

UNICEF Syria Crisis Sub-regional Situation Report Jordan/Lebanon/Turkey/Iraq

21 May 2012

Situation Highlights:

- According to the UN Peacekeeping Chief (May 2012), ceasefire violations are occurring in Syria while UN monitors continue to arrive in the country in increasing numbers to monitor the Syrian Government's implementation of Special Envoy Kofi Annan's Six Point Plan. **260 monitors of the planned 300 have now been deployed** in Syria.
- Sectarian clashes broke out on 12 May in Tripoli, Lebanon between supporters of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad and supporters of the Syrian opposition, resulting in blocking roads into Tripoli and the cancelation of several UN field missions on 14 May. This also has **implications for the distribution of emergency supplies** as UNICEF's warehouse for the northern programmes is in Tripoli.
- There are increasing **concerns that the violence in Syria could spill over into Lebanon** which would have direct implications on the humanitarian assistance to the Syrian refugees and host communities.
- More than **60,670 registered refugees** to date in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, over half of them children (UNHCR, May 2012).

Programme Highlights:

- In **Jordan**, UNICEF continues to provide Syrian refugees with safe drinking water supplies and sanitation and hygiene services at Bashebshe, Cyber City and Stadium transit facilities. UNICEF has also completed joint monitoring visits with the Ministry of Education to 17 public schools with high numbers of Syrian students in Amman, Ramtha, Irbid, Rusaifa and Zarqa, to identify key challenges faced by the Ministry and host communities.
- UNICEF **Lebanon** completed an education rapid assessment in the North and is currently undertaking an assessment in the Bekaa. The preliminary findings from the North suggest that dropout rates might be as high as 50% amongst the Syrian enrolled children in the Wadi Kahled area of Akkar. ACTED, has started a gap needs assessment in North Lebanon to determine the most vulnerable communities including Syrian refugees and host populations.
- UNICEF **Turkey** received funding to provide safe educational, recreational and psychosocial care for children affected by the Syrian crisis.

Situation Overview

Ceasefire violations by Syrian government and opposition forces continue as **260 out of the 300 planned UN monitors are deployed** in the country to monitor the Syrian Government's implementation of Kofi Annan's Six Point Plan (UN Peacekeeping Chief, May 2012). The Syrian Government-led UN/OIC assessment mission conducted in March 2012 in Syria estimated the number of affected people at **one million**, of whom around **470,000 are children and adolescents**¹. The UN/OIC response plan which was presented to the government is still under review.

In Lebanon, sectarian clashes broke out on 12 May in Tripoli between supporters of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad and supporters of the Syrian opposition, following the arrest of a Lebanese citizen. The ensuing sectarian clashes have left eight people dead, including five on 14 May, and nearly 50 wounded, prompting many people to flee the two rival Tripoli neighbourhoods of Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tebbaneh. The unrest resulted in cancelation of several UN field missions on 14 May due to blocked roads and fears of the situation escalating. On 15 May the situation was reportedly calm and all roads into Tripoli re-opened. However, only essential missions are cleared to go to the North and this has implications for the distribution of emergency supplies as UNICEF's warehouse for the northern programmes is in Tripoli. There are also increasing **concerns that the violence seen in Syria will spill over into Lebanon** and this will have significant implications on the humanitarian response to the Syrian refugees and host communities. There have been unconfirmed **reports of children participating in violence in Tripoli** and UNICEF will look into the issue as there are no systematic reporting mechanisms in place. There have also been reports of children being injured by landmines as they cross the border into Lebanon.

¹ 46% of the Syrian population are under 18 - UNICEF SOWC 2011

Impact on Syrian Children in the Sub-region

The combination of escalating levels of violence, disruption of services and livelihoods threatens to put more children's lives at risk. To date, more than **60,670 people are estimated to have fled the violence** in Syria, taking refuge in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq (UNHCR, May 2012). It is estimated that **around half of all displaced Syrians are children and adolescents**, who continue to face interruption of schooling; limited access to basic services; and psychosocial distress caused by witnessing violence and displacement.

In Lebanon, there are now over 26,000 Syrians refugees receiving assistance. Approximately 16,000 of these are residing in the north, out of which **15,466** are registered and an estimated 48% of the registered are children age 0-17 (UNHCR, May 2012). Formal registrations have started in Bekka valley where 7,500 refugees are now receiving assistance. It is estimated that there are around 3,000 unregistered refugees in Tripoli and more limited concentrations of refugees in the Beirut area where 817 have been registered with UNHCR. There are also reports of Syrian refugees in other areas of the country and assessment missions are being conducted to determine the accuracy of these reports and potential needs (UNHCR, May 2012).

In Jordan, **18,521** Syrians are now registered with UNHCR, of whom an estimated 50% are children, with **2,500** more awaiting registration. In addition, local organizations have identified 30,000 Syrians in Jordan as in need of assistance. According to the Turkish Government, the number of displaced Syrians currently sheltered in tent camps on the border totals **23,011** (May 2012).

In Northern Iraq, **3,673** Syrian nationals of Kurdish origin are registered with UNHCR, (May 2012) in collaboration with the Department of Displaced and Migration (DDM). An estimated 10 families and 40 singles continue to enter the Governorate of Dohuk on a daily basis, while in Erbil roughly five families and 30 singles are requesting registration with UNHCR; many of the new arrivals in Erbil continue to be hosted by family members. The Governorate of Sulaymaniyah received 52 new arrivals in the first two weeks of May.

*On 23 March 2012, the UN and its humanitarian partners issued an appeal for US\$ 84 million to help Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. The Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) outlines the response needs for Syrian refugees who have fled the country since March 2011, as well as anticipating the needs of future arrivals. The plan is an inter-agency framework led by the UNHCR and the result of a coordinated effort between seven UN agencies including UNICEF, 27 national and international NGOs, and host governments. **UNICEF's funding requirement from the RRP is US\$ 7,416,000; representing 8% of the total RRP funding requirements** (please see funding table on the last page for details). Should current refugee flows continue as per current trend, and should funding be made available, UNICEF aims to be in a position to assist up to **40,000 children and adolescents in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, including children of host communities**.*

UNICEF Programme Response to Date

In Syria, UNICEF provides assistance to Syrian children in need (both displaced children and children of host communities), in the areas of Health, Nutrition, Education, Child Protection and provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs). Between 6 and 20 May 2012, **UNICEF and its partners were able to reach 40,000 people including more than 30,000 children**, with First Aid Kits, remedial and recreational activities, psychosocial support, and NFIs (this does not include the UNICEF support to the Ministry of Health for the vaccination of **284,000** children).

Programme Response in the Sub-Region

As UNHCR's key partner in providing support to more than **60,670 registered Syrian refugees** in the sub-region (of whom **an estimated 50% are children**), UNICEF is focusing on areas where it has a comparative advantage. In doing so, UNICEF is supporting displaced Syrian children, as well as children of host communities with a view to provide equitable services to all those in need.

Throughout the sub-region, UNICEF has prioritized the facilitation and promotion of increased access to formal and informal education for all children within host governments' schooling systems (other than Turkey due to language constraints), as well as provision of psychosocial care through the establishment of recreation opportunities and establishment of referral systems where needed. The response undertaken by the UNICEF Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq Country Offices is summarized below:

Jordan

UNICEF Portion of RRP Budget for Jordan: US\$ 4,116,000

Total RRP Budget for Jordan: US\$ 39,645,749

In Jordan, 18,521 Syrians are now registered with UNHCR, with 2,500 more awaiting registration. In addition, local organizations have identified 30,000 Syrians in Jordan as in need of assistance.

The joint rapid needs assessment, including of the education and child protection sectors, was concluded. The report has been shared by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation with inputs from relevant participating agencies. The report is due for official release in the coming weeks.

Child Protection: UNICEF continues to monitor the situation of vulnerable Syrian children together with partners, and maintains close collaboration with UNHCR to refer urgent child protection cases identified through field visits. As lead agency for the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence sector, UNICEF chaired the working group meeting during the reporting period and the referral pathways document for organizations responding to protection issues was reviewed. Child protection messaging is being prepared to ensure consistent messaging across agencies to raise awareness in communities around preventing and responding to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, women and men. UNICEF partner Noor al-Hussein Foundation is providing psychosocial support and remedial education to displaced Syrian children in the Cyber City transit facility in Ramtha.

In a meeting on child labour, the roles and responsibilities of implementing agencies and the Ministry of Labour were discussed and it was agreed that closer collaboration would take place between the Ministry and UNHCR to address child labour among Syrian children. In a technical meeting on early marriage, existing programmes and services were reviewed and gaps identified, and a follow up meeting will finalize mapping of key partners working to address early marriage issues. UNICEF has signed a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with Zenid to provide psychosocial support and remedial education to vulnerable Syrian children in Ma'an.

Education: UNICEF and partner organizations continue to support displaced Syrian children and family members with psychosocial support and remedial education. Since December 2011, UNICEF has assisted a total of more than **1,600** vulnerable Syrian children and family members with psychosocial support and remedial education in Jordan. To date, UNICEF has also supported some **4,700** Syrian children in Jordan with information about school enrolment and necessary follow-up, and **1,500** of them have been registered with the support of UNICEF and its partner Save the Children Jordan.

UNICEF has completed joint monitoring visits with the Ministry of Education to 17 public schools with high numbers of Syrian students in Amman, Ramtha, Irbid, Rusaifa and Zarqa. This is part of UNICEF's ongoing efforts to support the Ministry of Education by identifying the key challenges they and the host communities face. UNICEF, in collaboration with partners and the Ministry of Education, will deliver psychosocial activities and remedial education classes to vulnerable Syrian children during the summer school holidays.

WASH: UNICEF continues to provide safe drinking water supplies and sanitation and hygiene services at Bashebshe, Cyber City and Stadium transit facilities. In order to mitigate the burden on the host community, UNICEF rented extra water tankers to provide safe water for drinking and washing to some **600** vulnerable Syrian individuals in transit facilities each day. Solid waste management is also organized in the Bashabshe and Cyber City facilities. ACTED continues to deliver hygiene awareness activities in transit facilities in Ramtha, in partnership with UNICEF. UNICEF is preparing to deliver WASH interventions at King Abdullah Park transit facility in Ramtha. The park will soon be opened to host single displaced Syrian men.

UNICEF convened its first WASH sector meeting on 16 May in Ramtha with key partners such as UNHCR, UNHABITAT, THW, Mercy Corps, Japanese Emergency NGO (JEN), JHAS, and ACTED. The meeting discussed issues related to WASH services within the transit facilities as well as municipality level capacity to address the needs of vulnerable Syrians and host communities in northern cities.

Lebanon

UNICEF Portion of RRP Budget for Lebanon: US\$ 2,250,000

Total RRP Budget for Lebanon: US\$ 28,997,551

In Lebanon, more than 26,000 displaced Syrians are receiving assistance, 15,466 of them registered with UNHCR (May 2012). Latest estimates are that a further 7,500 are in the Bekaa valley and 3,000 in Tripoli. In addition, 817 refugees have been registered in the Beirut area. The number of people arriving on a daily basis continues to increase and verification is ongoing.

Protection: PCAs are being finalized with War Child Holland (WCH) and Terres de Hommes (TdH-It) for the implementation of nine Child Friendly Spaces in Tripoli (2), Akkar (4) and Bekka Valley (3), expected to benefit around 900 children directly. Two more PCAs are being developed with Save the Children and Association Culturelle for Child Friendly Spaces in Walid Khaled and Hermel (Bekka Valley) which are expected to benefit 600 children. UNICEF participates in the national Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Task Force and will provide assistance to the working group to enhance their guidelines for medical assistance and case-management practices. UNICEF's Child Protection and Education units continue to work closely to ensure psychosocial and education imperatives are strategically met.

Education: A PCA is being finalized with IQRA' Association for the implementation of summer camps that will benefit **360** children age 6-12 from 19 schools in the Bekaa and Tripoli. Parents, teachers and school directors will also be targeted in this project to ensure smooth integration of Syrian children into the Lebanese public schools. Another PCA is currently being developed with Mouvement Social to provide educational assistance to out-of-school children aged 15-18 in Tripoli, Akkar, Bekaa and suburbs in the south and east of Beirut.

The rapid assessment was completed in the North and is currently ongoing in the Bekaa. The preliminary findings show that the dropout rates are reaching nearly 50% amongst the Syrian enrolled children in the Wadi Kahled area of Akkar. The findings also highlighted issues such as lack of transportation, high discrimination against the Syrian students, language barriers (mainly French), and most importantly the non-attendance of school aged children age 15-18. After advocacy efforts by UNICEF and other education partners, the Ministry of Education has officially appointed three focal points to actively follow up on the education of Syrian children and the Education Working Groups.

WASH: UNICEF's implementing partner ACTED has started a gaps assessment in North Lebanon to determine the most vulnerable communities including Syrian refugees and host populations. The assessment will also provide an overview of water quality and supply. Action Contra La Faim (ACF) will conduct the same assessment in Bekka valley and it is expected to start next week. UNICEF will partner with DRC in the coming weeks for the distribution of baby/new-born hygiene kits, jerry cans and buckets. Contingency plans are being made for emergency preparedness stock in the event of a sudden influx of refugees or other humanitarian crisis.

Health: UNICEF is in the process of signing a PCA with YMCA for the implementation of the health communication for development campaign. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms have been developed and the ten key topics of the campaign have been selected and will be consolidated to serve as reference for any health awareness campaigns conducted for Syrian refugees (including campaigns run by UNHCR and IMC). During the coming weeks the screening and the recruitment of 45 community health workers will be done. Initial discussions have been held with WFP regarding the feasibility of doing a nutrition survey in the most affected areas.

Turkey

UNICEF Portion of RRP Budget for Turkey: US\$ 650,000

Total RRP Budget for Turkey: US\$ 12,356,800

The total number of displaced population in Turkey is currently 23,011 according to the Turkish Government (May 2012). The ten civilian camps are spread along the border over four provinces. The authorities are transferring newcomers as a priority to Kilis (Oncupinar), Gaziantep (Islahiye) and Sanliurfa (Ceylanpinar) so as to keep a balanced distribution and to prevent constant movement across the border. Families with children are given priority to Kilis and family reunification is criteria for the selection of one of these three camps when transferring people from Hatay.

A request from the Turkey UNCT for funding from the Rapid Response window of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was approved. UNICEF Turkey was granted funding to provide safe educational and recreational and psychosocial care for children affected by the Syrian crisis, in alignment with the RRP. Through the RRP, UNICEF plans to reach some 22,500 Syrian children with key interventions in education and child protection, and some 5,000 people with WASH interventions.

Protection: The one-day joint mission with UNHCR to the Container Camp in Kilis in late April revealed that there are reportedly no unaccompanied minors. However, issues such as legal guardianship and decision-making concerning separated children may need to be examined.

Education: Education is being generally provided by the Turkish Government in the camps and is planned to be expanded, in line with the Turkish curriculum. Turkish bilingual teachers are working and vocational training is being made available in most camps.

Iraq

UNICEF Portion of RRP Budget for Iraq: N/A

In Northern Iraq, 3,673 Syrian nationals of Kurdish origin are registered with UNHCR, (May 2012) in collaboration with the Department of Displaced and Migration (DDM). 270 Syrians are currently awaiting registration.

Child Protection: UNICEF and its partners are establishing a Child Friendly Space to provide an opportunity for recreation activities for Syrian children in the Domiz camp. Psychosocial support will be provided to the children at the Child Friendly Space in collaboration with the Mental Health Unit of the Directorate of Health in Dohuk. UNICEF is also advocating for the creation of a Protection Unit for children and women at the Domiz camp that will receive and respond to complaints from children and refer cases for assistance as necessary. Mine Risk Education (MRE) will also be provided in the camp. The Child Friendly Space will be set up through an existing Standby Agreement with the NGO ACTED, while MRE will be provided by Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) with support from Handicap International; both UNICEF partners.

Education: An assessment to map out actions required to commence education activities, identify existing resources and strategies to address the gaps is undergoing through the Education Working Group supported by UNICEF, the Directorate of Education and UNHCR.

Inter-Agency Collaboration & Partnerships

Under the overall coordination of UNHCR in Jordan and Lebanon, **UNICEF is working with various partners** through emergency working groups and task forces that involve key Ministries, UN agencies and national and international NGOs. UNICEF continues to provide **leadership to the education, child protection (particularly psychosocial support) and WASH sectors.**

In **Jordan**, as lead agency for the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence, Education, and emergency WASH sectors, UNICEF co-chairs working group meetings for these sectors, discussing areas for potential collaboration and ways to strengthen coordination. UNICEF also continues to participate in fortnightly Syria Taskforce meetings led by UNHCR.

In **Lebanon**, UNICEF actively participates in the UNHCR-led bi-weekly national Inter-Agency Coordination Meetings. The bi-weekly sectoral meetings held separately in the two response regions of the country, Akkar and Bekaa, include the Protection Working Group. This is in addition to the national Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group, co-chaired by UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs. UNICEF is also co-chairing the WASH Working Group with UNHCR and the Education Working Group meetings in both locations are co-facilitated by UNHCR and UNICEF/Save the Children Sweden.

In **Turkey**, and as a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), UNICEF continues to receive information from Turkish authorities on the situation of Syrian women and children in the camps. UNICEF remains ready to respond if and when the need is established.

In **Iraq**, UNICEF participated in a UNHCR-led inter-agency coordination meeting to review the situation of Syrian arrivals in the Kurdistan Region and to jointly discuss interventions and coordinate assistance.

The **UNICEF Regional Office** continues to provide surge capacity, leadership and oversight to support the response in the sub-region, in line with agreed inter-agency coordination mechanisms.

Communication

An article on the work of UNICEF and partner organization was published by the Jordan Times on 15 May. It can be accessed at <http://jordantimes.com/for-refugee-children-unicef-helps-address-trauma-of-displacement>

Euronews interviewed UNICEF Representative in Jordan, Dominique Hyde, for an article on the situation for displaced Syrians crossing the border into Jordan. The article was published on 19 May and can be accessed at <http://www.euronews.com/2012/05/19/jordan-s-syrian-refugee-dilemma/>

Fund Raising - UNICEF Regional Response to the Syrian crisis (Syria excluded)

Funding requirements in US\$ - Summary per sector per country

Updated 21 March 2012	Total	%	Jordan	Lebanon	Turkey	MENARO
Child Protection	2,350,000	32%	800,000	800,000	650,000	100,000
Education	3,710,000	50%	2,785,000	825,000		100,000
Health & Nutrition	606,000	8%	531,000	75,000		
Water, Hygiene & Sanitation	650,000	9%		550,000		100,000
Non Food Items	100,000	1%				100,000
Total Cost	7,416,000		4,116,000	2,250,000	650,000	400,000

Prior to the launch of the RRP, UNICEF received generous contributions from Norway (US\$ 536,970), Germany (US\$ 511,393), and the French National Committee (US\$ 393,186). UNICEF since then also recently received contributions from SIDA (US\$ 1.3 million), the Dutch National Committee (US\$ 664,011), the UK National Committee (US\$ 316,456), the Swiss National Committee (US\$ 275,635), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (US\$ 190,124), and the US Fund (US\$ 42,000).

During the reporting period UNICEF Lebanon held a meeting with the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent and a proposal for US\$ one million was submitted. Meetings have been held with the Norwegian Embassy and a concept note covering all sectors has been submitted. A joint CERF proposal has been developed for Lebanon and submitted to the CERF secretariat in NY, with UNICEF requesting US\$ 800,000 for Child Protection and WASH. A meeting was also held with the European Union and a proposal will be submitted shortly. UNICEF Jordan has submitted funding proposals to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Union, CERF, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, ECHO and the Arab Gulf Programme for Development.

Note: All in all, UNICEF has thus far received around **US\$ 3.7 million** against its total requirement of US\$ 7.4 million within the RRP. **Additional funding is needed extremely urgently** for UNICEF to be able to continue to expand its programme outreach towards all Syrian children in need in the sub-region, alongside UNHCR and partners.

Operations

Human Resources

In order to complement and boost its current capacity for the emergency response to the Syria crisis, UNICEF Offices in Syria and the Sub-Region deployed twenty one staff to date (13 internationals and 8 nationals) in the areas of emergency coordination, child protection, education, WASH, supply-logistics, information and reporting.

UNICEF Jordan is further strengthening staff capacity to support the emergency response. A Field Support Specialist has joined the office.

UNICEF Lebanon's international surge capacity is currently comprised of a Logistic Officer (MSB), a Communication and Reporting Officer (NRC), a Child Protection specialist (RedR), a WASH Specialist (Irish

Aid) and an Emergency Coordinator (UNICEF roster). In addition, the National Education Officer has joined the office and an Emergency Chief of Operations has been deployed for two months.

Supply

Jordan: UNICEF has procured 7,000 school kits, containing essential supplies to assist vulnerable children attending schools in targeted areas of Jordan. The kits are now in country and UNICEF is working with partners and community-based organizations to identify areas for distribution.

UNICEF Jordan received emergency supplies stored in Zarqa Free Trade Zone warehouse transferred from UNICEF Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt). The supplies include education kits, recreational kits, as well as WASH items. The supplies have been released to UNICEF partners to be used in transit facilities and at the community level.

Lebanon: Distribution plans are currently being developed for the 100 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, 50 School-in-a-Box and 80 recreational kits that are stored in the Tripoli warehouse. However, based on the current events in Tripoli, distribution could be delayed if Tripoli continues to be a No Go Zone.

The next SitRep is planned for 4 June 2012

For further information, please contact:

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