

REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

27 February 2013

Part II – Host countries

This Regional Analysis of the Syria Conflict (RAS) is an update of the January RAS. The RAS 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 the neighbouring countries. The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For additional information, comments or questions, please email SNAP@ACAPS.org

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Red flags indicate new information

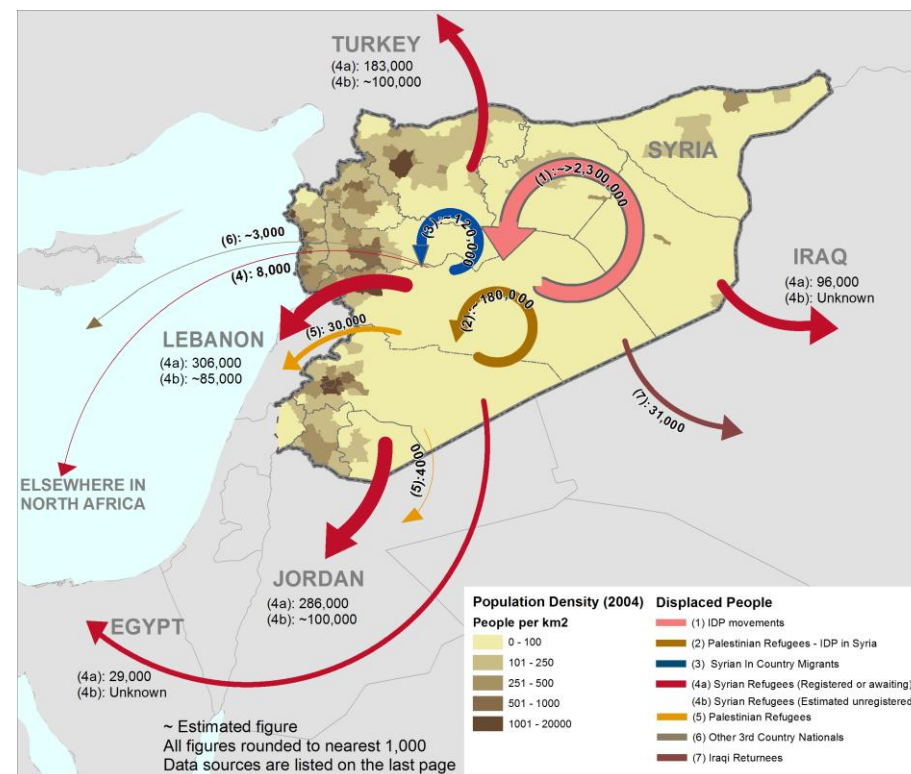
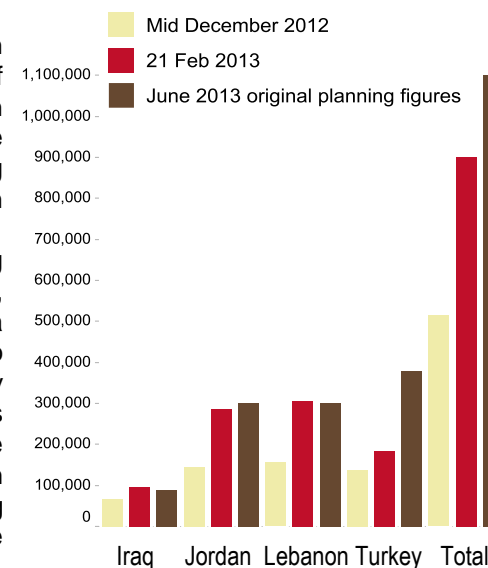
Key concerns

- **SHELTER:** While winterisation was one of the highest priorities for all Syrian refugees in January, with the current increase in temperatures winterisation becomes less of a priority.

➤ For those refugees who are renting accommodation, the most common shelter solution for those not in camps, the rent is becoming increasingly difficult to afford. Overcrowding is consistently reported as an issue, regardless of whether refugees are residing in camps, with host families, in collective shelters or in rented accommodation.
- **PROTECTION:** The sudden refugee influx in February continues to exceed UNHCR's registration capacity in Jordan (>81,500 registered refugees) and Lebanon (>84,500) and there is a large backlog in both countries. GBV is reportedly on the rise throughout the region.
- **HEALTH:** Lack of access to healthcare, particularly for unregistered refugees, remains to be of major concern, as either existing services are overwhelmed (Jordan, Lebanon) or access is unaffordable for some (Lebanon).
- No disease outbreaks have been reported as of yet and malnutrition has not been identified as an immediate concern. However, the presence of risk indicators (poor infant feeding practices, displacement, food insecurity and a lack of access to health services) indicates a high risk that malnutrition rates will increase.
- The lack of psycho-social support mechanisms for refugees in and outside of camps has been identified as an increasing need.
- **LIVELIHOODS:** Depleted resources and lack of access to livelihoods is a problem for those outside of camps across the region, impacting their possibilities to rent shelter and their access to food and services.

Regional Overview

- Over 143,000 refugees have been registered in the month of February, compared to 126,000 in January. This increase can be explained by the deteriorating situation in Syria as well as by an increase in registration capacity.
- This flow of people is surpassing estimates: in December 2012, UNHCR and partners published a response plan covering January to June 2013. The average daily number of refugee arrivals increased significantly in the months following the publication and by February, the planning figures for Iraq and Lebanon have already been reached (see graph):



Affected groups

- **Unregistered refugees:** Although support is increasing, refugees who are not registered with UNHCR or by Governments, or those who are awaiting registration do not have access to the same level of services as those who are registered due to lack of legal status. Across the region, there is scarce information available on the location; number and needs of unregistered refugees although estimates indicate that there are over 285,000 refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey who have not registered with UNHCR or the Government (see Humanitarian Profile p.4).
- **Refugees residing outside of camps:** Although 23 camps have opened to host the refugees, the majority of the refugees in neighbouring countries reside outside official camps. Across the region at least 60% of refugees (registered and awaiting registration) are residing in non-camp settings. In Turkey, Jordan and Iraq, all unregistered and a part of the registered refugees live outside of camps. As there have been no camps established in Lebanon, all Syrian refugees who fled to Lebanon are staying outside of official camps.
- **Refugees residing in camps:** Over 400,000 refugees are staying in camps across the region. Since January, a further two camps have been opened in Turkey, bringing the total to 17 camps in Turkey, 3 in Iraq and 3 in Jordan. As can be expected, the level of services provided to the refugees inside the camps is much better than that provided to refugees not residing in camps. Compared to other camps, the situation in Za'atari camp in Jordan appears to be the most concerning. While the camp is already overcrowded, the number of daily arrivals continues to rise at an alarming rate. However, all of the camp health indicators are still below emergency thresholds. ([OCHA 2013/01/21](#), [IOM 2013/02/21](#))
- **Other displaced groups:** Aside from Syrian refugees, there are two main other displaced groups outside of Syria who have been affected by the crisis: the Syrian migrants in other countries (between 250,000 and 300,000 in Lebanon alone) and Iraqi refugees in Syria who have returned back to Iraq. However, almost no information is available on their status, location or needs. IOM has started to profile returnees in Lebanon, but no results are publicly available as of yet.
- **Host communities:** the large influx of refugees has a significant impact on the host communities, causing increased pressure on services and straining host-community resources. This is particularly notable in Lebanon where some host-families have been supporting refugees for over a year.

Data limitations and information gaps

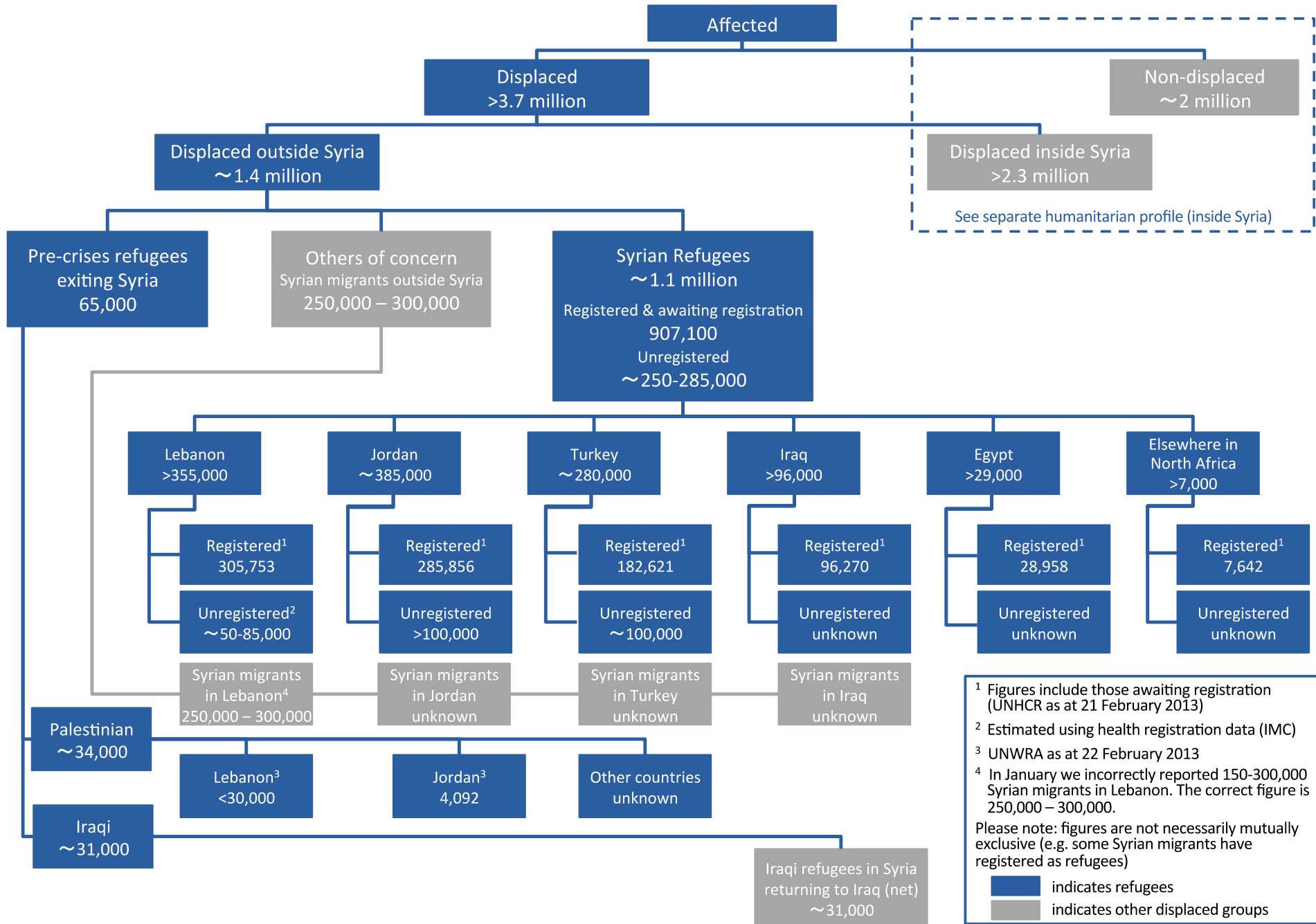
UNHCR maintains a comprehensive [data portal](#), on the registered refugees. However, this data does not fully reflect the complete refugee situation as:

- Unregistered refugees are not fully covered by the portal.
- Return has not been consistently captured in the official figures: some refugees have reportedly returned to Syria in order to participate in the fighting, take care of possessions or because of discontent with the situation in the refugee camps.
- Registration depends on capacity in-country to register refugees. Hence, a sudden increase of registered refugees can reflect an actual increase of daily arrivals but could also indicate that a new registration office is opened or capacity of current registration offices has been augmented.

Across the region, a multitude of assessments have been undertaken on a village or district level, using different methodologies. Hence, it is difficult to gain a shared situational overview per country. In addition, most assessments have taken place around mid-2012, when the refugee influx suddenly increased significantly. With the highly dynamic nature of the crisis, information becomes quickly outdated. However, as the humanitarian community is increasing its capacity to deal with the refugee influx, more information on the situation is published and an increasing number of needs assessments are planned and undertaken.

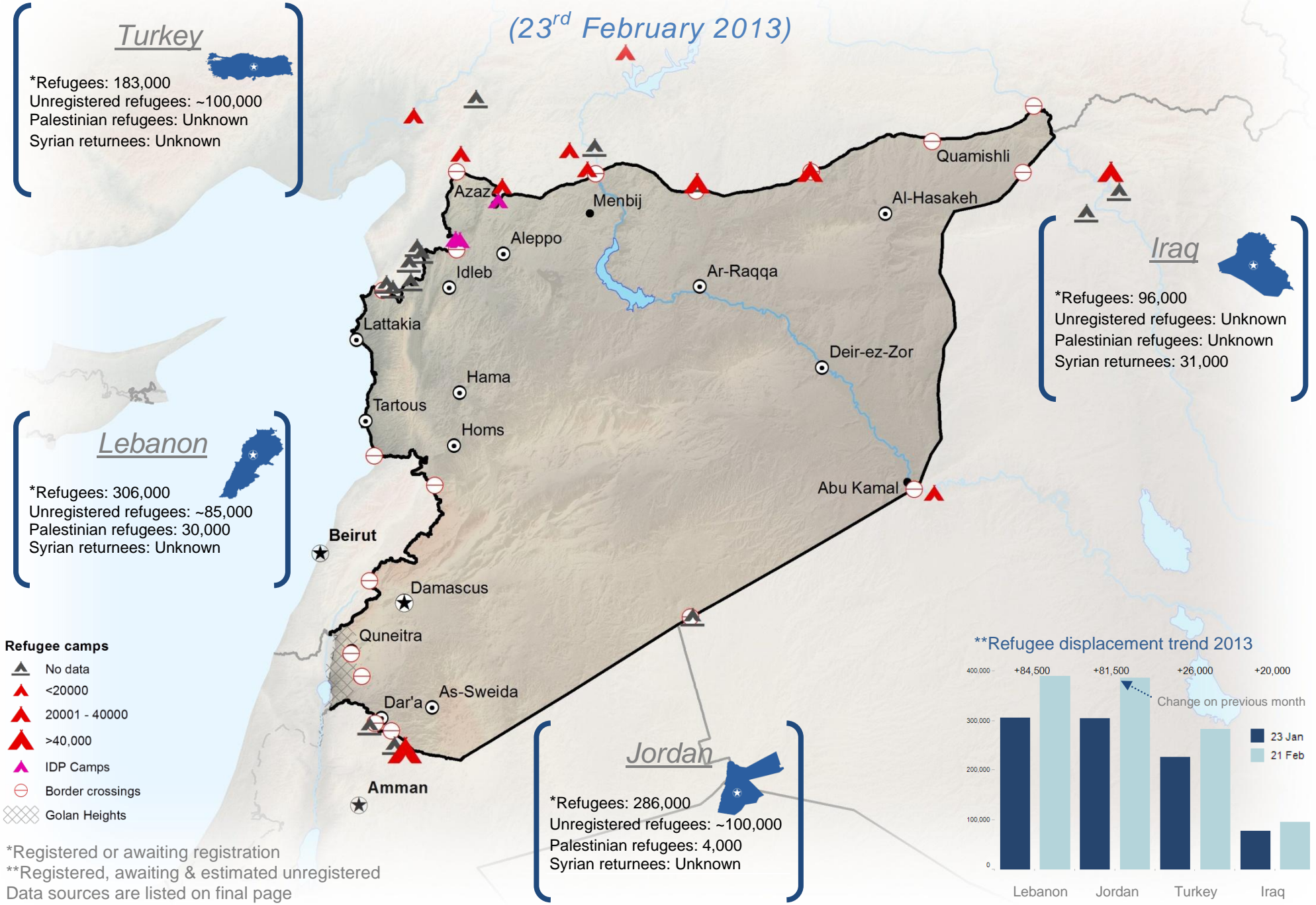
No or very limited information is available on returnees, migrants and the host-community.

Humanitarian profile (see annex A for definitions)



Neighbouring country displacement

(23rd February 2013)



Turkey

*Refugees: 183,000
 Unregistered refugees: ~100,000
 Palestinian refugees: Unknown
 Syrian returnees: Unknown

Iraq

*Refugees: 96,000
 Unregistered refugees: Unknown
 Palestinian refugees: Unknown
 Syrian returnees: 31,000

Lebanon

*Refugees: 306,000
 Unregistered refugees: ~85,000
 Palestinian refugees: 30,000
 Syrian returnees: Unknown

Jordan

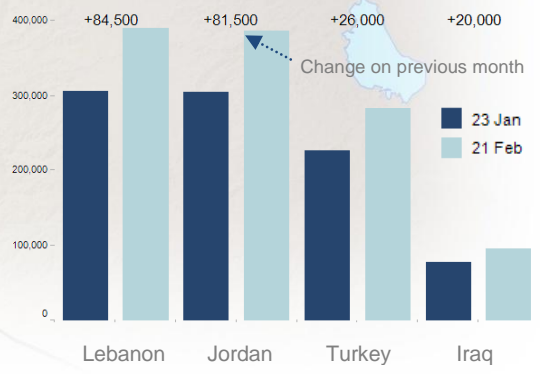
*Refugees: 286,000
 Unregistered refugees: ~100,000
 Palestinian refugees: 4,000
 Syrian returnees: Unknown

Refugee camps

- ▲ No data
- ▲ <20000
- ▲ 20001 - 40000
- ▲ >40,000
- ▲ IDP Camps
- Border crossings
- ▨ Golan Heights

*Registered or awaiting registration
 **Registered, awaiting & estimated unregistered
 Data sources are listed on final page

**Refugee displacement trend 2013



Lebanon

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)	
➤ Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	305,753 as at 21 Feb (195,098 registered; 110,655 awaiting)
➤ Unregistered Refugees	50,000 – 85,000
Palestinian refugees	~30,000
Syrian migrants	250,000 – 300,000 (estimate)
Non displaced	
Non-displaced affected by the Syria crisis	unknown

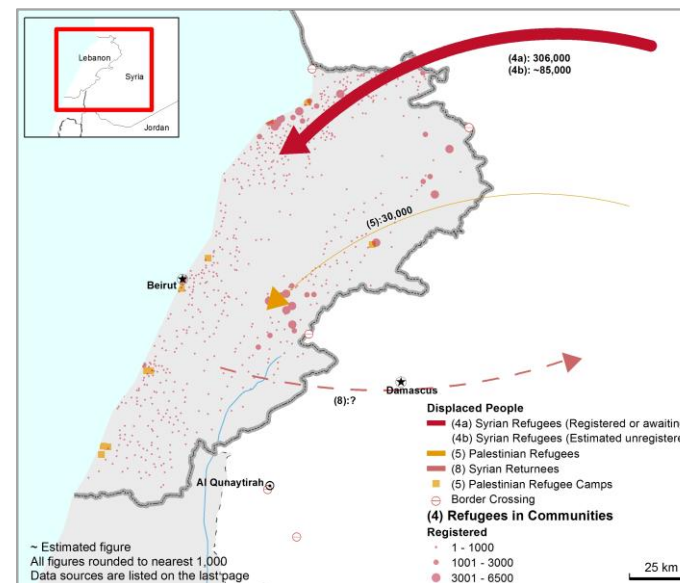
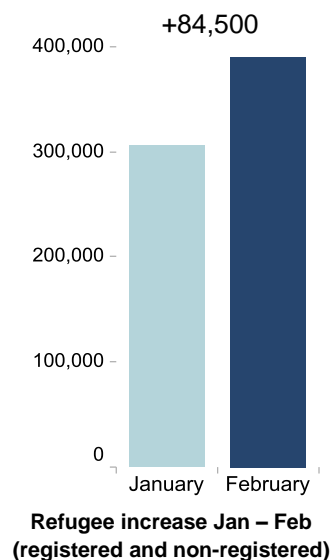
Source: [UNHCR 2012/12/18](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/22](#), [IMC 2013/02](#), [Caritas 2013/01](#)

Key concerns

- Finding adequate shelter for new arrivals is a key concern, with host communities overburdened, a shortage of collective centres and political unwillingness to establish camps. In addition, poor refugee families are increasingly unable to pay rent due to significant rent increases and the lack of income.
- Access to health care, particularly for those suffering from chronic disease, remains a priority.
- Protection remains of concern, with women being subjected to GBV, reports of child marriages and child labour and increasing tensions between refugees and host-communities.
- Access to livelihood opportunities is limited and most work found by refugees is low paid and seasonal.
- Palestinian refugees are specifically vulnerable in Lebanon as they are not formally citizens of another state, and are therefore not able to claim the same rights as Syrian refugees.

Operational constraints

Access to the refugee community in Wadi Khaled is hampered due to Lebanese Army checkpoints. ([UNHCR 2013/01/18](#), [Daily Star 2012/11/07](#)) Overall, humanitarian activities are constrained more by capacity and funding requirements than by other external factors.



Data sources and limitations

- Since January a further 12 assessment reports have been received bringing the total number of assessment reports on Syrian refugees in Lebanon to 45 since May 2011. ([UNHCR 2013/02/22](#))
- As the refugee influx started in the northern areas and afterwards in Bekaa, more information is available on the refugees present in these areas. Recent mapping by UNHCR Lebanon found that the south is quite well covered by assessments, although few reports are publicly available due to protection concerns. ([UNHCR 2013/01/26](#))
- Information on unregistered Syrians is lacking, particularly on the number, location and needs as compared with the registered refugees.
- Information on the number, location and needs of migrants is unavailable.

Information gaps across sectors

	Education	Health	LFS	Protection	Shelter	WASH
Non Camp	📖	🏥	🍲	👤	🏠	🚰
Other displaced	📖	🏥	🍲	👤	🏠	🚰
Host community	📖	🏥	🍲	👤	🏠	🚰

Blue = information available Grey = limited or no information

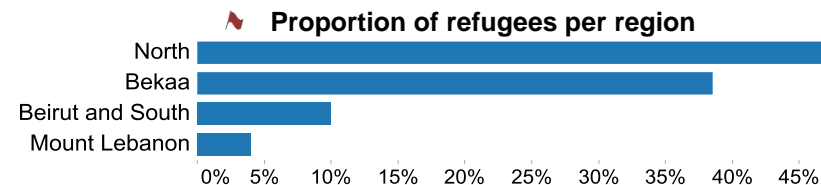
Displaced

- The Emergency Coordinator at the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs estimates that there are around 800,000 Syrians in Lebanon- including refugees, migrants and visitors. ([IRIN 2013/01/28](#)) However, this number cannot be confirmed.

Registered refugees

Official border crossings: Arida and Masnaa.

- The majority of refugees (around 85%) continue to enter Lebanon via official border crossings. The remainder resort to unofficial crossings out of fear of arrest at the Syrian side of the borders, financial reasons or a lack of documentation. ([UNHCR 2013/02/23](#), [DRC 2013/02/11](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/31](#))
- **Place of origin:** According to a MSF study in December 2012, displaced originate from the urban area of Homs and its surrounding villages (38%), followed by Damascus, Dar'a and Idleb, Aleppo and Hama. A similar study in June 2012 showed that almost 90% of displaced came from Homs governorate. This significant change reflects the dynamics of the conflict. ([MSF 2013/02/06](#), [UNHCR 2013/02/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/02/21](#))
- More than half of the families have been displaced more than once within Syria before reaching Lebanon, according to an assessment of DRC amongst 2,300 newly arrived families. ([DRC 2013/02/11](#))
- **Reason for displacement:** The abovementioned DRC assessment in Akkar and Bekaa found that the majority of the families left Syria and sought refuge in Lebanon because of the destruction of their houses; insecurity in their place of origin and a fear of being arrested, while UNHCR reports that 98% of registered refugees cite the general security situation as the reason for the flight ([UNHCR 2013/02/23](#), [DRC 2013/02/11](#))
- **Current location:** A reversal in the Lebanese Government's stance preventing the establishment of official camps for Syrian refugees has not yet materialised. No sites have been agreed for the proposed establishment of 10 new camps (each for 5,000 people) due to resistance from local authorities. As a result, the majority of Syria's refugees are scattered across more than 700 locations, the majority staying in North Lebanon (47%) and Bekaa (38%). The remainder are in South Lebanon (7%), Mount Lebanon (5%) and Beirut (3%). ([UNHCR 2013/02/21](#), [OCHA 2013/02/18](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/15](#), [PI 2013/01/17](#))



- Secondary movement is significant in Lebanon, impeding the monitoring of refugee locations. Initially, refugees anticipated to reside in Lebanon for a short period of time and therefore remained nearby the northern and eastern borders. As the situation becomes more prolonged, refugees are moving towards urban areas on the coast and to the south of the country, in search of accommodation and employment. This is not fully reflected in the above graph of refugees as UNHCR does not track the movement of refugees after they have registered. ([UNHCR 2012/12/18](#), [SCT/IRC 2012/10/08](#), [IRIN 2013/01/29](#))
- **Status:** Some Syrians obtained residency coupons in Lebanon and the General Security Office recently announced that Syrians will be able to renew these residency permits for 1 year rather than six months for the set fee of \$US200. In addition, refugees who entered through unofficial border crossings can regularise their status. Under 10% of people arriving at UNHCR registration offices are denied registrations as they fail to meet the criteria, primarily because they were residing in Lebanon prior to the onset of the conflict in March 2011. ([IA 2013/02/15](#), [PI 2012/12/14](#), [UNHCR 2012/10/19](#), [UNHCR 13/01/31](#))

Demographic breakdown:

- Despite the large influx in February, the demographic breakdown of registered refugees has remained the same- 52% of the registered refugees are female and around 59% of the registered population are <18 years old. ([UNHCR 2013/02/15](#))
- 20% of the registered refugee families are female headed. ([IA 2013/01/31](#))
- According to the UNHCR registration database, the average family size is 4.5. However, an inter-agency nutrition assessment indicated a higher average family size of 6.2 people. ([IA 2013/01/31](#))

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

- **Place of origin:** The majority of the PRS in Lebanon originate from Yarmouk in rural Damascus. ([UNRWA 2013/12](#))
- **Reason for displacement:** An UNRWA rapid assessment amongst registered PRS indicated that the main reason for 73% of the families to flee Syria was fear of armed conflicts, and for 24% the destruction of their houses. ([UNRWA 2013/12](#))

- **Current location:** The majority of the PRS (59%) are staying in existing Palestinian refugee camps. 49% of the PRS families are living with relatives while 43% are living in rented houses. The location hosting the most PRS is Saida (29%). ([UNRWA 2013/12](#))
- **Status:** On arrival in Lebanon, PRS are issued seven-day transit visas valid for 15 days. The Government recently announced that Palestinians who have exhausted their 15 days residency permit may obtain a 3-month residency visa free of charge. There have been reports of Palestinian refugees from Syria being refused permission to cross into Lebanon because they were unable to pay the entry visa fee. ([UNRWA 2012/12/19](#))
- **Demographic breakdown** 47% of the PRS are males compared to 53% females while 15% of families are female-headed. The average age is 25 and average family size is 4.21. A very small minority of PRS hold Syrian nationality (4%). ([UNRWA 2013/12](#))

Unregistered refugees

- A significant proportion of the Syrians residing in Lebanon have not registered with UNHCR. Based on a survey conducted in December 2012, MSF reported that over 40% of the refugees assessed were unregistered. A UNICEF funded WASH assessment in the Bekaa Valley conducted in December 2012 found that 40% of households assessed were either pending registration or were not registered with UNHCR at all. In January 2013, IMC reported that around 50% of the Syrians arriving at health facilities are unregistered and this is confirmed by Caritas estimates. Based on this, it can be estimated that 40 to 50% of refugees residing in Lebanon are neither registered nor awaiting registration. With around 195,000 refugees registered and around 110,000 awaiting registration by 21 February, the number of unregistered refugees is likely to be between 50,000 and 85,000. ([UNICEF 2013/01/25](#), [CARITAS 2012/11/21](#), [PI 2012/12/12](#), [MSF 2013/02/06](#))
- An assessment by DRC of new arrivals shows that almost all refugees (98% of assessed refugees in Akkar and 89% in Bekaa) are willing to register with UNHCR. This indicates that the number of unregistered Syrians will decrease as UNHCR's registration capacity is boosted. ([DRC 2013/02/11](#))

However, the main reasons cited for refugees to refrain from registration are:

- reluctance to reveal their identity or location for fear of reprisals - for instance some Alawites have reportedly refrained from registration out of fear for being seen as traitors to the al-Assad regime;
- concern that they do not have proper legal papers and would be therefore sent back to Syria;
- inability to reach registration offices due to a lack of resources;

- unaware of the need for registration, including those refugees who are not currently in need of support.

Refugee needs and concerns

Shelter

- At the beginning of the influx, most refugees resided with host families. This dynamic shifted as refugee numbers increased and the situation became protracted. Some 60% of the registered refugees rent accommodation while around 27% live with host families. Due to the existence of economic and family ties across the border, a higher proportion of Syrian households are being hosted by Lebanese families in the north, while in the Bekaa, the majority of Syrian households are renting accommodation. A growing number of refugees, currently 8.5%, are accommodated in unfinished host community houses. A further 5% of refugees live in informal tented settlements and 2% are accommodated in renovated collective shelters. Well-off Syrians are able to rent or buy apartments in Beirut, while some Syrian refugees settle in Palestinian refugee camps where rent is generally lower. ([UNHCR 2011/01/31](#), [MSF 2013/02/06](#))
- The availability of shelter, particularly adequate shelter, is a persistent concern. Many Syrian refugees suffer from poor living conditions, including overcrowded rooms, lack of heating facilities and the risk of eviction. Those residing in unfinished buildings, 'informal' dwellings, and rented houses with inadequate insulation are particularly vulnerable. ([SI 2013/01](#))
- Rents are increasing throughout the country. The average rent for apartments in Akkar is approximately \$US179 per month, while in Bekaa it is as high as \$US245. As a result, poor families are unable to pay their rent and increasingly forced into taking out loans. ([OCHA 2013/01/21](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/15](#), [ECHO 2012/12/11](#), [UNHCR 2012/12/18](#), [PI 2013/01/17](#), [SCT/IRC 2012/10/08](#), [Amel 2012/09/30](#) [UNHCR 2013/02/08](#), [DRC 2013/02/11](#))
- Shelter has been identified as the main concern for Palestinian refugees. Most of the Palestinians live with family and friends in the pre-existing refugee camps, which are already overcrowded and do not have the capacity to host the new influx. Shelter is often small and unsanitary, without running water, ventilation or electricity. ([UNRWA 2013/02/10](#), [AlertNet 2013/01/22](#))

Health and nutrition

- Although healthcare is delivered through existing Lebanese health care structures, an MSF study found that a part of the registered refugees are unable to afford the hospital fees. Around 15% of the health fees are paid out of pocket, unless the patient meets set vulnerability criteria, with the rest being covered by relief organisations. The main barriers to healthcare for refugees include lack of resources for transport, distance to the health centre, lack of female medical staff and, at some centres, mistreatment. In addition,

unregistered Syrians fear that they will not be able to access health care for free. (IMC 2011/06/07, MSF 2013/02/06, MSF 2012/09/07, UNHCR 2013/01/18, UNFPA 2012/09, ECHO 2012/12/12, MSF 2012/09/07, PI 2012/12/12)

- ✦ Treatment for chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease is a major concern, with the cost of drugs required on a long-term basis unaffordable for the poorest refugee families. MSF states that more than half of refugees surveyed during December 2012 could not afford treatment for chronic diseases, despite health organisations paying a large part of the share, and nearly one-third had to suspend treatment due to costs. In addition, WHO reported in February that the supply of chronic medications in primary health care centres in Lebanon has been almost totally depleted. (WHO 2013/02/10, MSF 2013/02/06, SI 2013/01)
- ✦ Mental illnesses, such as depression, mood disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder are reported more frequently. There is an increase in the prevalence of children suffering from developmental disabilities (speech and motor skills disorders among others) within the Bekaa region, presumably caused by either a traumatic experience they have witnessed and/or lived through as well as the harsh environment that many are currently facing. (IMC 2013/02/06, WHO 2013/02/10)
- ✦ An increasing number of Respiratory Tract Infections has been reported. Health actors are monitoring Tuberculosis among refugees following reports of several cases. (IMC 2013/01/31)
- ✦ A joint nutrition assessment found that the nutrition situation of Syrian families in Lebanon is acceptable. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months was less than 5%, which is categorized as acceptable as per WHO classification, and the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition was less than 1% for Syrian refugees. (IA 2013/01/31)
- ✦ However, 6.8% of Syrian refugees' children aged 6-59 months are at risk of acute malnutrition. Due to the presence of several aggravating factors (e.g., high disease burden, increasing numbers of new arrivals, sub-optimal feeding for some of the households/ children), the nutrition situation could rapidly deteriorate. (IA 2013/01/31)

Protection

- ✦ Significant backlog in refugee registration is becoming apparent, with on average 77 days between the first appointment and actual registration. In the south, this average is up to 120 days. Those awaiting registration do not receive the same level of services as registered refugees. (IA 2013/02/15, INGOs 2013/01/29)
- ✦ Violence against women and girls is widespread in Syria and Lebanon. Early marriage, survival sex and intimate partner violence have increased

significantly after arrival in Lebanon. According to UNFPA, 31% of 460 women surveyed, have been threatened by family members while 7% have suffered sexual aggression. This a growing concern as many newly arrived women and girls are living in unplanned and overcrowded refugee settlements, with minimal privacy and compromised safety, particularly among those refugee populations inhabiting abandoned public buildings. (AFP 2013/02/05, Amel 2012/09/30, IRC 2012/08)

- There is a lack of availability of and access to specialised services that provide appropriate health and psycho-social support to sexual and gender-based violence survivors and other groups affected by the conflict in Syria such as children. Survivors are reluctant to report GBV and have restricted access to information. (IRC 2012/08)
- Despite the overall willingness of Lebanese communities to host Syrian refugees, tensions and harassment are increasing as a result of growing political polarization and increased pressure on resources including jobs, education and housing. Security incidents targeting Syrian refugee families have been reported. (IRIN 2012/11/01, UNHCR 2013/01/18, Inter-Agency meeting 2013/01/25)
- Violence against refugees is common with children especially being exposed to regular abuse and harassment by peers at school and on the streets, as well as by their parents as a result of stress. Sending children to work is a common mechanism for Syrian refugees to cope with insufficient monthly expenses. (SCT/IRC 2012/10/08)
- Protection of Syrian adolescents is a major concern; many adolescents did not go to school in Syria and are uninterested in going to school in Lebanon, employment is scarce and there is pressure on them to return to Syria to fight.
- ✦ Protection issues are widespread for Iraqi refugees. This is due to the fact that Lebanon does not recognise Iraqis as refugees. They are not granted a special status and are treated as migrants. Those who are lacking a residency permit (which is the majority) are considered illegal migrants and are subject to arrest and deportation. (ECHO 2013/01/25)

Livelihoods and food security

- ✦ An Inter-Agency assessment published in January showed that 32% of households assessed in September 2012 had *poor or borderline food consumption*. During a November 2012 World Vision assessment in the Bekaa, access to food was identified as the main concern among refugees.
- ✦ The living costs in Lebanon are relatively high compared to Syria. The work Syrians find is mostly in the construction and agriculture sector, which is low paid and seasonal. Increasing numbers of Syrian refugees arriving in Lebanon is flooding the labour market and Syrian refugee household expenses are currently far greater than the income earning opportunities.

For instance, three meals in northern Lebanon cost 10 to 11 USD, while the incomes earned per day is between 5 to 25 USD. As most Syrians in Lebanon can only find work for a few days each month, refugee families are not able to meet their food needs without external support. Food assistance (food aid, gift from charity and purchase with cash from charity) was a main source of food for around 25% of the households assessed during an Inter-Agency nutrition survey of 500 refugee households. ([SI 2013/01, IA 2013/01/31](#))

- Common coping strategies are: purchasing food on credit, reliance on more affordable food items, limiting portion size during meal times, reducing the number of meals per day, restriction of food consumption so that small children can eat and eating at the residences of friends or family members. In extreme cases some families spend the whole day without eating and some others send their family members elsewhere to eat. As the displacement situation continues, the number and size of debts taken by refugees is increasing with passports or identity papers often given as guarantee. ([World Vision 2012/11/12, Amel 2012/09/30, UNFPA 2012/09, SCT/IRC 2012/10/08, World Vision 2012/12/24, SI 2013/01, IA 2013/01/31](#))
- Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are denied major civil rights, including ownership of property, access to employment and access to public social services. This is severely affecting their livelihood opportunities. ([ECHO 2012/11/19](#))

WASH

- There are six publicly available WASH assessments on the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, covering different geographical areas. Although there are no reports highlighting WASH as a priority concern, the increased number of inhabitants has reportedly put pressure on existing water and sanitation facilities in hosting communities. Access to water and sanitation remains problematic for refugees living in unsuitable shelter such as unfinished buildings, tented settlements and collective shelters. The public water network is the main water source for most refugees. For the most part, families residing in rented apartment and collective buildings have regular access to the water network, while families staying in unfinished buildings, hangars, tents and basements are not connected to the water network. ([ECHO 2012/12/11, PU 12/08/01, World Vision 2012/11/12, WASH Sector Strategy 2013/01](#))
- Unclean containers are the main issue affecting water quality. Other contributing factors are contamination of aquifers, unsanitary conditions around boreholes/wells and poor hygiene practices. ([UNHCR 2013/02/23, WASH Sector Strategy 2013/01](#))
- An ACF WASH Assessment in the Bekaa showed that 17% of households do not have access to adequate latrines and only 39% have access to hand washing facilities. According to an assessment by PU-AMI in North, South,

Mount Lebanon and Beirut areas, more than 30% households do not have access to adequate latrines. ([ACF 2012/12/31, PU-AMI 2012/11/05](#))

- Although knowledge on hygiene practices seems satisfactory, insufficient access to hygiene products combined with the lack of access to bathing areas and limited access to water lead to inadequate hygiene practices. ([SI 2013/01, IA 2013/01/31](#))

Education

- The Lebanese Government allows Syrian children, both registered and unregistered, to enrol in the Lebanese education system. Some 13,863 Syrian refugee children are now enrolled in Lebanese schools, up from around 10,000 in January, and an unknown number are following classes at private schools. At least 93,000 of the registered refugees are of school-going age, indicating that a large majority have not enrolled. Impediments to education include language barriers and differences in curriculum between Syrian and Lebanese schools. ([UNICEF 2013/02/03, OCHA 2013/01/07, UNHCR 2013/01/21, JRS 2013/01/30](#))

Syrian Migrants

- Between 250,000 and 300,000 Syrian migrants are currently working in Lebanon. These workers are typically single males without family presence. However, many workers are currently bringing their families and relatives to Lebanon and are being permitted to register as refugees by UNHCR. This trend puts enormous pressure on shelter availability and shelter needs, since the shelter situation for male migrant workers may not fit that of families with children. The migrants are often working in low-wage jobs, particularly in the construction sector, and will have difficulties supporting their families. As the Lebanese economy is heavily impacted by the Syrian conflict (for instance the construction sector is down by 13%), it will be increasingly difficult to sustain their livelihoods and, as a result, it is expected that more and more of the Syrian migrants will require support. However, there is no updated information available on their situation. ([UNHCR 2012/12/18](#))

Lebanese returnees

- It is unknown how many Lebanese were staying in Syria before the start of the conflict, how many have returned and their current location and needs. They fall outside the scope of UNHCR's mandate. IOM is currently mapping the needs of returnees in Bekaa Valley and south Lebanon. ([IOM 2013/02/07](#))

Non-Displaced

Location and characteristics: No information available

Non-displaced needs and concerns

- Lebanon is hosting a number of registered refugees equal to 7% of their total estimated population. The consequences of this large influx has affected the Lebanese population in a variety of ways:
 - Host-communities:** The Lebanese hosting areas are the poorest in Lebanon. The North Governorate is home to 20% of Lebanon's population but 40% of its poor, according to a 2005 study. ([IRIN 2013/01/28](#))
 - As a result of the Syrian crisis, hosting communities suffer pressures on public services such as solid waste collection, education and primary health care services. The refugee influx has for instance depleted Government-provided supplies in pharmacies. In addition, Lebanese communities are being deprived of aid that used to be channelled to such communities by local NGOs. ([SCT/IRC 2012/10/08](#), [MSF 2012/09/07](#), [IRIN 2013/01/28](#))
 - The burden of hosting a refugee family is higher on northern households compared to Bekaa households as most of the latter are leasing their apartments and receiving rent fees in exchange for hosting services. In the north, families on average host up to 7 people compared with 5 in the Bekaa. Many families in the north have provided refuge for over a year now. ([IRIN 2012/09/07](#), [ECHO 2012/12/11](#))
 - Other affected:** Lebanese households also suffer from increased expenditures and decreased incomes related to an excess supply of unskilled labour; a deteriorating security situation; decreased smuggling and border trade; decreased regional trade and landmines on the Lebanese-Syrian borders that hamper access to agricultural lands and grazing fields. The occasional closure of borders has interrupted the import of cheaper Syrian commodities. In addition, fewer tourists, lower levels of investment by Gulf States and reduced opportunities for cross-border trade with Syria are adversely affecting Lebanon's most vulnerable. ([SCT/IRC 2012/10/08](#), [RIN 2012/09/07](#))
 - The violence in Syria has increasingly spilled over into Lebanon, with cross-border shelling in the north and east. Furthermore, Lebanon risks being plunged into sectarian strife, possibly even civil war. Heavy sectarian clashes broke out in May and June 2012 in Tripoli, the biggest city in the north of Lebanon, mostly between Sunnis of Bab Tabbaneh and Alawis of Jabal Mohsen. ([AFP 2013/02/23](#), [INGO 2012/09/07](#))

Jordan

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)

📌 Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	285,856
📌 Palestinian refugees from Syria	4,092
📌 Syrian unregistered refugees	70,000
Syrian returnees	Unknown
Syrian migrants	Unknown

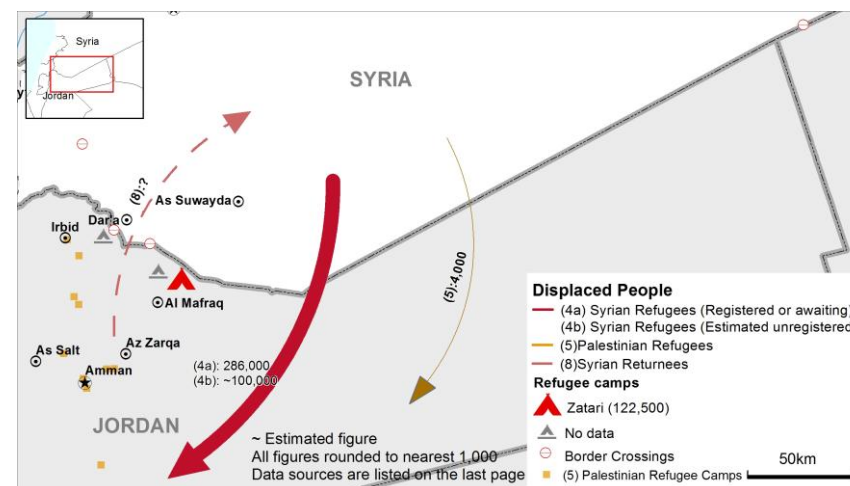
Non displaced

Non displaced affected by the Syria crisis Unknown

SOURCE: [UNHCR 2013/02/19](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/22](#), [AFP 2013/02/03](#)

Key concerns

- The number of refugees arriving daily has dramatically increased in the month of February and a reported 50,000 individuals are waiting at the border to cross. Jordan has warned that if there is a mass influx of refugees it will close the border with Syria.
 - Access to health is still a major concern for those refugees not living in one of the camps. In addition, without access to sufficient livelihood opportunities, refugees are struggling to obtain enough resources for rent and food.
 - Za'atari camp, which hosts over 122,500 refugees, is overcrowded and a lack of access to food has been reported. The average daily arrivals to the camp at the start of February, was 1,766.
 - Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to be refused entry to Jordan.

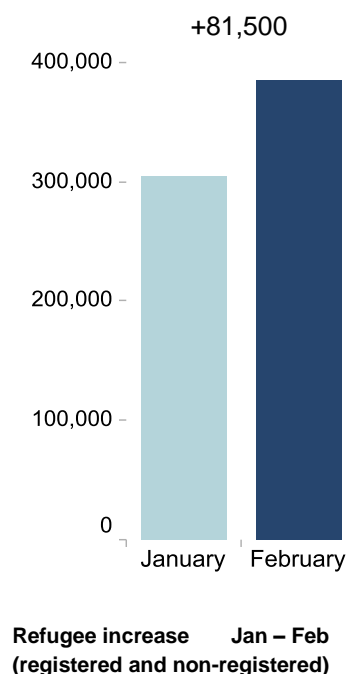


Operational constraints

- Since it opened in July, the Za'atari camp has seen frequent protests, mainly over poor living conditions. Unrest has hindered the provision of relief, most recently in early February, when Jordanian police fired tear gas to disperse refugees after they tried to attack the storehouse of a Norwegian charity as it distributed aid. ([AFP 2013/10/02](#), [WFP 2013/02/12](#))

Data sources and limitations

- In contrast to other countries receiving refugees, several small assessments on the topic of urban refugees have been conducted, including by CARE, Mercy Corps, Un Ponte Per and IFRC. These assessments are relatively limited in geographical scope and the most updated assessment is from October 2012. As the refugee numbers more than doubled since then (from around 60,000 to 136,000) this data is relatively out-dated. There was an attempt in March 2012 by a Joint UN task force to conduct a Rapid Needs Assessment, however, to date no official and comprehensive assessment, focused specifically on the needs of urban refugees, has been undertaken. A detailed mapping exercise of the location of all non-camp based refugees is underway by UNHCR and ACTED (REACH Initiative) and results are expected by March.
- While the situation in Za'atari camp receives significant (media) attention, the situation in the other two camps is largely unknown.



- There is a lack of available information on the number and location of recently arrived Palestinian refugees by province/settlement.
- No information is available on the Syrian seasonal workers.

Displaced

Registered refugees

- Official border crossings:** Daraa and Nasib. The average daily arrivals between 7 January and 6 February (30 days) have increased substantially compared to the average daily arrivals during the period 7 December – 6 February (180 days) – from 750 to 1,850 persons a day. IOM reports that over 48,000 Syrians arrived in Jordan in January 2013, the monthly record since the onset of the Syria crisis. With the weather improving, it is expected that more refugees will continue to seek refuge in Jordan. An increase of elderly people crossing the border has been reported. ([UNHCR 2013/02/18](#), [WHO 2012/12/10](#), [UNICEF 2013/01/07](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/16](#), [AJ 2013/01/22](#), [UNICEF 2013/01/25](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/27](#))
- Place of origin:** 91% of Syrians who arrived in January are from Dar'a. ([WFP 2013/02/11](#))
- Location:** A significant part of the registered refugees (106,000, or 51% of total number of registered refugees, on 13 February) are residing outside of camps, primarily in urban areas. The Government established multiple transit facilities including: Cyber City and King Abdullah Park. Since August 2012, all Syrian refugees entering Jordan are transferred to Za'atari camp, in the northern governorate of Mafraq. As of 20 February 2013, over 122,500 people were registered in Za'atari camp, of which around 59,500 individuals arrived between 1 and 20 February. ([UNHCR 2013/02/13](#), [UNHCR 2013/02/20](#), [AFP 2013/02/03](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/23](#), [IRIN 2013/01/08](#), [UNHCR 2012/12/07](#))
- Government employs a system of kefala, or sponsorship: Syrians who can find a Jordanian citizen to vouch for them can leave the camp. Since the camp opened, roughly 6,000 people have left officially. Palestinian refugees do not have access to kefala. UNHCR data suggests refugees often leave the camp unofficially and estimates that as many as 300 people a day leave unofficially. ([UNHCR 2013/01](#), [UNICEF 2013/01/17](#), [CSM 2012/12/06](#), [IRC 2013/01/13](#))
- Demographic breakdown:** According to the UNHCR data portal, the demographic breakdown of registered refugees was 58% male against 42% female in January, which is a demographic balance that differed significantly from the demographic balance in other host countries. However, in February, the percentage was revised to 47% male against 53% female. The reason for this discrepancy is unclear. ([UNHCR 2013/02/19](#), [UNHCR 2012/12/31](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/17](#))

Information gaps across sectors

Blue = information available Grey = limited or no information

	Education	Health	LFS	Protection	Shelter	WASH
Camp	Blue icon (book)	Blue icon (caduceus)	Grey icon (bowl)	Grey icon (hands)	Blue icon (house)	Grey icon (water tap)
Non camp	Blue icon (book)	Blue icon (caduceus)	Grey icon (bowl)	Grey icon (hands)	Blue icon (house)	Grey icon (water tap)
Other displaced	Blue icon (book)	Grey icon (caduceus)	Grey icon (bowl)	Grey icon (hands)	Grey icon (house)	Grey icon (water tap)
Host community	Blue icon (book)	Grey icon (caduceus)	Grey icon (bowl)	Grey icon (hands)	Grey icon (house)	Grey icon (water tap)

- 4,200 (10%) households arriving in the month of January were female headed.
- Around 56% of the registered refugees are <18 as of 19 February, against 63% by mid-January. This indicates an increase of people above 18 crossing the border. Out of the urban registered population, 33.6% are female-headed households while 26.6% are single males. The religious background for registered Syrian refugees is primarily Muslim Sunni (99%). ([UNHCR 2012/12/31](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/17](#))

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

- There are approximately 4,092 PRS who have fled Syria into Jordan and sought assistance from UNRWA. Most are located in Irbid, Cyber City camp, Zarqa and Amman. Palestinian refugees are barred from entering Jordan legally. ([UNRWA 2013/02/15](#), [AlertNet 2013/01/22](#).)

Unregistered refugees

- There is no information available on the number and location of unregistered refugees. The Government stated that Jordan currently hosts some 340,000 Syrians, 271,000 of whom are UN-registered or awaiting registration. Hence, estimates of unregistered refugees are as high as 70,000. At least 50,000 people are waiting to cross the border into Jordan. ([AFP 2012/01/17](#), [IRC 2013/01/13](#), [AFP 2013/02/03](#))

Syrian seasonal workers

An unknown number of Syrian migrants reside in Jordan as agricultural seasonal workers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that those workers remain in Jordan as they have not been able to return. ([ECHO 2012/12/12](#)) There is no information available on the location, status and number of seasonal workers in Jordan.

Refugee needs and concerns

Health

- An increase in respiratory infections and diarrhoea outbreaks has been reported. More psychosocial support, including professional psychological assistance, is needed in view of the high number of trauma cases among refugees who have experienced widespread violence in Syria. ([ECHO 2012/12/02](#), [WHO 2013/01/02](#), [AlertNet 2013/01/17](#))
- A nutrition assessment did not point to an alarming under-nutrition problem among Syrian <5 and women of childbearing age. ([WHO 2013/01/02](#))
- Camp:** Medical facilities in Za'atari camp are becoming increasingly overburdened. For now, all of the health indicators in the camp are below emergency thresholds and no disease outbreak alerts have been issued. ([UNHCR 2013/02/15](#), [IOM 2013/02/21](#), [WHO 2013/02/10](#))

- Around 3% of the Za'atari camp population is older than 60 years of age, but they account for 15% of acute health conditions and 35% of chronic conditions. ([UNHCR 2013/02/15](#))
- Urban refugees:** Access to medical care for urban refugees has been identified as a major concern. Common diseases among Syrians are: respiratory disease, psychological symptoms (stress), diabetes, high blood pressure and heart diseases. Despite the commitment of the Jordanian authorities to grant access to services to the Syrian refugees, not all health services are provided for free. Those facilities that are free reportedly do not have the capacity to deal with the influx of patients. Main challenges regarding health services are: distance, lack of medicine, user fees and ceiling of health assistance per year. ([ECHO 2012/12/02](#), [UNHCR 2012/12](#))

Shelter

- Camps** Overcrowding is a pressing issue in the camps and frustration over the conditions has sparked unrest on multiple occasions. ([OCHA 2013/01/21](#), [AFP 2012/01/17](#), [UNICEF 2013/01/07](#), [WFP 2013/01/08](#))
- Za'atari camp is overcrowded and the situation is deteriorating while the number of daily arrivals is on the increase, with over 50,000 arriving between February 1 and February 20. ([UNHCR 2013/02/20](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/25](#))
- Urban refugees/unregistered refugees:** Rental assistance was mentioned as the most urgent need by 89% of survey participants in a Un Ponte Per assessment amongst 400 refugees in July 2012. The large majority of Syrians who have crossed the border with Jordan since March 2011 are residing with host families or renting small apartments. As a result of increased demand, rents have increased significantly: in Mafraq, for instance, average rents increased from JOD 50 to JOD 150-200 during the crisis. Unable to meet rents, many Syrian families are threatened with eviction or forced to live in sub-standard housing. ([CARE 12/10/01](#), [ECHO 2012/12/02](#), [ICMC 2012/11/30](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/10](#), [Un Ponte Per 2012/08](#))
- Some landlords are reportedly reluctant to rent apartments to unaccompanied women, perceiving them as unlikely to be able to pay rent and as 'socially problematic'. Hence, female headed households in urban areas are particularly vulnerable. ([CARE 12/10/01](#), [ECHO 2012/12/02](#), [ICMC 2012/11/30](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/10](#))

Livelihoods and food security

- Income-generating opportunities are reportedly limited for refugees as the agricultural sector is saturated. ([IMC 12/10/11](#), [ECHO 2012/12/02](#))
- Camps:** In Za'atari camp, food is becoming a major issue. The provision of hot meals has been identified as a challenge due to the rapid increase of the camp population. ([ECHO 2012/12/02](#))

- **Urban refugees/unregistered refugees:** A large proportion of urban refugees in Amman were found to be living below the poverty line in October 2012 and access to food was a main concern. Female headed households in urban areas were identified as particularly vulnerable due to the inability to work outside of the home either due to care commitments (children/elderly relatives) or concerns for safety and security. Skilled and semi-skilled labourers have been the most successful in finding work in Amman. ([CARE 12/10/01](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/10](#))
- Syrian workers are often exploited, working long hours for extremely low salaries. ([Mercy Corps 2012/10](#))
- Coping mechanisms include: borrowing from relatives, sending their children to work or using savings, selling household commodities and goods, selling food assistance, and working odd jobs for little or in-kind pay. ([UNHCR 2012/12](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/10](#))

Protection

- Syrians do not require a visa or Jordanian residency and have access to the labour market in accordance with Jordanian law. However, in reality, the vast majority of people fleeing Syria entered Jordan through unofficial border crossings and, as a consequence, their freedom of movement is curtailed and their identity documents are retained upon arrival by the Jordanian authorities. They are sheltered in refugee camps or transit sites and are only able to regain their identity papers and freedom of movement if they are sponsored by a Jordanian. ([UNHCR 2012/12/19](#))
- The sudden increase in refugees has led to a registration backlog in Jordan. ([OCHA 2013/02/04](#))
- Syrian children are reportedly facing discrimination and violence at schools and on the streets. ([Mercy Corps 2012/10](#))
- Women and girls have limited freedom of movement and are largely confined to their houses. Some Syrian women and young girls are subject to domestic violence and because of shame, with SGBV cases are almost never reported. ([UNHCR 2012/11/30](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/10](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/10](#))
- Both Syrian and Jordanian adults cited tensions between young men as a growing area of concern. ([Mercy Corps 2012/10](#))
- Jordan announced it could not host more Palestinian refugees and has closed the border for this group; 179 Palestinian refugees were transferred to the Cyber City camp and are not allowed to move out or to receive visits from outside without a special permit. There is no updated information available on their status. ([UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [ECHO 2012/12/02](#), [AlertNet 2013/01/23](#))
- Due to internal political and security considerations, Jordan has much stricter conditions for Iraqis entering its territory. As a result, Iraqi refugees suffer

from a lack of legal status, limited access to the labour market, depletion of savings. ([ECHO 2013/01/25](#))

- **Urban refugees/unregistered refugees:** Lack of residence and legal status in Jordan is a key concern of urban refugees in Amman as it creates secondary risks in every aspect of daily life. While registration with UNHCR officially provides protection from *refoulement*, the lack of legal documentation for work is a considerable concern. In addition, some urban refugees noted incidents of discrimination, exploitation or abuse and stated that they did not feel able to go to the police. ([CARE 12/10/01](#), [ICMC 2012/11/30](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/10](#))
- Refugees who have illegally moved out of Za'atari camp do not have identity papers and are particularly vulnerable as they are unable to turn to the police in case of need. ([UNHCR 2012/12](#))

WASH

- Jordan suffers from chronic water shortages, particularly during the dry months. The increased number of arrivals over the past two weeks is putting great stress on current WASH facilities. ([ECHO 2012/12/02](#), [UNICEF 2013/01/11](#), [Mercy Corps 2013/01/04](#))
- **Camp:** The continuing influx of refugees puts a great strain on the existing water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. ([UNICEF 2013/02/04](#))

Education

Urban refugees: The following issues have been identified as barriers to education: the auxiliary costs surrounding schooling, schools reached capacity, safety on the way to school, bullying and discrimination in school, children having missed schooling, difference in curriculum, distance from home to school, psychological issues of the children and the need to work to support their families. ([CARE 12/10/01](#), [UNHCR 2012/12](#))

Non-Displaced

- **Host communities:** The Syrian community in Jordan now represents nearly 5% of the country's entire population. Local communities' capacity to absorb refugees is reportedly being stretched and services are becoming overburdened. ([CARE 12/10/01](#), [OCHA 2013/02/04](#))
- While thus far there have been few violent incidents between refugees and host communities, residents and Government officials fear that hostilities will become more prevalent if the tensions are not addressed. A poll conducted in September 2012 reports that 80% of residents in Mafraq, one of the areas hosting a large number of refugees, feel that the Syrians should be housed in refugee camps, segregated from the community. The principal underlying

cause of tensions is growing pressure on local resources, lack of housing, increased rental prices and competition for jobs. [\(Mercy Corps 2012/10\)](#)

- Water and electricity shortages, insufficient garbage collection, overstretched health centres, rising food and fuel prices and other inconveniences are further exacerbating tensions. [\(Mercy Corps 2012/10\)](#)
- Other affected:** Country wide, refugees impose an additional strain on Jordan's water supplies, consume state-subsidised electricity and further stretch health, education and other services. Officials estimate that accommodating Syrian refugees cost treasury \$250 million. [\(AFP 2013/02/20, Alertnet 2013/02/03\)](#)
- Jordan had pockets of its population suffering from food insecurity before the influx of Syrian citizens. With the current influx the safety nets provided by the Government are completely overstretched. [\(WFP 2013/02/04\)](#)

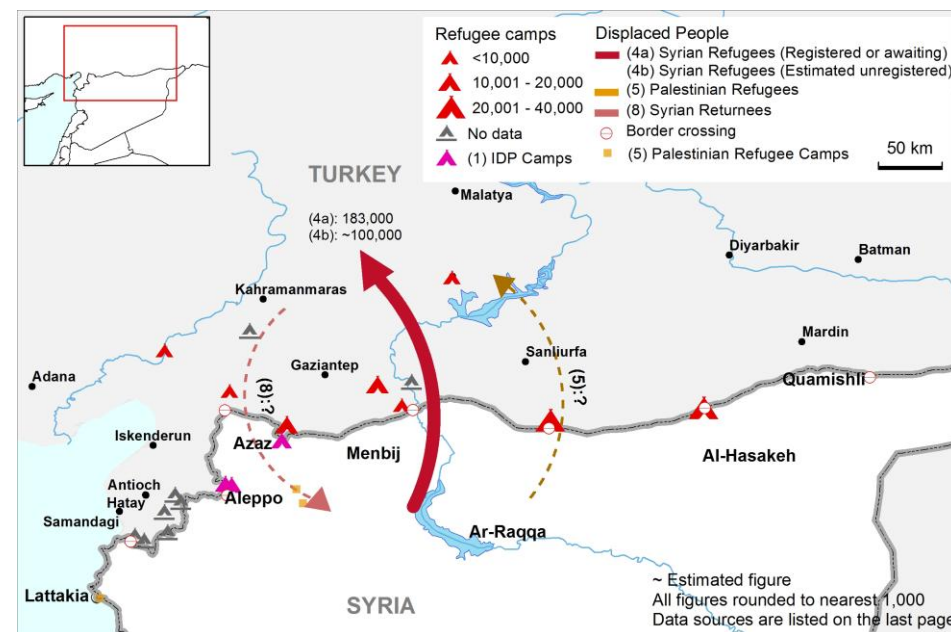
Turkey

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)	
▲ Syrian registered refugees	182,621
▲ Syrian unregistered refugees	~60-70,000
Syrian returnees	Unknown
Syrian migrants	Unknown
Non displaced	
Non-displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown

SOURCE: UNHCR 2013/01/22

Key concerns

- Refugees not residing in camps have only limited access to services. Their main needs are access to livelihoods, mental health support, advice on their legal status, education and clothing. As temperatures increase, winterisation is becoming less of an urgent need.
- The authorities have difficulties in keeping up with the refugee influx, and some refugees have to wait in Syria or Turkey until they gain access to one of the camps. The services provided in these camps, however, are reportedly above international standards.



Operational constraints

- The Government fully controls access to the refugee camps for national and international non-governmental organizations. However, UNHCR has unhindered access and monitors the situation in the camps on a daily basis. In general, NGOs have not been authorized to carry out activities in the camps. A car bomb explosion in Hatay, close to a border point on the Turkish/ Syrian border, has highlighted the increased need for extra vigilance on the part of humanitarian staff. ([IFRC 2012/12/29](#), [STL 2013/01/22](#), [UNHCR n.d.](#), [WFP 2013/02/18](#))

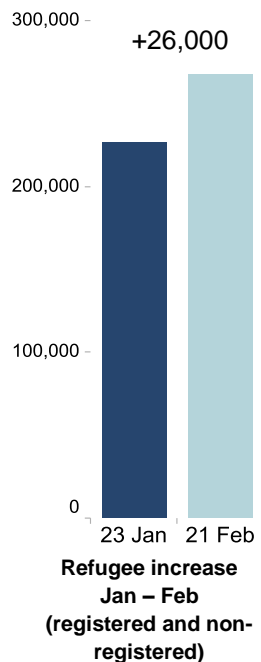
Data sources and limitations

- The Turkish authorities maintain responsibility for registering and providing basic services to the refugees, and provide statistics on the numbers of Syrian refugees hosted in the camps and of Syrians who returned voluntarily. Only limited information on the needs of registered refugees is published by the authorities. However, as credible reports indicate that the needs in the refugee camps are fulfilled by the Government, an assessment of those needs is not a priority.
- The situation reports from Support to Life are the most comprehensive, publicly available reports on the unregistered refugee population. There is limited other public information currently available.
- As UNRWA does not have a presence in Turkey, there is no publicly available information on the number and location of Palestinian refugees in Turkey.
- No information is available on the impact of the refugee influx on host communities.

➤ Information gaps across sectors

Blue = information available Grey = limited or no information

	Education	Health	LFS	Protection	Shelter	WASH
Camp						
Non camp						
Host community						



Displaced

Refugees (registered or awaiting)

Official border crossings: There are eight official border crossings (Bab al-Hawa, Ceylanpinar, Cizre, Karkamis, Maydan Ikbis, Nusaybin (Qamishli), Tell Abiad and Yayladagi).

Location

- As of 15 February 2013, 182,621 refugees have been registered in 17 camps.
- Some registered Syrians are living outside of the camps due to the shortage of space. In Sanliurfa province, more than 20,000 Syrians who were registered in two camps were actually living outside in the nearby villages. In Nizip town, approximately 10,000 Syrians are accommodated in 11 public buildings, factories and communal areas etc. ([UNHCR 2013/02/07](#))
- An estimated 45,000 IDPs are residing in 3 IDP camps at the border with Turkey waiting for admission to one of the refugee camps in Turkey. ([WFP 2013/02/08](#), [WFP 2013/02/18](#))

Status: The Government of Turkey has implemented a temporary protection regime in line with international standards for dealing with mass influxes. The regime guarantees admission to the territory of Turkey, protection against forcible returns and access to reception arrangements where immediate needs are addressed. The temporary protection regime also covers Palestinians from Syrian and stateless persons. (UNHCR n.d.)

Palestinian refugees

There is no information available on the number or location of Palestinian refugees from Syria. Palestinian refugees fall within UNHCR's mandate in Turkey and are covered by the Temporary Protection Regime for Syrians.

Unregistered refugees

- The number of Syrians living in urban areas is estimated to be approximately 100,000. ([IRIN 2012/12/26](#), [UNHCR 2013/02/03](#))
- The main reasons for not registering include fear of recruitment of children and youth into armed groups, gender based violence, religious reasons, ethnic tensions (e.g. discrimination against the Kurdish minority), restricted mobility and fear of political violence (especially for ex-public workers). ([STL 2013/02/15](#))
- **Location:** Unregistered Syrian refugees are mostly located in Hatay (estimated 50,000 unregistered refugees), Kilis, Gaziantep and Sanliurfa, as well as other border provinces. There is a relation between the area of settlement in Turkey and the place of origin: Syrians fleeing Latakia tend to seek refuge in the Yayladagi district of Hatay, those fleeing Aleppo primarily

settle in Kirikhan, while those fleeing Idleb reside in Altinozu district. ([STL 2013/02/15](#))

Refugee needs and concerns

Shelter

- **Camps:** the shortage of space in camps continues to be the main challenge for local authorities as construction of new camps can barely keep up with the influx of refugees. The recently opened container site in Harran in Sanliurfa province has for instance already exceeded 70% of its 10,000 capacity. ([USAID 2013/02/19](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/31](#), [UNHCR 2013/02/06](#))
- Due to shortage of space in the existing camps, some 30,000 refugees are being accommodated outside of camps. It was observed by UNHCR field teams that the conditions of these Syrians are far from those who are accommodated in the camps. ([UNHCR 2013/02/03](#))
- **Unregistered refugees:** Most unregistered refugees are renting accommodation and, with limited livelihood opportunities, it is likely that rent will increasingly become an issue. Rents in villages range between 100-200 TL (45-90 Euro), while this increases to 350 TL (160 Euro) and more in the urban areas. ([STL 2013/02/15](#))

Livelihoods and Food Security

- Syrian refugees in Turkey choosing to work do so illegally (a work permit costs \$700-\$1,000) and therefore have no protection from unscrupulous employers. Refugees are reportedly working for a wage as low as 15 liras a day in agriculture and construction. ([IRIN 2012/12/26](#), [PI 2013/01/23](#))
- **Unregistered refugees:** Access to fresh food and bread is reportedly a gap, because of high prices. Refugees settled in the rural areas have greater access to a variety of food items compared to those choosing to settle in urban areas, where food items need to be purchased from the market. ([STL 2013/02/15](#))

Education

- **Unregistered refugees:** The percentage of school attendance among unregistered refugee children is reportedly very low. According to a Support to Life assessment, only 9 out of 690 people surveyed stated that the school-aged children in the family were attending school in Turkey. Main barriers to education are a lack of transportation and language barriers. ([STL 2013/01](#))

Health

- On January 18, the Government of Turkey issued a circular stating that all Syrians in Turkey could receive free health services in public hospitals regardless of whether they are being accommodated in camps or are residing in cities in Turkey using their own means. (UNHCR n.d., [USAID 2013/01/30](#))

- **Camps:** Health care provided to the Syrians in camps in the south provinces of Hatay, Gaziantep, Kilis and Sanliurfa has reportedly been above international humanitarian standards and no specific health issues have been reported in the camp. ([UNHCR 2013/01/12](#), [ECHO 2012/12/20](#))
- **Unregistered refugees:** Unregistered refugees have access to free health services. However, limited information for refugees on available services has been reported as a problem. ([STL 2013/02/15](#))
- A significant number of refugees require some sort of health support, with more than 10% of the 1,000 families visited by Support to Life stating that one or more members of their families are in need of medical assistance. 9% families reportedly had a pregnant family member. ([STL 2013/02/15](#))
- Psycho-social support is lacking and identified as a need by the refugees. ([PI2013/01/23](#))

Protection

- UNHCR estimates that there could be 45,000 Syrians waiting for camp admission on the Syrian side of the border, with limited access to services. ([WFP 2013/02/18](#))
- A lack of information on the current legal status of refugees has been identified as an issue. ([STL 2013/02/15](#))
- **Camps:** Needs are generally well met in the camps and reports suggest that stronger attention is being given to protection issues such as psycho-social support. ([STL 2013/02/15](#))

Wash

- **Camps:** Although WASH facilities are above adequate in the camps, 1,000 Syrians accommodated in 10 large public tents in Akcakale camp in Sanliurfa Province face poor sanitary conditions. ([USAID 2013/02/19](#))
- **Unregistered refugees:** Inadequate sanitation facilities in collective shelter are of concern, with reports of open defecation. ([STL 2013/02/15](#))

Non-Displaced

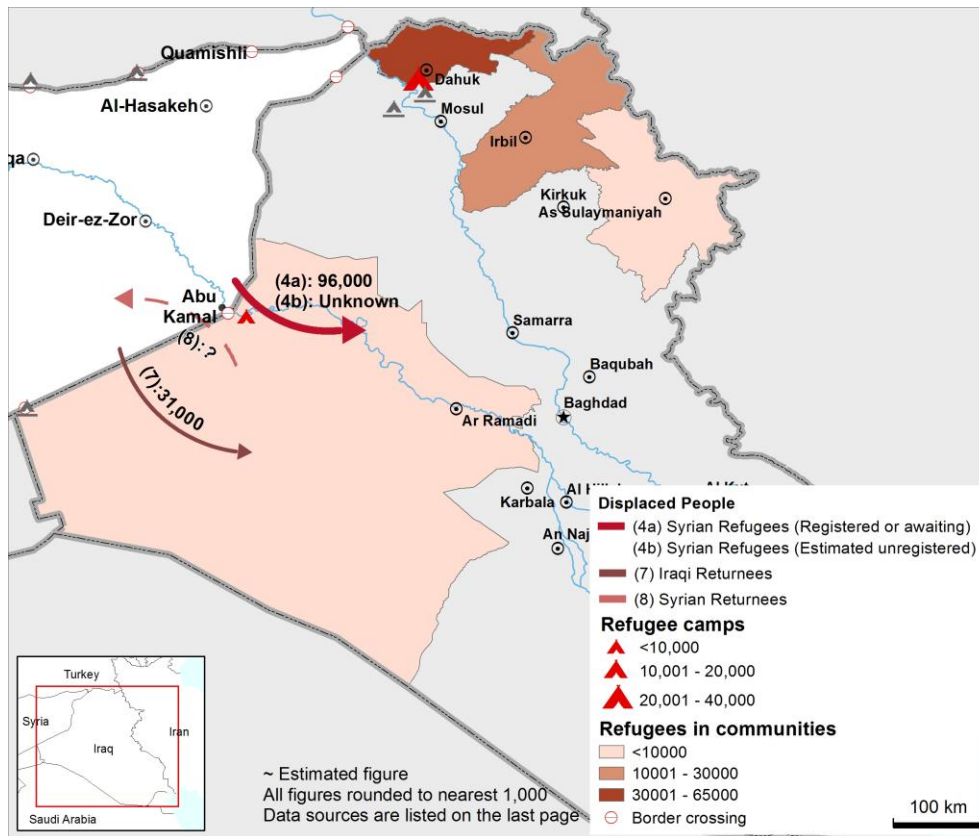
No information

Iraq

Displaced (see annex A for definitions)	
➤ Syrian UNHCR registered refugees	96,270
Syrian unregistered refugees	Unknown
Syrian migrants	Unknown
Syrian returnees	1,752 through Al Qaim border crossing, total number unknown
18 July 2012 – 8 Jan 2013	
Iraqi returnees from Syria	>31,000 (66,089 left Syria but 35,000 have returned)

Non displaced	
Non-displaced affected by the Syria crisis	Unknown

SOURCE: UNHCR 2013/02/05, UNHCR 2013/02/17, UNHCR 2013/01/15



Key concerns

- Overcrowding is a concern in Domiz refugee camp.
- Although refugees have the right to work, employment opportunities are limited. For refugees outside of camps, with limited access to assistance, this means that resources are depleting rapidly.

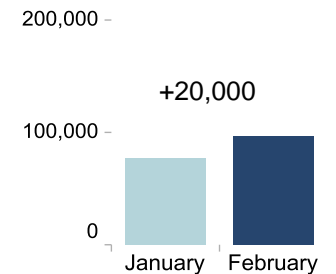
Operational constraints

- In January, armed clashes were reported in Anbar province. Protests and road blocks in Anbar are on-going and the overall situation remains tense. The overall security in Domiz camp and in the Kurdistan Region is stable. Humanitarian space remains limited in Iraq and remote control operations are still the norm in the areas with security problems. Security threats for international staff remain high in the country and particularly in Baghdad, north/central governorates and the Disputed Territories. The UN agencies are hampered in their action by the strict security measures imposed by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. (UNHCR 2013/02/05, UNHCR 2013/01/22, ECHO 2013/01/25)

Data sources and limitations

- There is information available on the situation in Domiz camp and since February on Al Qaim camp, although this information is limited. There is a complete lack of publicly available information on the situation in Al Waleed camp.

Refugee increase Jan – Feb (registered and non-registered)



- The latest available assessment amongst refugees is the Joint Rapid Needs Assessment of Syrians by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and UN/NGOs from July 2012. This assessment is, however, relatively outdated (in July the number of registered refugees was only around 6,000). In addition, the assessment only covers the registered refugees in the Kurdish region. The status of non-Kurdish refugees is unclear.
- Although more than half of the refugees are reportedly residing in urban areas, there is little information available on their exact location or needs. A detailed mapping exercise of the location of all non-camp based refugees is underway by UNHCR and ACTED (REACH Initiative) and the report is expected by March.
- There is no information on the situation of host communities.

Information gaps across sectors

Blue = information available Grey = limited or no information

	Education	Health	LFS	Protection	Shelter	WASH
Camp						
Non camp						
Other displaced						
Host community						

- Although there is regularly updated information on the number of registered refugees in Iraq, UNHCR does not publish the demographic breakdown of the refugee population at present.

Displaced

Registered refugees

- Official border crossings:** Rabi'aa, Al-Waleed (al-Tanf), Al Qaim (closed since 28 October, except for medical emergencies and family reunification). The majority of new arrivals are reported to have crossed via the Sehela unofficial crossing point. (UNHCR 2013/02/05)
- Reason for displacement:** The main reasons for leaving Syria are on-going general violence followed by depleted resources and lack of basic services. Refugees with professions indicated their willingness to stay in Iraq even if the situation in Syria improved. (UNHCR 2013/02/05, IOM 2012/09/16, WFP 2012/07)

Location

- The majority of Syrians in Iraq have fled to the three governorates of Iraqi Kurdistan – Dohuk, Erbil, and Suleimaniyah. Three camps have been established: Domiz camp in Dohuk, and Al Qaim and Al Waleed camp in Anbar governorate. Construction in Kasak camp in Mosul governorate is on-going. Nearly half of the registered Syrians live outside of the camps, mostly in urban areas. There are still 3,000 families living in transit areas. (UNHCR 2012/11/23, RI 2012/12/05, UNHCR 2013/01/21)
- UNHCR reports there are 30,000 Syrians residing in Domiz camp while other reports suggest that up to 45,000 refugees are possibly residing there. Due to the border closing, there are no new arrivals to the Al Qaim camp and the

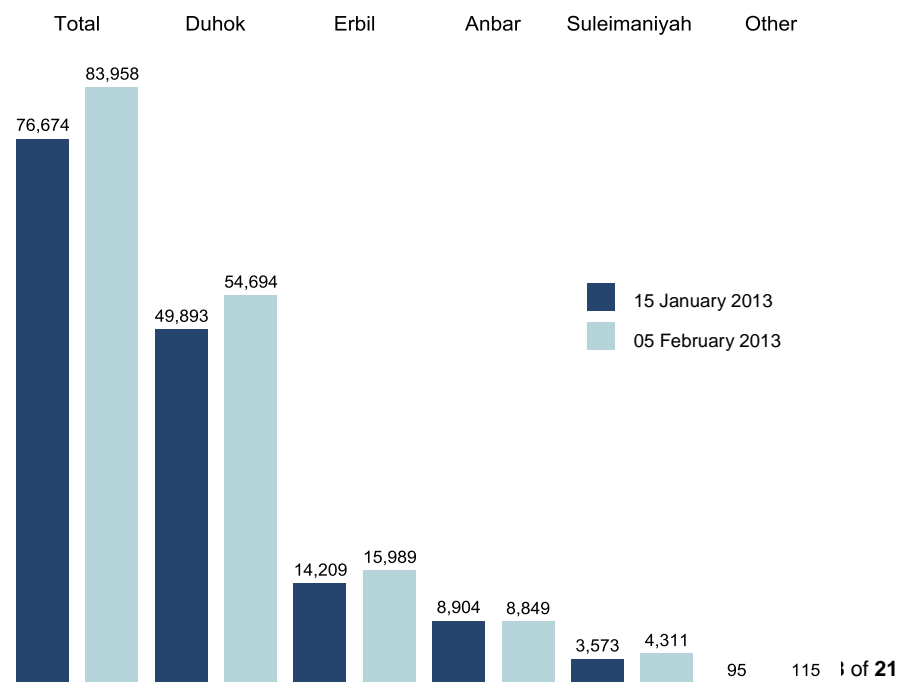
number of people residing in this camp remains constant at around 8,500.

(WFP 2013/02/18, UNHCR 2013/02/05)

- UNHCR is registering all new arrivals on daily basis and at present there is no pending caseload or backlog. (UNHCR 2013/02/05)
- At the Rabi'aa border crossing, Syrian Kurds are automatically considered refugees and are given documentation and humanitarian assistance by the Iraqi Kurdish authorities. The Kurdish authorities are granting six-month renewable resident permits to the refugees, which allow them to look for work. (ECHO 2012/09/20, MSF 2012/11/21)
- Non Kurdish Syrians, located mostly in Al Qaim camps or in the surrounding area, are currently not provided documentation by the authorities. There is an order to provide residency permits for 6 months but this has not yet been implemented. (UNHCR 2013/02/05)

Demographic breakdown: Almost all arrivals to the region are Kurds. Even Kurds fleeing from Damascus are travelling to northern Iraq rather than Jordan. The average age for the refugee population is 24, with 43% of the family members <14, according to a September assessment. A large proportion of Syrians are skilled labourers. (IOM 2012/09/16, WFP 2012/07)

Number of refugees per province



Unregistered refugees

An unknown number of refugees are residing in Iraq without having registered with UNHCR. Different from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, there are no estimations available of the number of unregistered refugees.

Syrian returnees

By 13 January, more than 1,200 individuals had returned to Syria via the Al Qaim border crossing. Reasons cited for return are varied and include an improvement of the security situation in Albu Kamal (Syrian side of the Al Qaim border crossing); family reunification; lack of freedom of movement in Iraq; insufficient food supplies and lack of employment and income opportunities. ([UNHCR 13/01/08](#))

Refugee needs and concerns

Health and nutrition

- The main health problems among Syrians in Iraq are acute respiratory conditions followed by chronic diseases (such as hypertension and diabetes). Many suffer from psychological distress, particularly children. ([IOM 2012/09/16](#), [ShelterBox 2012/10/23](#), [UNICEF 2013/01/11](#), [WHO 2012/12/10](#), [MSF 2012/11/21](#))

Camps:

- Living conditions in Al Qaim camp (registered population of 8,805 refugees) continue to be difficult. Deteriorating health conditions, with a rise in scabies infections as well as lice infections, has been reported. ([IOM 2013/02/14](#))
- The latest nutrition assessment dates from August 2012. This assessment in refugee camps in Al-Anbar governorate showed that wasting, stunting, underweight and overweight prevalence rates were low (4.8%, 15.1%, 7.6% and 4.1% respectively) according to WHO classification. ([UNHCR 2012/11/08](#))
- **Urban refugees/unregistered refugees:** Refugees living outside the camps receive health services from the Directorate of Health medical centres and nearby hospitals. A large part of the urban refugees, are unaware of the free services available to them at the local health facilities and access to health care is a concern, particularly for patients with chronic illnesses, since these patients require longer-term treatment. ([WFP 2012/06](#), [WFP 2012/06](#), [WHO 2013/01/23](#))

Livelihoods and food security

- Despite having the right to work in Iraq, Syrian men are reported to have entered into employment without contracts (enabling non-payment and reduced payment of wages). ([IOM 2013/02/21](#))
- Only a limited number of Syrian families have access to savings, and an increasing number of refugees are forced to take out debts. Obtaining employment is difficult for those that are not registered with the local authorities. This registration only takes place in Domiz Camp and it is found

difficult and costly to reach this camp for those who have chosen to live in other regions.

- One (negative) coping mechanism for Syrians residing in Iraq is to engage minors in labour, as it seems easier for minors to find work (due to lower wages and the fact that they typically work in the informal sector where a work-permit is not required). ([WFP 2012/06](#))

Camps:

- An urgent need for food items has been reported in Al Qaim camp. ([IOM 2013/02/14](#))
- There are limited employment opportunities in the Domiz Camp so able bodied persons often migrate to Dahuk city for labour opportunities.
- **Urban refugees/ unregistered refugees:** As assistance to urban refugees is limited, refugees are effectively forced to relocate to Domiz camp when their financial means are exhausted. ([RI 2012/12/05](#))

Protection

- Syrian refugees who have arrived after June 2012 do not in principle have freedom of movement and are transferred to one of the camps, except for those who have benefitted from the sponsorship programme that allows them to reside outside of the camps. ([UNHCR 2013/02/05](#))
- The majority of Syrians feel safe in the Kurdish Region of Iraq. They are of the same ethnic group as their host communities and speak the same language. The relationship between the host community and refugees is generally positive as many Syrian refugees have Iraqi relatives. ([UNHCR 2013/02/05](#), [WFP 2012/06](#))
- Landmines and unexploded ordnance are a threat to refugees residing in the region separating Kurdish-controlled areas from those under Iraqi Government jurisdiction. ([MAG 2012/12/16](#))
- **Camps:** In Domiz camp, as of 30 January, more than 100 children have been separated from their parents, with some of them living with extended families inside the camp while others are living within the singles camp. There is still no systematic child protection system in place in the camps to identify, support or refer child victims/ at risk children and youth. ([UNICEF 2013/02/08](#))
- A recent IRC study in Domiz camp showed that girls over the age of 14 reported the risk of gender-based violence, particularly in accessing the latrines, which are located near a single men's area and not currently segregated by gender. ([USAID 2013/02/19](#))
- In the Domiz camp, concerns have been raised amongst the humanitarian community regarding activities compromising the civilian nature of the camp

as there have been reports of Syrian refugees receiving military training from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). ([ECHO 2012/12/2](#), [IRIN 2012/08/20](#))

Education

- The KRG has allowed the Syrians to register free of charge in public schools. However, many children are still unable to attend classes as they are engaged in income generation. Urban refugees are often living in low rent apartments on the outskirts of cities and are therefore faced with high transport costs for schools. ([WFP 2012/06](#))
- Camp:** Attendance in the Al Qaim Camp 1 school is only 39% for boys and 55% for girls for the period from January 9th to 17th. ([UNHCR 2013/01/22](#))
- There are no education facilities in Domiz camp. Although children are allowed to go to local schools outside of the camp, many parents consider this option dangerous, due to the possibility of harassment en route to their studies. ([USAID 2013/02/19](#))

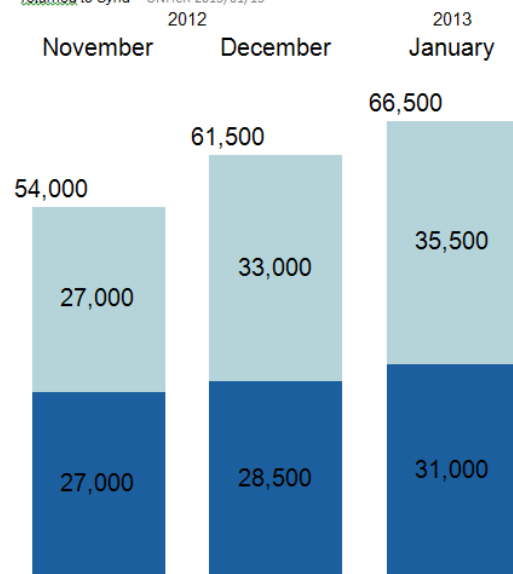
Shelter

- Camps:** Overcrowding is a concern in the camps; Domiz periodically reaches full capacity, at which point the Kurdish Government expands the camp to host new arrivals. In Al Qaim camp, teams report shortages of accommodation as the camp is operating at near full capacity. ([IOM 2013/02/14](#))

Urban refugees/unregistered refugees:

- As their own resources are often limited and employment is scarce, urban refugees are forced to live in sub-standard shelter. Young single men are not permitted to rent apartments under KRG law because of suspicions that they are combatants. ([RI 2012/12/05](#))

Total number of Iraqi's returned from Syria since July 18 2012 disaggregated by those who are still residing in Iraq and those who have returned to Syria – UNHCR 2013/01/13



■ Iraqi returnees who re-crossed the border into Syria
■ Iraqi returnees currently residing in Iraq

Iraqi returnees

Location

- The latest information on the number of returnees is from 13 January, when the total number of Iraqis crossing into Iraq since 18 July 2012 stood at around 66,000, including around 6,000 by air. Statistics collected at the border

continue to indicate that Baghdad is still the governorate receiving the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar, Ninawa, Diyala, Nasiriya, Babil, KRG, Kirkuk and Salah Al Din. ([UNHCR 2013/02/22](#), [IOM 2012/09/16](#))

- Some Iraqi refugees are hesitant to leave Syria, as they are afraid their application for refugee status will be withdrawn or delayed. Due to a backlog in registering Iraqi refugees in Syria, some of these refugees have been waiting for their refugee status for years. ([PI 2013/01/21](#))
- Iraqis returning from Syria usually have the documents they need to register as returnees. Not all Iraqis returning from Syria register with the Iraqi Government because they do not know how or why to register. One MoMD representative reported that some returnees are reluctant to register because of a rumour that those who register will be prevented from leaving again. ([IOM 2012/09/16](#))
- Demographic breakdown:** Among Iraqi returnee families assessed in September 2012, the average age was 25, and 33% of the family members were 14 years old or younger. The proportion of female headed households among assessed Iraqi returnee families was at 25% (against 11% of Syrian refugee households). ([IOM 2012/09/16](#), [UNHCR 2012/12/05](#))
- Reasons for displacement:** Reasons for returning to Iraq include a general fear of the current situation; a direct threat to their life; ethnic; religious or political persecution; being forced to leave their homes, and being directly assaulted. ([IOM 2012/09/16](#))
- Iraqi returnees to Syria:** Cross border movements are common, with Iraqi's crossing in and out of Syria to obtain their UNHCR assistance or to sell property. Some other Iraqis temporarily go back to Syria to sell their property or to obtain their kids school certificates which is required by the Iraqi Ministry of Education. ([RI 2012/12/05](#), [UNHCR 2012/12/05](#))

Returnee needs and concerns: The only publicly available assessment on Iraqi returnees was undertaken in September 2012. During this assessment, 84% cited work as one of their top three priority needs, 43% cited non-food items, 41% cited shelter/housing, and 41% cited food. ([IOM 2012/09/16](#))

Non-Displaced

- Over 92,000 refugees have been registered by UNHCR as of 17 February. This means that the number of refugees initially projected to arrive by June 2013 has already been reached. The large numbers of arrivals is increasing rental rates and competition for jobs in certain areas. While urban refugees have access to the KRG's own social services, those services themselves are often underdeveloped and unable to serve additional clients. ([RI 2012/12/05](#), [UNICEF 2013/02/08](#))

Previous reports

- [RAS \(Part I and Part II\)](#) 28 January 2013
- [Baseline data Syria](#) 28 January 2013
- [Stakeholder profile Syria](#) 28 January 2013
- [Scenarios](#) 18 February 2013

Forthcoming reports

- RAS (Part I and Part II) End March 2013
The complete RAS report will be updated on a monthly basis
- Thematic report: Topic to be decided March 2013

Map data sources

Administration: [OCHA Common Operational Datasets](#). **Displacement:** (1)IDPs – [OCHA 2013/01/26](#), (2)Palestinian Refugees IDP in Syria – [UNRWA 2013/02/15](#), (3)Syrian In Country Migrant – [IOM 2013/02/01](#), (4a)Syrian Refugees (registered & awaiting) – [UNHCR 2013/02/21](#), (4b) Syrian Refugees (Estimated unregistered) – Multiple sources, (5)Palestinian Refugees – [UNWRA 2013/02/15](#), (6)3rd Country Nationals - [IOM 2013/02/01](#), (7)Iraqi returnees – [UNHCR 2013/01/13](#), (8), Syrian returnees – [UNHCR 2013/02/21](#). **Refugee camp locations:** U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit.

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 who 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 experts in the field.



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).