



A Landmark for IOM's Work to Help Provide Safe Passage for Refugees in the Midst of the Syrian Crisis: IOM Jordan marks the safe transportation of over 200,000 Syrian refugees to Za'atri camp

Jordan – This week on 6th March, IOM Jordan passed an important landmark in having provided transportation and reception assistance to over 200,000 refugees to Za'atri Camp, which opened in July 2012.

The event fell on the same day that the millionth refugee left Syria for one of its four neighbouring countries. The extreme social unrest in Syria, which began in March 2011, quickly developed into a regional crisis. In addition to the 1 million which have fled to neighbouring countries, an estimated 4 million people are now in need of assistance inside Syria. As result of the intensifying violence in Syria in recent months, refugees have crossed the Syrian/Jordanian border points at a rate of around 1,900 per day.

The influx of refugees to Jordan started at the end of 2011. IOM was chosen as the lead agency for the transportation of refugees in Jordan by the UN Task Force in Amman and was the first civilian organization to receive refugees upon arrival to Jordan. Since that time, in coordination with UNHCR, the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) and the Jordanian Government, IOM Jordan has been providing those escaping the conflict with vital transportation and reception assistance once they cross the Jordanian border.

Those who cross the border have often walked for long distances and are in a state of extreme exhaustion and dehydration, with some new arrivals coming from as far as Aleppo, a city located 486km away. Some new arrivals have had to make the long journey with severe injuries or disabilities. Most arrivals at the border crossing are female-headed households accompanied by young children. According to IOM, 48% of those arriving are females and 19% children under the age of five.

At the collection points near the border in Thnebe, IOM's



medical team provides basic necessities and a fitness review for all arriving refugees, identifying individuals with injuries or serious medical conditions requiring immediate referral for treatment at the medical facilities in Za'atri Camp. The refugees are then pre-registered and transported to Za'atri. Pre-registration information is immediately shared with UNHCR counterparts to enable rapid allocation of food and accommodation.

Upon arrival to Za'atri, the refugees are welcomed by IOM reception tents equipped with blankets and mattresses to provide a temporary shelter for families. Thanks a recent donation from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), IOM has received 3,875 blankets to distribute to Syrian refugees once they arrive to the camp. In collaboration with Ministry of Interior (MOH), UNHCR, Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS), UNFPA and WHO, IOM has also started active Tuberculosis (TB) screening and TB awareness raising activities among Syrians in Za'atri camp, transit centers, and host communities in Jordan.

IOM Jordan is also providing repatriation assistance for Third-Country Nationals (TCN) fleeing from Syria to Jordan and is currently planning to provide technical support in camp coordination and management for a new UAE-funded camp in Zarqa.

IOM's emergency response activities in Syria and the surrounding countries are funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Chile, China, Cyprus, Germany, Japan, the Philippines, Slovakia, Switzerland, the UK, the US, UNHCR and IOM's Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM.) The Organization has appealed for USD 35.6 to continue its work in the region.

In January 2013, IOM appealed for USD 35.6m to continue its work in the region. The recent IOM needs assessments will inform revised inter-agency appeals to be launched in the coming months, as needs inside Syria have increased dramatically over recent weeks.

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