IOM Regional Response to the Syria Humanitarian Crisis

HIGHLIGHTS

**Syria:** IOM successfully reached the besieged area of Madamiyet Elsham as well as affected areas in the eastern and northern parts of Madamiyeh in Rural Damascus and assisted around 25,000 displaced and affected individuals through the provision of 5,000 hygiene kits.

**Iraq:** IOM distributed 32 In-Kind Grants (IKG) for Syrian refugees living in Darashakran Camp, Erbil. Since the beginning of the crisis, 1,635 individuals have benefitted from IOM’s livelihood assistance.

**Jordan:** Between 8 to 21 July, IOM immunized 827 newly arrived Syrian refugees against polio and 810 refugees against measles. Additionally, 1,964 Syrian refugees were screened for tuberculosis and five new cases were identified.

**Lebanon:** Two charter flights left from Beirut for Germany with 249 Syrian refugees on board. The refugees are being received as part of the German Government’s Humanitarian Admissions Programme, through which a total of 3,600 Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon have been resettled since 11 September 2013.

**Turkey:** IOM chaired a meeting on mental health and psychosocial support in Turkey for the Syria crisis response, bringing together 19 organisations.
Non-Food Item (NFI) Distribution: During the reporting period, IOM successfully reached the besieged area of Madamiyet Elsham as well as affected areas in the eastern and northern parts of Madamiyeh in Rural Damascus and assisted around 25,000 displaced and affected individuals through the provision of 5,000 hygiene kits. The area was previously inaccessible to UN agencies and IOM since October 2012.

Additionally, between 8 and 21 July, 1,668 IDPs from Aleppo, Homs and Idleb benefitted from IOM’s NFI distribution. IOM distributed 1,417 essential NFI kits containing adult and baby diapers, sock kits and hygiene kits. The distributions were conducted in cooperation with six local NGOs.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has assisted a total of 1,714,063 IDPs in 14 governorates in Syria: IOM provided 652,139 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.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): Two supervision sessions for 45 SOS caregivers and a two-day on-the-job training for three specialists were conducted in the SOS village in Damascus.

Since the beginning of the psychosocial programme, IOM has trained 1,256 professionals and community workers in MHPSS. In particular, 147 shelter managers were trained in how to incorporate MHPSS considerations into the daily running of shelters for the displaced persons, and 27 artists and psychosocial professionals in art-based interventions. Furthermore, 15 professionals attended ToT for frontline workers, who then trained 919 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 219,600 indirect beneficiaries.

Furthermore, since 7 March 2014, 29 Syrian and six Lebanese professionals are benefiting from the Master Program in Psychosocial Support and Dialogue that IOM is organizing with the Lebanese University in Lebanon.

Emergency Shelter Intervention: On 12 and 14 July, IOM started repair and rehabilitation works of two collective shelters in Damascus (1) and Rural Damascus (1) targeting 24 households (145 IDPs).

Additionally, during the reporting period, IOM carried out technical assessments under its Shelter Upgrade project in seven unfinished housing units (including 10 living spaces) in Qatana, Rural Damascus, hosting 10 households (29 IDPs).

Since the beginning of the crisis, 886 collective shelters have been identified: 172 shelters have been assessed and 96 of them have
have been repaired and rehabilitated. In total, **7,625 households** (37,813 IDPs) have benefitted from this intervention in five governorates (Damascus, Hama, Homs, Lattakia and Rural Damascus). In addition, IOM has provided shelter upgrade works in **356 living spaces/rooms** in unfinished buildings reaching **326 households** (1,529 IDPs).

**Repatriation for Stranded Migrants:** During the reporting period, IOM provided **72 vulnerable stranded migrants** including four children with repatriation assistance to return to their countries of origin: the Philippines (33), Sudan (15), Algeria (9) Yemen (9) and Egypt (6). IOM continues to support referred cases for assistance through continuous collaboration with diplomatic missions in Syria and the region, as well as through networking with local community leaders to identify pockets of stranded migrants in need of assistance.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has assisted **4,588 stranded migrants**.

**Assistance for Refugees Accepted for Resettlement from Syria:** During the reporting period, IOM provided resettlement assistance to **49 refugees** (23 females, 26 males including six children) travelling to the United States of America (26), Canada (19), and Norway (4). The refugees were of Iraqi and Somali origins. The refugees travelled by road from Damascus to Beirut, and then flew out of Rafic Hariri International Airport.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has provided resettlement assistance to **17,924 refugees** who have been resettled in **17 countries**.

**IOM OPERATIONS IN IRAQ**

**Livelihood Assistance:** In July, IOM distributed **32 In-Kind Grants (IKG)** for Syrian refugees living in Darashakran Camp in Erbil. These IKGs contain materials and tools needed to begin small businesses; 16 packages contained necessary items to begin barbershops, and the remaining 16 were to start women’s salons. Each package went to a pair of refugees who had developed a joint business plan. Before receiving the tools to open their businesses, beneficiaries first attended a Business Development Services (BDS) training course, where they learned the skills needed to successfully open and maintain an entrepreneurial project.

Since the beginning of the crisis, **1,635 individuals** have benefitted from IOM’s livelihood assistance.

**IOM OPERATIONS IN JORDAN**

**Emergency Transportation Services for Syrian Refugees:** **1,763 Syrian refugees** were transported from the Rabaa’ al Sarhan Screening Centre to Azraq (1,689) and Za’atri (74) camps, a decrease from the previous reporting week where 4,444 refugees were transported. Since transport operations began in July 2012, IOM has transported **439,953 Syrian refugees** from border areas to camps.

The IOM Emergency Response team provides pre-registration and reception services to newly arriving refugees, and the IOM medical team conducts initial health screenings, including referrals to health care providers at the camps as needed as part of the transportation services. During the reporting period, IOM assisted **125 individuals** with medical conditions requiring immediate referral for treatment.
Since 29 July 2012, IOM has assisted/referred 5,646 individuals for further treatment upon arrival at the camps.

Immunization of New Arrivals: Between 8 to 21 July, IOM immunized 827 newly arrived Syrian refugees (new-born to 5-year-olds) against polio and 810 refugees (6 months to 15 years) against measles. 328 children (6-month to 5-year-olds) received Vitamin A supplements. To date, 178,278 Syrian refugees have been immunized against polio and measles in Za’atri camp.

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening and Awareness-Raising Activities: During the reporting period, 1,964 Syrian refugees were screened and five new cases were identified. Since March 2012, IOM has confirmed 137 suspected cases and is providing directly observed therapy (DOT) and follow-up for 50 of these cases; 83 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, 323,555 beneficiaries have participated in TB information and awareness-raising sessions. IOM continues to work with partners and the Ministry of Health to screen for and treat active cases of TB. Since March 2012, IOM has screened 415,322 Syrian refugees.

Humanitarian Admission Programme (HAP): Two charter flights departed on 10 July from Beirut for Germany with 249 Syrian refugees, as part of the German Government’s Humanitarian Admissions Programme. The refugees included 116 females and 133 males, of whom 52 were children and 14 were infants. IOM held five cultural orientation (CO) seminars for the refugees, who travelled to Hannover in Germany. Since 11 September 2013, IOM has assisted a total of 3,600 Syrian refugees to be resettled under the German HAP programme, the first phase of which will be completed in September this year.

Primary Health Care Assistance for Syrian Refugees, Lebanese Returnees and Lebanese Host Communities: IOM is supporting four primary healthcare centres (PHC) in South Lebanon (in Tyre, Nabatieh, Marwanieh and Marjayoun) and two PHCs in the Bekaa (in Ghazze and Taalabaya) with subsidized consultations, free acute and chronic medications and reimbursements for medical and administrative staff for additional working hours. From 5 to 18 July, 1,563 Syrian refugees, and 102 Lebanese host community members and returnees received primary healthcare consultations at the centres. Antenatal care visits were conducted for 183 women, and 46 children received vaccinations. Since December 2013, 2,725 households have been reached by an IOM community health team that informed them of the services available, and conducted health awareness sessions for 1,356 participants at the PHCs.
In addition, IOM supports a mobile medical unit (MMU) in South Lebanon, to reach refugees and host communities in remote areas in need of medical support. The MMU spends one day a week in each of the districts of Hasbaya, Tyre and Bint Jbeil. From 5 to 18 July, the MMU offered consultations to 145 Syrian refugees and 46 host community members. Since the unit was launched in June, 251 individuals have attended health awareness sessions conducted in municipality offices near the MMU.

Since December 2013, 15,552 consultations have been provided to Syrian refugees, Lebanese host community members and Lebanese returnees through these health services.

Shelter Assistance to Vulnerable Syrian Refugee and Lebanese Returnee Households: During the reporting period, rental subsidies (covering two months’ rent) were distributed to eight Syrian refugee households and one Lebanese returnee household living in Mt Lebanon and Beirut, including five new cases. To date, 13,685 individuals have benefitted from IOM’s shelter support.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: Between 8 and 21 July, 516 Syrian and Lebanese individuals received psychosocial support provided by IOM staff. In the South, a mobile team reached 416 beneficiaries in informal and collective shelters in Sarafand. In the Bekaa, 100 beneficiaries were reached at the Dari Community Centre in Baalbek. Overall, 78 women, six men, 35 adolescents and 397 children benefitted. Activities implemented focus on maintaining family and community-based care and support through recreational, educational and artistic activities. The teams also provide family members with awareness-raising sessions, family support, and individual counselling. Furthermore, during the reporting period, 26 persons with specific psychosocial support needs participated in individual counselling sessions. In Baalbek, following several training sessions and workshops, a group of women are now conducting outreach activities for both women and children including awareness sessions related to hygiene and violence.

To date, 15,464 individuals have benefitted from IOM’s MHPSS programme.

Transit Assistance to Stranded Migrants and Refugees Accepted for Resettlement from Syria: During the reporting period, IOM provided assistance to 66 Iraqi and Somali refugees, who were accepted for resettlement, to transit through Lebanon. The caseload included 32 female and 34 male passengers (21 of whom were children). The refugees travelled onward to final destinations in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. Since February 2013, IOM has assisted 7,303 refugees and 1,401 stranded migrants to transit through Lebanon.

Professional Masters in Psychosocial Support and Dialogue: Between 11 and 20 July, IOM and the Lebanese University (LU) delivered two modules of the course on psychosocial support and dialogue. The modules, which were taught by international trainers, focused on the concept of “forum theatre” and concluded the section of the course related to the use of artistic expression in conflict mediation. 29 participants from Syria and six from Lebanon, all of them local practitioners in the field, attended the modules.

**IOM OPERATIONS IN TURKEY**

MHPSS Technical Meeting: With the guidance of IOM, the Health and Protection/Community Services Working Groups, led by WHO and UNHCR, organised a joint technical meeting on 8 July in Gaziantep with participation of UN agencies, INGOs and local NGOs. The meeting gathered 35 participants representing some 19 organisations to discuss Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Syrian refugees living in Turkey. MHPSS is a cross-cutting issue and the purpose of the meeting was to advocate for the use of inter-agency standing committee (IASC) guidelines on MHPSS, bring together the actors working on MHPSS in Turkey, identify challenges and highlight recommendations for a way forward.

Distribution of NFIs to Out-of-Camp Populations: During the reporting period, 312 Syrian households (1,556 individuals) received NFIs kits containing pillows, carpets, mattresses, diapers and bed linen. Following new deliveries to the warehouse, IOM has scaled up distributions, targeting Hassa district and new arrivals in Kirikhan and Kumlu.

Since the beginning of the crisis, 123,517 Syrians have benefitted from IOM’s NFI assistance.

Voucher Programme: The voucher programme in Hatay province, run by IOM and partners, continues to support 2,752 households (16,165 individuals) with ticket cards or vouchers, enabling them to purchase food and hygiene items. Households in Kirikhan and Reyhanli districts (including in the villages), are provided with electronic cards which are topped up monthly. In Kumlu, vulnerable families receive a one-time voucher which is...
IOM TURKEY OPERATIONS cont.

redeemable in the market. IOM is currently undertaking the second round of voucher distributions in Kumlu targeting vulnerable households who have little or no income.

The evaluation of the NFI and voucher programme has been finalised and the independent consultant is currently working on the report.

**Transportation Services:** Between 2 and 27 June, IOM supported the transportation of students aged between 16 and 20 years to attend English language courses at a school in Sanliurfa province. A total of 180 students (115 female and 65 male) attended the language classes which were run by volunteer teachers from the Elif Association and the American Culture Association. The majority of the teachers were Syrian diaspora living in the United States. The association will select the most talented students to go to schools in the US on scholarships.

19 year old Hacer from Damascus, a high school graduate, fled to Turkey one year ago. Her family came with her to the border and then turned back. Hacer spoke a little English before enrolling in the course but wanted to improve so she could find work. She attended the language courses daily and found them very useful. She met new people and was able to forget, even if for a few days, the hard days she faced while in Syria.

The courses were taught at the primary school for Syrians living in urban areas of Sanliurfa. Additionally, since early January to 3 June 2014, IOM supported 778 school children with daily transportation to schools in Urfa province. IOM will support the school during the new school year beginning in September and is planning to expand this activity to other schools in South East Turkey for the 2014 – 2015 school year, funding permitting. The cost of transportation has been cited as a key deterrent for Syrian children to attend school.

Transportation services in Adiyaman camp to medical facilities and social service centres are on-going with 1,138 Syrian nationals transported during the reporting period. Additionally, IOM transported eight individuals from Malatya to Nusaybin camp on 9 July, and five people from Birecik to Viransehir camp on 10 July.

Since July 2013, 37,561 Syrians have been provided with transport assistance (17,595 females and 19,966 males including 7,978 children). This is including transportation from Adiyaman camp to medical facilities and social service centres, intra-camp transportation, transportation of children for prosthetics, transportation of school children (778 students per day), and transportation of the students who attended English language courses.

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