**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Syria:** IOM conducted **5 field missions in hard-to-reach areas** in Al-Hasakeh and Daraa, reaching 3,473 beneficiaries through the provision of basic life-saving commodities.

**Iraq:** **3,307 Syrian refugees** in Basirma Camp and **2,309 Iraqi returnees** from Syria living outside of camps receive NFI assistance from IOM Iraq.

**Jordan:** IOM Director General and EU Ambassador to Jordan visit the Jordanian Border Guards’ Headquarters in Mafraq and **hand over a fleet of vehicles** to support the safe and dignified transportation of refugees crossing the Syrian border into Jordan.

**Lebanon:** 287 Syrian refugees departed from Beirut for Germany. This was the **12th group of refugees to leave Lebanon** as part of the German Government’s Humanitarian Admissions Programme, which thus far admitted 2,555 Syrian refugees.

**Turkey:** IOM doubles its number of e-voucher refugee beneficiaries in Turkey, reaching out to over **2,000 families** in Hatay province.

Syrian children take part in activities offered by IOM’s mobile psychosocial support team in an informal settlement in Sarafand, South Lebanon. © IOM 2014 (Photos: IOM Lebanon)
Non-Food Item (NFI) Distribution

During the reporting period, 6,000 NFI kits were distributed to nearly 19,000 Syrians across 7 governorates (Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Damascus, Dar’a, Hama, Idleb and Lattakia) with the support of 7 local NGOs (Al Birr and social services association, Al Ihsan charity Association, Alkarak gatherings charity, Arman Orthodox Charity, Armenian Association, Baroon Street Committee, Committee of Old Assyrian, GOPA, SARC and Social welfare charity association). 20% of the assistance was delivered in 5 hard to reach areas located in Al-Hasakeh and Daraa. The delivery of assistance was organised directly by IOM. IOM field staff monitored 100% of the distributions.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has assisted a total of 1,493,072 IDPs in 14 governorates in Syria: IOM provided 561,575 NFI kits including quilts, mattresses, hygiene kits, house cleaning kits, kitchen sets, disability kits, jerry cans, plastic mats, rechargeable lights, diapers, undergarments, and winterisation items.

Emergency Shelter Intervention

On 3 May, IOM completed shelter repair and rehabilitation works in one public shelter in Damascus, hosting 72 IDPs. During the reporting period, IOM conducted technical assessments in one public collective shelter in Damascus (Kafar Sousseh area) targeting 120 IDPs.

Since the beginning of the crisis, 886 collective shelters have been identified: 168 shelters have been assessed and 96 of them have been repaired and rehabilitated. In total, 37,813 IDPs (7,625 families) have benefitted from this intervention in six governorates (As-Suwayda, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Lattakia and Rural Damascus) in addition IOM has provided shelter upgrade works in 356 living spaces/rooms in unfinished building reaching to 1,529 IDPs (326 families).

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

During the reporting period, 49 front-line and other medical care, food and NFIs distribution workers from Lattakia (20), and Homs (29) benefitted from trainings on supportive communication and psychosocial first aid. The front-line workers were trained by NGO professionals
from Aleppo and Lattakia who had previously received the IOM Training of Trainers (ToT). Since the beginning of the psychosocial program, IOM has trained 1,115 professionals and community workers in MHPSS. In particular, 147 shelter managers were trained in MHPSS considerations in the daily running of shelters for the displaced and 27 artists and psychosocial professionals in art-based interventions. Furthermore, 15 professionals attended ToT for frontline workers to then train 778 front line workers on supportive communication and psychological first aid. 100 community workers and volunteers have been trained on non-violent communication and, 48 SOS caregivers on psychosocial support to children in emergency and displacement. Since June 2013, the project has reached over 173,000 indirect beneficiaries. Furthermore, 35 Syrian and Lebanese professionals (29 Syrians and 6 Lebanese) are benefiting from the Master Program in Psychosocial Support and Dialogue that IOM is organizing with the Lebanese university in Lebanon.

Health: continued focus on children with disabilities. During the reporting period, IOM supported local partners to provide over 30 children with hearing aid devices. In addition, IOM distributed 191 wheelchairs in five governorates (Aleppo, Idleb, Homs, Tartous and Lattakia). Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has provided access to health care services to more than 21,000 people, including 1,318 with disability.

Capacity building of local NGO partners: IOM carried out three training workshops on Project Cycle Management, Coordination and Communication in Emergencies in coordination with UNOCHA. 70 local partners (144 participants) based in 13 governorates inside Syria attended the sessions organised in Damascus (1) and Tartous (2).

Repatriation of Vulnerable Stranded Migrants: IOM in coordination with diplomatic missions present in Syria and in the region continues to facilitate the safe repatriation of vulnerable stranded migrants to their country of origin. During the reporting period, IOM provided repatriation assistance to 46 vulnerable stranded migrants from the Philippines (41) and Ethiopia (5), to return to their countries of origin. Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has assisted 4,429 stranded migrants.

Assistance for Refugees Accepted for Resettlement from Syria: IOM assisted 127 refugees of Iraqi, Iranian, Afghani and Syrian origins to resettle to Australia (45), Canada (43), the United States of America (26), Netherland (11), and Denmark (2). The refugees travelled by road from Damascus to Beirut, and then flew out of Rafic Hariri International Airport. IOM is preparing to resettle additional 244 refugees in the upcoming weeks. Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has provided resettlement assistance to 17,360 refugees who have been resettled in 17 countries (Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Transportation assistance: On April 23, IOM began transporting 40 students ages 6 to 15 to and from school each day. These children are Syrian refugees living in Domiz Camp who need transportation to their school in Domiz II, a nearby area. This support is in addition to the ongoing transportation of 43 students aged 15 to 18 from their homes in Var City to school in Domiz Camp, and vice versa. This assistance began on 8 April. In total, IOM has provided education sector transport support to 1,333 Syrian refugee children living in the Domiz Camp.
**IOM IRAQ OPERATIONS cont.**

**NFI distributions for Syrian refugees and Iraqi returnees:** IOM Iraq provided 710 supplementary non-food item kits to over 3,300 Syrian refugees hosted in Basirma camp (Erbil) on 8 May. The kit included items that had not previously been distributed to families in the camp, such as a cool box, a rechargeable fan, and sanitary and cleaning items. On 5-6-7 May, over 2,300 Iraqi returnees from Syria, previously identified and assessed for vulnerability and needs by IOM field teams in the 5 governorates of Najaf, Babylon, Baghdad, Salah al-Din and Sulaymaniyah, received 473 NFI kits including blankets, towels, a fan, a gas stove, carpet, mattresses, and sanitary and cleaning items.

**Vulnerability assessments of Iraqis returnees:** IOM conducted vulnerability assessments of 375 Iraqi families returned from Syria and now residing in 4 governorates (Najaf, Babylon, Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah). According to IOM report, i) all families were registered as returnees with MoMD, ii) all families were living in rented houses in bad living conditions, iii) all families were without a fixed source of monthly income, and iv) none of the families had received NFI assistance in the last 3 months. All but 2 families assessed were deemed eligible to receive NFI assistance from IOM. This assistance was given on 5, 6, and 7 May, following the findings of the assessment.

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**IOM OPERATIONS IN JORDAN**

**Emergency Transportation of Refugees:** The European Union (EU) and IOM have handed over 23 vehicles to the Jordanian Border Guards to transport Syrian refugees from the border to camps as part of an EU-funded project to help the Jordanian authorities cope with the impact of the Syrian crisis. The handover ceremony was held at the Border Guards’ Zarqa Headquarters and was attended by EU Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Joanna Wronecka, IOM Director General William Lacy Swing and Jordanian Brigadier General Saber Mahayra. The vehicles, which include six large buses, six minibuses, eight pickups and three ambulances, will assist the Border Guards in dealing with the influx of refugees, who continue to enter Jordan in large numbers.

During the reporting period, 4559 Syrian refugees (2,349 females, 2,210 males of which 1,808 were children) were transported from the Rabaa’ al Sarhan Screening Centre to Za’atri camp. IOM teams continue to medically screen all arrivals to Za’atri camp. 115 refugees with medical conditions requiring immediate treatment were referred to health partners.

**Immunization of New Arrivals:** IOM immunized 2,323 newly arrived Syrian refugees (new-born to 5-year-olds) against Polio and 2,092 refugees (6 months to 15 years) against Measles. 832 children (6-month to 5-year-olds) received Vitamin A supplements. Since March 2013, over 163,000 Syrian refugees have been immunized against Polio and Measles in Za’atri camp.

**Tuberculosis (TB) Screening and Awareness-Raising Activities:** 5,062 Syrian refugees were screened during the reporting period and 9 new cases were identified. Since March 2012, IOM has confirmed 126 suspected cases and is providing directly observed therapy (DOT) and follow-up for 49 of these cases; 74 cases have completed their treatment successfully. IOM provides screening for suspected cases, DOT, and awareness-raising through a medical team consisting of six doctors and nurses, and 25 community health workers who work in the camps and urban communities.

Since March 2012, 295,727 beneficiaries have participated in TB information and awareness-raising sessions. IOM continues to work with partners and the Ministry of Health to screen and treat active cases of TB.

Since March 2012, IOM has screened 387,865,152 Syrian refugees.
Primary Health Care Assistance for Syrian Refugees, Lebanese Returnees and Lebanese Host Communities:

Three Primary Health Care centres (PHCs) in Tyre, Nabatıeh and Marwanieh in South Lebanon continue to receive support from IOM through subsidized consultations, free medication for acute and chronic illnesses, as well as reimbursements for medical and administrative staff for additional working hours. From 27 April to 10 May, 752 Syrians (484 female and 268 male) received primary healthcare consultations or services at the centres, including antenatal care visits and child vaccinations.

Since December 2013, 6,769 consultations have been provided to Syrian refugees and 654 to Lebanese host community members and returnees. In addition, an IOM community health team has reached 2,512 households in the area, informing them of the services available. During the reporting period, the same team offered health awareness sessions to 154 participants at the PHCs. Topics addressed included pregnancy, dental hygiene, asthma and epilepsy.

Livelihoods support for Lebanese Returnees: IOM is providing livelihoods support to 90 Lebanese returnee households (70 in the Bekaa and 20 in the South), through business counselling and an in-kind grant worth USD 1,500. The beneficiaries are vulnerable Lebanese families who left their homes in Syria as a result of the conflict; they were selected through individual assessments by IOM. During the reporting period, distributions continued in the Bekaa.

Shelter Assistance to Vulnerable Syrian Refugee and Lebanese Returnee Households: During the reporting period, rental subsidies were distributed to 49 vulnerable Syrian refugee households in the district of Tripoli and to 20 vulnerable Lebanese returnee households in the districts of Bint Jbeil, Sour and Hasbaya in South Lebanon. To date, 1,554 Syrian and Lebanese households have benefitted from IOM’s rental subsidy assistance.

Humanitarian Admission Program (HAP): On 30 April, 287 Syrian refugees (147 females, 140 males including 73 children and 20 infants) departed from Beirut for Germany. They were accompanied by three medical escorts. This was the twelfth group of refugees to leave Lebanon as part of the German Government’s Humanitarian Admissions Programme. Since 11 September 2013, IOM has assisted 2,555 Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon to be resettled under the HAP programme. The next flights are scheduled for 15 May.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): From 29 April to 12 May, 768 Syrian and Lebanese individuals received psychosocial support provided by expert staff. In the Bekaa, 289 beneficiaries were reached at the Dari Centre in Baalbek and through a mobile team working in Majdel Anjar. In the South, a mobile team reached 479 beneficiaries in informal and collective shelters in Sarafand and at a school in Najjarie. Overall, 187 women, 7 men, 57 adolescents and 517 children participated in recreational, educational, and artistic mediation activities, physical activities, awareness-raising sessions, family support groups, focus group sessions and individual counselling sessions. Individual counselling sessions were given to 21 women, two men and 18 children with specific psychosocial support needs. Since 2 May, the mobile team operating in South Lebanon has also been implementing a volunteer programme in partnership with LOYAC, a regional NGO working on youth development.

Executive Professional Masters in Psychosocial Support and Dialogue: IOM and the Lebanese University (LU) delivered the sixth module of the course on psychosocial support and dialogue from 2 to 4 May.
The masters course is taught on weekends to 29 participants from Syria and six from Lebanon – all of them local practitioners in the field of psychosocial support. The module focused on non-violent communication, and included practical sessions taught by a Syrian psychologist and expert on non-violent communication from Damascus University, and a component on “Social Dilemmas, Social Conflicts and Social Psychology taught by a professor of social psychology at the Lebanese University.

Transit Assistance to Stranded Migrants and Refugees accepted for Resettlement from Syria: IOM provided assistance to 146 Iraqi, Syrian, Iranian and Afghan refugees (74 females and 72 males, of whom 33 were children), who were accepted for resettlement via transit through Lebanon. The refugees travelled onward to final destinations in Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United States. Since February 2013, IOM has assisted 6,739 refugees and 1,256 stranded migrants to transit through Lebanon.

Voucher Programme: IOM in collaboration with Support to Life (STL) continue to support Syrian households living in Kirikhan and Reyhanli districts (Hatay Province) through the provision of ticket cards enabling them to purchase food and hygiene items from selected markets.

To date, 1,000 Syrian households (5,864 individuals) living in nine districts in Kirikhan are benefitting from IOM’s voucher programme. IOM will increase the number to 1350 for the month of May to target new families identified during the beneficiary identification visits. Beneficiary identification is undertaken continuously to ensure new arrivals and newly identified vulnerable families can be assisted in a timely manner.

Additionally, IOM is targeting an extra 677 families in Reyhanli and Kirikhan. Out of these families, 23 are new arrivals and were provided with emergency food cards in Kurtuluş and Bahçelievler neighbourhoods of Kirikhan. Emergency food cards are provided to new arrivals to meet their basic needs before undertaking the beneficiary identification and check if they are eligible for the longer term cards. IOM field staff continuously assess the vulnerability of new arrivals as well as Syrian living in remote and rural areas and will expand the cash assistance activity within the coming weeks. According to IOM field staff, about 100 new families from Syria have settled in Kirikhan and 70 new families have settled in Kumlu during the reporting period.

Distribution of NFI Kits to Out-of-Camp Populations: during the reporting period, IOM distributed NFI kits containing blankets, mattresses, carpets and diapers to 143 Syrian households (717 individuals) living in Hatay province (districts of Kumulu and Kirikhan). Since January 2014, 4,787 households (25,864 individuals) have benefitted from IOM’s NFI distributions in Hatay province.

Transportation Services: during the reporting period, IOM and partners assisted 1,289 Syrian nationals with transportation services from Adiyaman camp to medical facilities and social service centres. Since the project began on 1 July 2013, 29,673 beneficiaries have been assisted with transportation services. Transportation of school children in Urfa province is on-going. IOM is supporting 778 students living outside of camps to reach school every day.
IOM’s initiatives are supported by:

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