provided outside the camps to dissuade refugees from moving to urban areas. On the other hand, the KR-I has invested an estimated USD 120 million in the refugee response and has taken initiative in establishing the refugee camps and infrastructure.

Geographic Analysis

KR-I

- Despite the spread of the Anbar conflict northwards, the KR-I has remained relatively isolated from the conflict, and there has been no significant overlap in terms of areas where Syrian refugees are sheltering. While the situation in Al Qa'im (Anbar governorate), which hosts Syrian refugees, remains relatively stable, road access is increasingly a challenge due to insecurity. 5,200 families from Anbar have fled to Shaklawa, a resort town in Erbil governorate, where they are paying to stay in hotels. Most of these IDPs are assisted by MoDM with cash assistance and are of largely middle or upper-middle class background. The tourist season will begin in the summer and will lead to increased hotel costs, potentially displacing the Anbar IDPs and further depleting their resources. In addition, UNHCR reported that 9,000 IDPs from Anbar have arrived to Sulaimaniyah province and are living in rented accommodations. There are reports that some IDPs are returning to central Iraq as the costs of living in the KR-I are too high. (UNAMI 2014/03/06)
- The displacement of Iraqi Arabs to the KR-I is leading to weariness among Kurdish authorities due to long standing grievances. The GoI formally requested the UN to take the lead on the response in February, leading to the activation of the global NFI/shelter, food, protection, logistics, WASH and health clusters, which are based in Baghdad. In the KR-I, the coordination for Anbar IDPs has been integrated into the existing refugee sectoral response working groups. (UNHCR 2014/02/10, UNICEF 2014/01/13, Daily Star 2014/01/08)

Anbar

- With Iraqi forces engaged in conflict with extremist Islamist elements in Anbar province in western Iraq, the security situation has led to mass internal displacement, with about 400,000 Iraqis having fled Anbar province, since the conflict started at the end of 2013. The conflict has centred on Fallujah and Ramadi and as of 26 March, Government of Iraq (GoI) authorities estimated that 351,000 people (66,520 households) have been displaced, with the majority fleeing within Anbar province and the remaining fleeing to Baghdad, Karbala, Najaf, Ninewah and Salah Ad Din provinces, as well as the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KR-I) and neighbouring Jordan. There are reports that some Iraqis have been barred from entering at the Iraq-Jordan border as Jordanian authorities have refused them access in March, although Iraqis have been allowed to enter Jordan via plane. Humanitarian access in central Iraq, already highly restricted prior to the Anbar conflict, has further deteriorated in recent months. (UNAMI 2014/03/26, PI 2014/03, Reuters 2014/02/13, UNAMI 2014/03/06)

Operational constraints

- The security situation in Anbar province hampers the ability of humanitarian actors to access the refugees in Al Obaidy camp and Al Qa'im and deliver assistance. (RRP5 2014/01/19)
- The overcrowding, particularly in Domiz camp, makes delivering assistance and services problematic because of the congestion. (RRP5 2014/01/19)
- The refugee response in the KR-I has largely focussed on camp populations, which make up about 30-40% of the registered refugee population. However, in some camps such as Domiz, up to 30% of registered camp residents are believed to be residing outside the camp. (UNHCR 2014/03, WFP 2014/03/24)
- The KR-I local authorities have stated that they would prefer to host refugee populations within camp environments. Local authorities have been hesitant about providing substantial housing assistance in non-camp settings. In Erbil, the authorities have reportedly been trying to pass legislation that halts NFI assistance to non-camp refugees. (PI 2014/01/20)

Data limitations

- As the refugee response in the KR-I is led by the local authorities in each governorate, policies and programming differ between Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, the 3 major refugee-hosting governorates. There is no cohesive country-wide picture of the needs, particularly in non-camp areas. Information published on the refugees' condition is not sufficiently disaggregated to show the precise locations and needs of the most vulnerable. Many refugees registered in the camps are actually living in urban areas,

leading authorities in Domiz camp to conduct a verification exercise. Many aid agencies conduct needs assessments unilaterally and coordination structures and information sharing are generally weak in the KR-I and few assessments are published.

- REACH and UNHCR have finalised the following reports:
  - A disability assessment report on Syrian refugees in the KR-I camps and an assessment on mass communication targeting refugees. (REACH/UNHCR 2014/01)
  - An assessment on the effectiveness of various mass communication tools used by aid agencies to disseminate information to refugees in the camps.
- Various assessment reports are underway, including:
  - A multi-sector needs assessment, by REACH, of non-camp refugees across the 3 governorates in the KR-I. REACH is also finalising assessment reports on livelihoods and vulnerability in the camps.
  - A joint assessment among the education sector working group is planned for the second quarter of 2014. (UNICEF 2014/03/22)
  - Save the Children, ACTED and the Public Aid Organisation (PAO) have published a joint child protection assessment of Kawargorsk camp that is expected to be finalised in March. (UNHCR 2014/02/10)
  - General camp profiles detailing the humanitarian response in each camp and health reports on each camp are published on a regular basis. However, there is still a lack of comprehensive information on the refugees in urban settings, where 60-70% of the refugees are hosted. The lack of comprehensive mapping showing the location of the refugees outside of the camps makes assessing their needs and delivering services exceedingly difficult. Unlike other countries in the region hosting Syrian refugees, assessment reports and meeting minutes from the KR-I humanitarian structures are not widely shared through the UNHCR Syria response portal. (RRP5 2014/01/19)

Displaced

Registered refugees

- According to UNHCR as of 1 April, there are 250,000 Syrians in Iraq, of which approximately 220,000 are registered as refugees. (UNHCR 2014/01/14)

Returnees

- Since 2013, over 46,500 Syrians, over half of which were registered as refugees with UNHCR, have returned to Syria. There was no information available on the reasons for return from the KR-I. Over 6,400 refugees from Al Obaidy camp in Al Qa'im have returned to Syria since 2012. The reported reasons include improvements in the situation in Abu Kamal, the Syrian border town across from Al Qa'im and the overall lack of assistance in the camps, including insufficient access to education and health care and inadequate food baskets. (UNHCR 2014/02/10)

Refugee needs and concerns

Protection

- In April, UNHCR will be undertaking a re-verification exercise of the registered refugee population, which will include the collection of biometric information. While this will reduce duplication of registration and provision of assistance, there is a concern based on re-verification exercises in other countries that some groups may fall through the cracks and/or that some individuals may not want to provide biometric information for protection reasons. (UNHCR 2014/03/30)
- A high level delegation from the central GoI visited the KR-I to explore the possibility of developing a common policy for both central Iraq and the KR-I on Syrian refugees with Kurdish authorities. Given that the GoI lacks a legal framework for refugees and that this was initiated by the GoI, it is unlikely that an Iraq-wide national policy will be developed and agreed up in a timely manner. (UNHCR 2014/02/10)
- Refugees from Syria continue to face issues in obtaining or renewing civil documentation, including birth registration and residence permits. For example, while residency permits are being issued in Domiz camp, refugees have been unable to access permits in Gawilan camp, leading to demonstrations among some refugees. A high level UN visit highlighted the need for KR-I authorities to take a common approach to issuing residency permits. (UNHCR 2014/02/10)
- Initially, refugees were given residency permits that granted them the right to work legally. However, currently, residency permits are provided only once refugees have been registered with UNHCR at level 2. This started in Darashakran, Kawergosk, Gawilan and other camps will follow soon. Authorities in Suleymaniah continued to provide residency permits. In addition, residency permits are reportedly being issued in Domiz camp. (RRP5 2014/01/19)
- There is very little information available on the specific situation in Al Obaidy camp in Al Qa'im in Anbar province. The conditions in the camp were reportedly poor prior to the outbreak of the Anbar conflict, which has limited road access to the camp and has likely exacerbated the existing needs. (UNHCR 2014/02/10)
- In late January and early February, UNHCR reported that there was an unusually high number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)

entering from Syria with 83 identified, however, there was no available information on the previous figures of identified UASC or where they originated. (UNHCR 2014/02/10)

- Although refugees within the camps are permitted to travel outside the camps, women refugees in Arbat transit camp reported that they were prevented by the local security forces from leaving the camp unless they were accompanied by a male relative. (Amnesty 2014/01/03)
- There is little information available on stateless Kurds from Syria. While it appears that stateless Kurds who arrived before the large influx in August were able to enter and obtain UNHCR registration and residency permits, it is unclear how the KR-I authorities are currently treating their cases, given the increased bureaucratic and administrative challenges (PI 2014/04/01)
- An assessment of people with disabilities in the KR-I camp found that:
  - 9% of households have at least one member with a disability. 62% of those with disabilities are male and 41% are under 18 years of age.
  - There are significant variations among the camps. For example 34% of Kawergorsk camp households have a member with a disability compared to just 5% in Gawilan. 96% of households were registered with UNHCR.
  - About half reported disabilities are physical, 30% are mental disabilities and the remaining related to hearing, speech and vision disabilities. 3% of disabilities are conflict-related injuries.
  - 97% of households reported that they did not receive any specialised assistance. 75% of households with a disabled member reported that their priority need was for healthcare; 14% and 8% reported that they required medicines and cash. (REACH/UNHCR 2014/01)

Shelter

- With a population of nearly 59,000 refugees, Domiz camp is severely overcrowded and is more than 50% above its capacity of 38,000. Additional land for the camp has been allocated but not yet developed. An estimated 1,800 families are sharing tents with other families or living in makeshift shelters in unplanned areas or just outside the camp. Some refugees are being moved from flood prone areas to other areas of the camp. Kawergorsk camp is designed for 10,000 people and hosts a current population of 13,400 refugees, however, refugees there reportedly have adequate space and shelters. (UNHCR 2014/03, Amnesty 2014/01/03)
- Heavy rains and winds in late January damaged over 170 tents in Arbat transit camp. (UNHCR 2014/02/10)
- For refugees outside of the camps without stable income sources, the ability to meet rental demands can be uncertain and they are vulnerable to eviction. (PI 2014/01/20)
- As refugees are forced to spend a high proportion of their income on rent, they are forced to cut back in others areas of spending. In some cases they may move in with relatives or share with another family to reduce expenses, which can lead to protection concerns given overcrowding and shared WASH facilities. (PI 2014/01/20)
- Over-crowding of accommodation has been reported as a significant source of stress for many refugee families living outside of the camps. (PI 2014/01/20)

Health

- 14 years after Iraq was declared polio free, WHO confirmed the existence of 1 wild polio virus case in a 6 month old boy in Baghdad on 24 March – the first polio case confirmed in a country neighbouring Syria. Although neither the child nor his family members had links to Syria, it is believed that its reappearance is linked to the same strain found in Syria. Furthermore, the virus is believed to have spread due to the ongoing conflict and displacement in Anbar, which neighbours the Syrian governorate of Deir Ez Zor, where polio was first confirmed in October 2013. (IRIN 2014/03/24)
- There were no disease outbreaks reported in the KR-I in either the camps or non-camp settings in early 2014. In Domiz camp, health services are overstretched with only 1 primary health centre (PHC) and 1 satellite health post for the entire population of 59,000. The health sector standard is 1 PHC per 20,000 people. (UNHCR 2014/03)
- For non-camp refugees, the main need is for affordable access to healthcare facilities. While Syrian refugees have been granted the same rights as the local population, existing services have been put under strain by the refugee influx. Capacity needs to be strengthened to ensure both the refugees and the host communities have sufficient healthcare support. (RRP5 2014/01/19)

LFS

- Since the deterioration of the security situation in Anbar province, food and oil prices have reportedly increased and service provision has decreased due to access constraints. (UNICEF 2014/01/13)
- WASH: While the number of toilets and showers per capita do not appear to meet the established sectoral standards of less than 20 people per shower and toilet in Domiz camp, many families have built private, unregulated latrines and showers. (UNHCR 2014/03)
- The KR-I's existing infrastructure prior to the refugee crisis was weak, and lacked a sewage system. The refugee influx has put the WASH infrastructure

under immense stress, particularly given the region's deep water table (more than 200 metres). (RRP5 2014/01/19)

Education

- 78% of children (11,200) living in the refugee camps are enrolled in school, a reported increase attributed to the opening of 5 new schools in Akre, Domiz and Gawilan camps. The primary reasons for children not enrolled in school are: 1) children are working for an income or in the home and 2) disrupted education due to the conflict, leading to a lack of commitment to education. (UNICEF 2014/03/22)
- Outside camps, UNICEF estimated 39% of children to be enrolled in schools, although aid agencies are sceptical given that in July 2013 it was estimated that only 10% of children were enrolled and the absorption capacity of public schools has not changed significantly. Education for Syrian refugees continues to be problematic due to the lack of space in public schools and the language barrier. While many of the refugees speak a Syrian dialect of Kurdish, they can often not read or write as in Syria they were taught in Arabic. In addition, public schools also face challenges in integrating Syrian children who have missed school and faced psychological trauma due to the conflict. (UNICEF 2014/03/22, UNHCR 2014/02/28, PI 2014/01/20, UNHCR 2014/02/10)

Non-displaced populations

- The competition for employment that has increased with the arrival of the refugee population has impacted opportunities for the host community. Also, the increase in rental prices has raised concern within the local population.

Egypt

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	135,841
Palestinian refugees from Syria	6,000
Syrian returnees	Unknown
Syrian migrants	Unknown
Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown

Source: UNHCR 2014/04/03, UNRWA 2014/03/23



Key Issues

- Registration: As of 3 April, there were 135,841 registered Syrian refugees in Egypt.
- In recent months, the economy has been plagued by fuel shortages, routine power cuts and, most recently, a vast wave of strikes as tens of thousands of workers protest the Government of Egypt's (GoT) failure to fully implement a minimum wage. (Guardian 2014/02/25)
- The security situation in Egypt is considered to be unstable and capable of further deterioration. A series of explosions outside Cairo University killed 2 people on 2 April. The Egyptian authorities report that 500 people, mostly soldiers and police, have been killed in bombings and shootings targeting security forces since the 2011 uprising that toppled former president Hosni Mubarak. (Daily Star 2014/04/02)

Possible Developments

- **Increasing numbers of Syrians flee:** The political and economic instability will continue. The resultant instability and economic hardships combined with increasing resentment towards Syrians will drive increasing numbers of Syrian refugees in Egypt to attempt to leave the country. Multiple protection issues result, such as returns to Syria or attempts to leave irregularly, which could result in detention or the dangerous passage by sea to Europe.

Geographic analysis

- Egypt's government resigned on 24 February, after the July 2013 overthrow of President Morsi, paving the way for presidential elections that are now due to take place on 26 and 27 May. The country has witnessed bouts of insecurity and unrest since the uprising against the former government began in 2011. (Reuters 2014/2/24, Al Ahram 2014/03/30)
- At the start of the Syria crisis, Syrians were welcomed into Egypt and granted entry without prior need for visas. When political instability in Egypt led to the ousting of President Morsi, the situation for Syrians dramatically changed. Since July 2013, Syrians have not been permitted to travel to Egypt without a visa prior to travel and security clearance. Visas are near impossible to obtain as the Egyptian embassy in Damascus is not fully functioning. During the political upheaval, several prominent Egyptian personalities spoke out against the Syrian presence in the country and accused them of involvement in the political unrest. National sentiment turned against the refugees and they became subject to harassment and abuse. Those who had not regularised their stay, where previously this was permitted, were detained if caught.
- On 14 August, the Egyptian authorities announced a state of emergency, enforcing a curfew and granting the authorities permission to make arrests without warrants. The state of emergency was lifted on 14 November. During the state of emergency, Egyptian authorities detained over 1,500 refugees from Syria. The majority had been detained while trying to exit Egypt irregularly, often trying to migrate to Europe.
- With both the difficult political situation in Egypt and the new restrictions placed on Syrians, economic opportunities have dwindled and food price inflation has led to deterioration in living conditions for refugees over the past year. Many were relying on savings brought from Syria that become increasingly stretched as the situation does not improve. (WFP 2014/01/15)

Data limitations

- Information on the situation of refugees in Egypt is exceedingly scarce. In inter-agency regional reports, often no data on Egypt is included.
- Up-to-date data on the location and needs of refugees and of the host communities is severely lacking. Towards the end of March, an inter-agency joint assessment was published, the surveys for which were carried out in September 2013. The previous report available was released was in June 2013 on data collected in February 2013. (UNHCR 2014/03/24)

Displaced

Registered refugees

- As of 20 March, there were 135,302 registered Syrian refugees in Egypt. In July 2013, the GoE estimated there to be 300,000 Syrians in the country and has not updated its estimate since. Laws restricting the entry of Syrians mean that the numbers arriving since July have not been great. The large majority of refugees in Egypt originate from Damascus and Rural Damascus and are mostly situated in the 6th October area, followed by Alexandria. (UNHCR 2014/02/15, UNHCR 2014/03/20)
- After the laws pertaining to Syrians and their legal situation in Egypt changed, UNHCR witnessed a surge of Syrians coming forward to register as refugees, many of whom had been resident in the country for some time. Arrivals of Syrians to Egypt have been very limited since July 2013, with an average of 225 persons arriving a month, down from nearly 15,000 in the month of June 2013. New registrations are still taking places in 2014, but at a slowing rate. (UNHCR 2014/02/15)
- Trends show that after the deterioration of the political situation there was a peak in the numbers of refugees deregistering with UNHCR, usually as refugees close their case files in the hope of relocating to other countries. As of 15 February 5,653 cases have been closed, the vast majority of which were closed after June 2013. (UNHCR 2014/02/15)
- 10% of refugee households in Egypt are female-headed, and 3.5% are female-headed and with children. (UNHCR 2014/02/18)

Refugee needs and concerns

- As of 21 March, funding requirements for the response in Egypt have only been 8% met, falling below the regional average of 14% of funding requirements met. (RRP6 2014/03/21)

Health

- Many Syrian refugees as well as Egyptian health workers are not aware of the refugees' right to receive healthcare services. Some healthcare units serving refugees lack experienced staff while others have a shortage in supplies and equipment. (UNFPA 2014/02/28)
- In a joint assessment on registered refugees carried out in September and published in March, surveying 600 families, most households reported having 1 or more family member with health needs. The most common chronic diseases among Syrian refugees are cardiovascular diseases (27%), followed by diabetes mellitus (12%). (UNHCR 2014/03/24)

Protection

- In the recently published September 2013 survey joint assessment, 76.5% of respondents said that they felt safe living in Egypt, while those that said they did not feel safe reported the most pressing concerns as: issues with their residency (14%), physical assault (10.8%), verbal harassment (17.2%) as well as robbery (17.2%) and threats (12.9%). (UNHCR 2014/03/24)
- The September 2013 survey found that 32.4% of women and girls had experience verbal harassment (32.4%), physical assault (19.1%) or physical harassment and harm (10.5%). (UNHCR 2014/03/24)
- Child labour is an issue with many of the children interviewed in September 2013 working part-time to supplement the family income, including some under the age of 15. (UNHCR 2014/03/24)
- In an earlier UN joint assessment, 25% of Syrian respondents deemed Egypt to be unsafe for Syrian women due to increased instances of sexual harassment. This is leading to restricted mobility and freedom of movement among refugee women. (UNHCR 2013/12/16)
- Cases of sexual and gender based violence (SGVB in Masaken Osman (Greater Cairo) have been reported to UNHCR. The area is an impoverished district of Cairo with no police presence and little access to services. (UNHCR 2013/12/11)

LFS

- The high food prices in Egypt made it difficult to access diversified foods, resulting in negative coping strategies, such as selling assets, reducing the number of meals eaten and borrowing money to purchase food. The lack of employment opportunities and the high rental costs are often cited as the main factors leading to insufficient or barely sufficient food. (WFP 2014/01/15)
- The recent joint assessment found that 27% of respondents have insufficient food intake and 46% barely sufficient compared to only 27% with sufficient food intake. Sufficient food intake had decreased from 40 - 27% since November 2012. The needs assessment found that across the governorates surveyed, Cairo and 6th of October had the highest rates of insufficient food intake at 32% and 31%. Damietta and Giza had the highest rates of sufficient food intake at 39% and 32%. (UNHCR 2014/03/24)
- The assessment also found that 43% of participants have a salary as their main income while 34% are increasingly relying on negative coping mechanisms such as selling of assets, borrowing and humanitarian support. Only 2.5% had income from private businesses as a main source of income. Secondary sources of income included borrowing (28%), using savings (22%)

and humanitarian support (21%). The third most common source of income was using savings (38%). (UNHCR 2014/03/24)

- The average household income of the Syrians survey in the assessment was between LE 800 – 1,500 (USD 115 – 215) but their spending is about LE 2,500 (USD 360) on average. Food is the highest expenditure for families and rent fees comes in second; LE 1,200 and LE 850, respectively. (UNHCR 2014/03/24)

Education

- According to the Egyptian Ministry of Education (MoE), as of 2 January, the total number of Syrian school-aged children is 39,232 (age 5-17 years). MoE figures show that 25,571 Syrian children are enrolled in education (18,768 in public schools and 6,803 in private schools) in 27 governorates. (UNICEF 2014/01/13)
- According to the survey carried out in September 2013 and published in March, 43.3% of Syrian refugee children are not attending school. (UNHCR 2014/03/24)
- The Egyptian authorities have allowed Syrian children access to public schools, but refugee children still face obstacles to accessing education. If a child tries to enrol after the start of the academic year or does not have the required documentation, they may not be given a place. In private and some community-based schools, school fees are prohibitively high, and some families therefore prioritise the education of male children. (UNHCR 2013/12/12)

Shelter

- Of those surveyed in September 2013, 78.71% reported facing difficulties in paying their housing rent. (UNHCR 2014/03/24)

Annex A – Definitions Humanitarian Profile

Affected

The number of affected refers to people affected by the violence in Syria. The number of affected can be divided in two groups: those non-displaced and those displaced.

Non-Displaced

The **non-displaced** include all those within Syria that have been, directly or indirectly, affected by the conflict, including those who have been injured, have lost access to essential services, and those whose vulnerability has increased due to the impact of the unrest on livelihoods and access to essential services (OCHA 2012/06/05).

In addition, this group includes the **host** community, the people who are part of a community or family receiving affected people. Due to the stress placed on the host families and communities, they are considered part of the humanitarian caseload. As there is currently no information available on the needs of the host community, this group is currently excluded from this humanitarian profile.

Displaced

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are those persons or groups of persons who are residing in Syria but who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict. (OCHA 2004)

Refugees and Asylum Seekers are those who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside Syria, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. (UN 1951).

For the purpose of this document, the category 'refugees' includes those registered, awaiting registration as well as those unregistered – despite the fact that unregistered Syrians are technically not refugees as their refugee status has not been established. Within this group, the Iraqi and Palestinian refugees are in a specifically vulnerable position, both within Syria as outside.

Others of Concern - Persons who have been displaced by the emergency and form part of the humanitarian caseload, but do not fall into either of the above categories (e.g. migrants, returnees).

Other definitions

In this report the term 'opposition forces' is used to refer to all armed groups and individuals engaged in armed conflict against the Government of Syria.

Previous SNAP reports

- **Regional Analysis for Syria** — January – December 2013
- **Thematic reports**
  - Aleppo governorate Profile — April 2013
  - Legal Status of Individuals Fleeing Syria — June 2013
  - Impact of the conflict on Syrian economy and livelihoods — July 2013
  - Syrian border crossings — September 2013
  - Assessment Lessons Learned — September 2013
  - Lebanon baseline data — October 2013
  - Cross-border movements of goods — December 2013
  - Relief actors in Syria — December 2013
  - Jordan baseline data — December 2013
  - Palestinians from Syria — February 2014
- **Scenarios** — February/September 2013

All reports can be found on: http://www.acaps.org/en/pages/syria-snap-project

Forthcoming SNAP reports

- RAS (Part I and Part II) — Start July 2013
- Scenarios — April 2013
- Thematic reports:
  - Governorate profile: Idleb — April 2013
  - Besieged Areas — April 2013

Map data sources

Administration: OCHA Common Operational Datasets. IDP camps: CCCM. Refugee camps: State Department HUI. Informal tent settlements: UNHCR. Refugees: UNHCR. Infrastructure: Global Energy Observatory, OCHA,WFP. Conflict incidents: UNMAS. Border crossings: SNAP.

Methodology – This desk study presents estimations of scale, severity and likely impact of a disaster. It aims to inform decision making for preparedness and emergency response and intends to complement and integrate assessment-related data from other agencies. Feedback to improve the RAS is welcome (snap@acaps.org).

Disclaimer – Information provided is provisional as it has not been possible to independently verify field reports. As this report covers highly dynamic subject, utility of the information may decrease with time.

References – ACAPS and MapAction would like to thank all organisations that have provided input to this report. Please note that all sources which are available online are hyperlinked (underlined, in brackets). Information sourced as 'PI' refers to personal interviews with persons unknown to the SNAP project. Information sourced as a 'Trusted Source' refers to information received from an actor known and trusted by the project.