



This situation report on the Syrian refugees is meant to convey the latest developments on the crisis that triggered many to leave their country seeking a safe haven in Jordan, as well as to cast a light on Caritas activities pertaining to this issue.



Recent Developments

Jordan has intensified its calls on the international community to help relieve the financial burden facing the country as a result of the Syrian crisis, estimated to reach \$3.2 billion in 2014.

According to a government source, Jordan has recently taken a decision to return Syrians to countries they come from, based on the principle that refugees fall under the protection of the first country of asylum they set foot in after fleeing their homeland, and they cannot be hosted in

any third country. Accordingly, Syrians who try to enter Jordan through its borders from countries other than Syria, regardless of the means of transportation used, will officially be turned back at the border, regardless of the fact that some might have become “refugees surplus” in a sense that they might be denied re-entry to the country they came from, and at the same time they can’t go back to their home country due to war conditions or personal protection issues.

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can't go back to their home country due to war conditions or personal protection issues.

For this reason, UNHCR has officially requested the Government to allow the international organization to open an office in the airport, as well as in other crossing border points, to receive Syrian asylum seekers and study their cases before UNHCR determines whether those are falling under its international protection and jurisdiction.

Syrians who arrive at the airport from countries where they are refugees are normally asked to go back because it is the responsibility of that country to keep them as refugees by international law; an authorized official source has made this remark. The decision came as Jordan has voiced its discontent over refugees' funding situation and for not receiving assistance as much as needed to deal with the effect of the Syrian plight, despite many invitations that have been extended to President of Security Council to visit Jordan, and the Zaatari Camp in particular, and be acquainted with the current funding shortfall.

Syrian refugees who cannot produce valid identification documents will also be turned away, as they could pose a potential "national security threat" due to intensified fighting along the border and to extremist groups' partaking in the conflict, according to Jordanian security sources. Syrians with invalid papers will also be sent back following the normal procedures, but those who come with valid passports will be allowed into the country.

“To address issues of identification papers, UNHCR has introduced iris-scanning registration technology, a method by which comprehensive biometric information about each refugee can be compiled”

Some 250,000 refugees have already been registered through this technology, which has been also implemented in the Zaatari Refugee Camp, with plans to

extend it to other temporary camps.

The UN Refugee Agency warned that 2013 recorded the highest levels of forced displacement at all, due to the increasing numbers of new refugees and internally displaced persons.

The report entitled “Semi-Annual Trends for 2013” issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, describes the first half of 2013 as one of the worst periods of forced displacement through the decades.



The report adds that about 5.9 million people have been forced to flee their homes in the first six months of 2013, at a time where Syria recorded the largest number of new displacements. The report is mainly based on data provided by more than 120 offices of UNHCR in many parts of the world. The United Nations has announced that the number of Syrians who were forced to leave their homes because of the war has seen a significant increase reaching 6.5 million people.

UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos informed the Security Council that the number of Syrians who is in need of humanitarian aid reached 9.3 million compared to 6.8 million, whereas the number of Syrians who were forced to leave their homes as refugees and displaced persons has risen to 6.5 million compared to 4.25 million in September 2013. Relief Coordinator has also highlighted the dire humanitarian situation affecting Syrians at the end of a visit to Damascus. Ms. Amos also met Palestinian refugees at an UNRWA school which is now home to displaced families. More than 80 per cent of Palestinian refugees inside Syria need humanitarian aid, according to her statement. Palestinians inside the camps in Syria, namely “Al Yarmouk Camp”, are endangered with famine due to the siege that is imposed by the regime in response to the presence of armed groups who exchange fire with

the regime from the camp, along with the ban to deliver food items to the camp, which makes residents resort to any food source including herbs and dried bread.

In the outskirts of Amman, there are two makeshift camps that are set up by Syrian refugees themselves, mostly coming from the province of Hama. The camp dwellers have sought to establish the two camps that neither carry names nor officially registered as temporary camps.

The first camp, the largest in population, hosting 375 people in 150 tents, is located in “Khreibet Al Souq” area, northeast Amman, next to fruits and vegetable markets and factories, which provide those with job opportunities, though scarce and temporary.

The camp refugees have officially entered Jordan through official border points and possess identity documents.

They are officially registered with UNHCR and are granted ratio cards to purchase food commodities only, and have access to health services provided by public hospitals and government health centers.

Though charity organizations provide the refugees in the camps with heaters and blankets, but the need to receive other basic items remains immense.

Few meters away from the first camp, a second random smaller camp stands, and most of its dwellers have come also from Hama and its countryside. It includes about 47 families that mostly lack adequate assistance, work chances and children do not attend schools.

The last blizzard that hit Jordan caused further deterioration in their poor living conditions. The tents were mired because of the floods.

“3000-5000 Syrian refugees live in Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) throughout Jordan”

Between 3000-5000 Syrian refugees live in Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) throughout Jordan. The largest concentration of ITS is in the northern governorates of Mafraq, Ramtha and Irbid, where more than 300 Syrian refugees have been evicted from their ITS in Mafraq and advised to return to the Zaatari Camp or rent houses.

Returning to the Zaatari Camp is not an option to many

as tents inside the camp are too close to each other, which causes lack of privacy as women do not feel at ease because everyone can see them, and since most of them wear Hijab, they don't have a place where they feel comfortable



enough to take it off as if they were in the privacy of their home. In addition to this, the lack of trust among compatriots who come from different parts of Syria is prevalent inside the camp as many thefts took place while families temporarily leave the tents or obliged to take their children to a hospital for example, they might come back and find everything in their tent stolen.

This obliged some of the ITS evicted families, who avoid going back to the Zaatari Camp, to sell their food coupons, blankets and heaters and pool their resources to pay the first month's rent for a house around which they erected their tents. More evictions made by Jordanian security forces have been reported to take place in Balqa, which some have seen forceful dismantlement, with a few tents being ripped or burned down to avoid further resettlement.

The Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) has released the latest figures of refugees who have obtained service cards; Syrian refugees' card holders are now 538,956, whereas those who are registered with UNHCR in Jordan reached 585,656 individuals, out of which 124,892 reside in refugee camps.

¹ Service Cards: Identification Cards issued by Public Security Directorate to Syrian refugees who came to Jordan after March 2011. Those cards are given to registered and non-registered refugees, legal or illegal urban refugees. They contain each refugee's basic information, bio-data, address and city. Those cards are meant to monitor the refugees' numbers in Jordan and provide them with needed protection while they reside in Jordan.

Meanwhile, according to the same source, 126,291 Syrian refugees are residing in the Zaatari Camp, 3892 in Mureijeb Al Fahoud Camp in Zarqa (MAF) and 809 in King Abdullah Park in Ramtha.

“100,000 refugees have voluntarily returned to their homeland, Amman and Irbid have hosted half of urban refugees”

Around 100,000 Syrian refugees have voluntarily returned to their homeland since the outbreak of the conflict in March 2011. In terms of registration with UNHCR, Amman and Irbid have hosted half of urban refugees' distribution percentage compared to other governorates. Amman came first with 31,675%, Irbid 22,734%, Mafraq 11,154%, Zarqa 8,824%, Balqa 2, 71%, Jerash 1, 9%, Ajloun 1, 7%, Karak 1, 5%, Madaba 1, 4%, Maan 1%, Aqaba 0.414% and Tafleeh 0.330%.

UNHCR Regional Response Plan 6 (RRP6) requirements, including for Jordan and neighboring operations, amount to 1,345,405,017 for 2014. However, the current level of funding received is 13 per cent (\$173,783,333) of the requirements that would be distributed to sectors including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food,

health, non-food items, protection and shelter in Jordan.

The United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF needs \$835 million in 2014 to fund the efforts that respond to the urgent needs of children affected by the Syrian crisis.

UNICEF estimated the number of children in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria of four million kids, in addition to more than a million children that have taken refuge in neighboring countries.

As part of a major UNICEF Regional Response Strategy, an immunization campaign against polio took place following the confirmation of (10) cases infected by polio in Syria, which was the first case of its kind in the country since 14 years.

The campaign intended to reach some 3.5 million children at the age of five and less all over Jordan. Immunization was provided in 1200 areas, including health clinics, schools and universities, in addition to the 300 mobile team targeting areas uneasily reached.

In 3 days, 19,000 children received polio vaccine and were followed with a second round within a month, along with injected measles vaccines and rubella for those between 6 months and 20 years, in addition to Vitamin A supplement intake to those aged between 6 months and 5 years.

UNICEF will use the funds raised in 2014 to vaccinate 25 million children, at least against diseases such as polio to provide education to nearly 4.5 million children, 11 million Syrians with clean water, and to support more than two million children through child protection interventions such as dealing with trauma.

“The agency forecast some 200,000 additional persons who will take refuge in Jordan in 2014 and the crisis in Syria will not be resolved in the next two or three years”



According to UNHCR Representative in Jordan, Mr Andrew Harper has explained that Jordan cannot be expected to keep hosting an increasing number of Syrian refugees on its own and continue being generous as it has always been. The agency forecast some 200,000 additional persons who will take refuge in Jordan in 2014 and the crisis in Syria will not be resolved in the next two or three years, noting that the new Azraq Camp has been completed and is ready to receive Syrian refugees any time the government decides to do that and some 30,000 Syrian families receive cash assistance, he added.

The UNHCR issued a ranking of the top 10 refugee hosting countries, on which Jordan came third, after Iran and Pakistan, with more than 500,000 Syrians that have taken refuge in the country by mid-2013, along with Iraqi, Palestinian and other nationalities registered with UNHCR. Syrians now comprise the world's second largest refugee population.

The largest number of refugees in Jordan is in Mafraq Governorate, 80km northeast of Amman, which is hosting more than 187,000 Syrians including camp refugees, according to UNHCR numbers, Amman and Irbid came second and third on the list with 143,375 and 129,472 respectively.

The cost of hosting Syrian refugees is around \$2.5 billion. Less than half of — some \$800 million — has been covered by international aid and humanitarian relief efforts, according to Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) at the sidelines of Kuwait Donors' conference that was convened in a bid to collect funds to smitten Syrian people.

UNHCR launched a record of \$5.6 billion aid appeal to respond to the Syrian crisis worldwide, which coincided with a study by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) that warned that starvation is now threatening the Syrian population.

With regard to the resettlement programs to Syrian refugees, UNHCR has started a program in Jordan and Lebanon; however, this would not solve the humanitarian crisis as only 80 thousand resettlement opportunities are only available around the world per year.

The UN proposed that Western countries take in up to 30,000 Syrian refugees on resettlement, humanitarian or other admission programs by the end of 2014.

So far, 16 Western countries have pledged to resettle 10,240 Syrian refugees, including 500 announced by France.

In a sign that Syrian refugees in Jordan have started to become a fixture in the Jordanian textile, a step towards social integration, mixed marriages between (Syrians-Jordanians) have significantly risen. 155 marriages were recorded in 2011, while in 2012 the cases reached 280 marriages. The marriages took place in the capital, unlike expectation that the mainstream is that such marriages should have taken place in the border cities or in Mafraq, which includes the Zaatari refugee Camp where it scored 129 marriages, while 39 cases in Mafraq governorate, 75 in Irbid, 37 in Zarqa, 11 in Balqa, 4 in Ajloun and 3 cases in Ma'an.

The figures show a high prevalence of Jordanians - Syrians marriages during 2012 compared to 2011. The mixed marriages were centered in the capital comprising 248 cases, while the border towns, which are home to the Syrian camps, recorded 89 in Irbid and 49 in Mafraq during 2012, as per religious courts records.

World Food Program (WFP) completed first food vouchers distribution to all Syrian refugees living in the Zaatari Camp, which will enable the refugees for the first time to buy food of their choice from certain stores inside the Camp.



The program allowed the refugees to shop using a JD 12 food voucher, which can be redeemed in stores allocated to this purpose, set up by community organizations in the camp.

Camp refugees can now buy a variety of food products, including fresh food that are not of traditional meals. The program distributed more than 2000 tons of food each month and about half a million fresh loaves on a daily basis inside the camp.

The voucher system has also helped to support towns and villages around the camp and boost the local economy. Additional stores are scheduled to open, including two new private consumer corporations in the Zaatari Camp.

Voucher system works in areas outside the Camp as well, where each urban Syrian refugee who lives in communities in all twelve governorates in Jordan, receives a JD24 food voucher to receive food items from selected stores on a monthly basis.

The program has reached more than 300,000 Syrian refugees living in Jordan, provided them with food vouchers, and secured more than 11 million U.S. dollars in the Jordanian economy.

Ministry of Health (MoH) has warned that the coming winter is expected to produce increasing TB and contagious respiratory diseases among Syrian refugees in Jordan, noting that TB patients have exceeded 102, inside and outside the Zaatari Camp, including 5 uneasily cured TB cases.

MoH explained that among these cases, 35 cases are located in the Zaatari Camp and other areas in Mafraq Governorate, adding that MoH is working closely in cooperation with International Organizations to fight this disease.

MoH pointed out that TB cases detected among Syrian refugees include those who are already in Jordan before the crisis, expecting that some 50 cases are not yet detected but at risk of contracting TB.

The Ministry has developed a national strategic plan in cooperation with the international organizations to deal with this disease, where the plan requires early detection and treatment of infected cases, which prevent its spreading.

According to the plan, all health centers and hospitals are to report each case that suffers from the symptoms of TB such as continued blood coughing for a long time. The Ministry is working on providing free of charge services one of which is doing chest X ray pertaining to TB detection and treatment.

The Ministry, in collaboration with its partners, will operate an equipped mobile X-Ray imaging car service to the Syrian refugee areas once or twice weekly and as needed, in order to detect more cases and cure them before they become worse.

Minister of Education has said that the number of Syrian students in Jordan at the beginning of the current academic year stood at 79 thousand Syrian students, mostly in public schools.

“50 schools are running double shifts: morning shifts for Jordanians, evening ones for Syrians”

The minister expects that the number of Syrian students to reach 120 thousand students, with an increasing number of refugees who arrive on a daily basis. Despite the burdens the Ministry is facing as a result of this increase, it has prepared an emergency plan to



accommodate them according to the capacity of Jordan's academic facilities. More than 50 schools are running double shifts: morning shifts are for Jordanian students, whereas evening ones are for Syrian students from 2pm–5pm.

He explained that Syrian students in the secondary level will sit for this year's exams according to the Jordanian

General Secondary Certificate (Tawjihi) that is recognized by public universities, including those students who are willing to apply to any university in Jordan or abroad.

“Number of Syrians in private schools have reached 3712 students”

The Director of Department of Private Education said that the number of Syrians in private schools have reached 3 thousands and 712 students (1879 males and 1883 Females) at the beginning of the scholastic year.

He noted that most of the students enrolled in private schools pay the costs of their education where the majority is in the capital, followed by Irbid and Mafraq governorates.

Three new evening- shift schools for Syrian refugees have also been opened in three different areas in “Badia Al Gharbieh”, west of Mafraq, with a capacity of 900 students, in an attempt to ease congestion which some schools have witnessed, adding to that the already existing number of students who exceeded 3,500.

Syrian refugees have illegally taken up jobs in Jordan, according to Ministry of Labor, mainly working in construction, restaurants and the agriculture sector, which offers little potential for employment during the cold season. There are 60,000 to 70,000 Syrians now working in the local market. The Municipal Affairs Ministry said that the heavy presence of Syrian refugees in the local market is the direct reason behind the increase in unemployment rates this year. He also explained that the other financial losses Jordan incurred as a result of the Syrian crisis, including the disruption of exports to Syria and through Syria to other countries, have not been calculated in the 1.7 billion, the total cost of hosting Syrian refugees on Jordan's economy.

“Jordan has lost many investments as a result of the Syrian crisis”

Before the Syrian crisis in March 2011, Jordan used to be part of a “combined tour package” in addition to Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey. It has now lost many investments as a result of the Syrian crisis, citing investors' reluctance and fear to come to the turbulent region.

Over the years 2010-2013, around 30,000 people became unemployed, raising the national unemployment rates from 12.7 % to 13.1 %, according to UN statement.

Recent impact assessments in the two countries that are mostly affected by the Syrian crisis, Lebanon and Jordan, raise concerns that the crisis may be seriously compounding the deterioration of the economies, which were already under stress, with direct impact on incomes and poverty levels, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

The impact of the conflict has become regional in scope as almost 97 % of Syria's refugees are hosted in the immediate surrounding region.

“Key sectors including investment, tourism, trade and local production are affected at varying levels of intensity. The tension between refugees and local populations in those countries continue to mount.”

The percentage of the Syrian presence in Mafraq Governorate exceeded (129.1%) of the total population, according to the Ministry of Interior statistics, which highlights the negative repercussions in all aspects of life.

The statistics indicate that the number of Syrian refugees in the province reached 700,000 refugees, while the Jordanian population in the province does not exceed 310,000, pointing out that the growing number of Syrian refugees has significantly caused declines in the level of services provided to the total population.

Syrian refugees have immensely imposed pressure on the services provided by the municipality in various fields,

especially the infrastructure sector. The municipality is already suffering from lack of services and extremely difficult financial conditions, which worsened the situation in light of the increasing flow of Syrian refugees, which led to the demand for services in various sectors and an additional burden on the municipality.

Moreover, the presence of Syrian refugees' places to the province of Mafraq additional burdens on the health sector, which has negatively affected the services provided to children health care services. The Ministry of Health is in dire need to increase medical, nursing and technicians staff in the children's section and prematurity, increasing the number of the doctors to mitigate the negative health effects on Syrian refugees' children.

“25,000 escapees from the camp live in makeshift houses and “steal” work opportunities from citizens”

The Mayor of “Umm Al- Jamal” town, (20) kilometers east of the city of Mafraq and is classified as one of “pockets of poverty” areas, has said that the presence of the Zaatari Camp nearby has negatively impacted the services provided to the town's population namely roads, garbage collection and compressors, in addition to other public services, along with having some 25,000 escapees from the camp who live in makeshift houses and “steal” work opportunities from citizens.

He added that the municipality is unable to provide services to citizens if not aided by government agencies and donors.

The situation in the Zaatari Camp is changing positively, despite some tragic incidents that are taking place every now and then. The Zaatari Camp has become a fully-fledged city, served by paved streets and shops, in addition to six surveillance cameras installed inside the camp.

Two Syrian children and their father died after sustaining third-degree burns when a gas cylinder exploded in their tent at the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Mafraq.

Another child was severely injured and was first taken to Mafraq Public Hospital; the authorities are currently investigating the incident, adding that initial findings pointed to misuse of the gas cylinder.

A father, his son and daughter died after suffering severe burns when a gas cylinder exploded and caused a fire. His daughter suffered severe burns, was rushed to a hospital in Amman and is still in a serious condition.

The Civil Defense Department said in a statement that two people died and 93 suffocated from the effects of inhaling fumes from gas heaters.

Director of the Zaatari Camp has said that it is expected to receive approximately 3500 Caravans shortly. He added that about 2000 of these caravans will be donated by Oman, whereas 1000 will arrive from Saudi Arabia, noting that about 500 Caravans will be delivered to the camp by the donation of some associations and philanthropists.

Director of Syrian refugee camps' administration has said that service cards will be distributed to Syrian refugees using iris-scanning technology.

The administration has equipped a reception center in Ribaa Al Sarhan¹ “ temporary unused Camp in Mafraq Governorate, with an iris scanner to document all information about Syrian refugees coming to Jordan, adding that such a device has already been installed in the Zaatari Refugee Camp and will be operational soon.

The following table illustrates Syrian refugees' registration with the agency with regard to geographical distribution until December 2013:

UNHCR Inter-Agency Portal Information

The Zaatari Camp:		126,291			
Mreijeb Al Fahoud Camp:		3892			
King Abdullah Gardens Camp:		809			
Total No. of Syrian Camp Refugees:		130,992			
Amman	Irbid	Mafraq	Zarqa	Balqa	Jerash
146,803	132,342	56,682	50,710	16,155	10,839
Ajloun	Karak	Madaba	Maa'n	Tafleh	Aqaba
10,048	8,932	8,473	5,913	2,208	2,019
Total No. of Non-Camp Syrian Refugees:		451,124			

¹ Rabaa Al Sarhan: a first temporary camp that was prepared and supposed to receive Syrian refugees 14Km northwest of Mafraq, with anticipated 300-family capacity. The camp that contains asphalted land plot, water and power supply is used as a reception and registration center receiving Syrian refugees who come illegally to Jordan before they are sent to the Zaatari Camp.

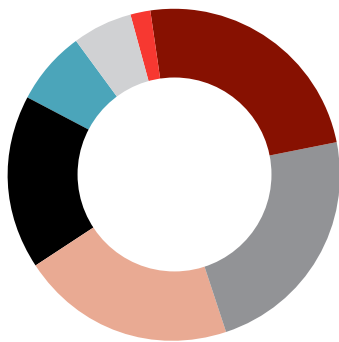
Caritas Response:

Caritas Jordan Emergency Appeal–2014 (EA 25):

The following table and chart clarify Caritas Registration process until December 2013. Total number of registered individuals with Caritas Jordan came to 276,513 making up 53,957 households.

Caritas Jordan submitted a **second Emergency Appeal (EA 25) through CI**. This plan intends to cover the increasing costly medical needs that include Primary Health care and Emergency Health Care (out/in-patient services, tertiary health care and medical humanitarian assistance), in particular the lifesaving operations, medical reconstruction as many have lost their limbs during the war and are in a bad need to rebuild their physical capabilities and receive highly needed prosthetics

Moreover, the new effort will place a significant emphasis



Caritas Center								
Date 31.12.2013	Mafraq	Zarqa	Irbid	Amman	Madaba	Karak	Balqa	TOTAL
Number of Families	12915	12407	11270	9161	3730	3441	1033	53957
Number of Individuals	66403	62167	60578	49038	16601	16429	5297	276513
Average Family Size	5.14	5.01	5.38	5.35	4.45	4.77	5.13	
Average Daily Registration/Family	30	65	55	40	15	10	10	

● Mafraq ● Zarqa ● Irbid ● Amman ● Madaba ● Karak ● Balqa

In light with unprecedented refugees' inflow to Jordan and their tremendous needs that Caritas seeks to cover in many governorates, and in a bid to boost Caritas cooperation and network with local community, Caritas will have a presence and representation in **Ajloun, Salt and Aqaba through agreements signed with some active CBOs that are operating in these areas.**

“increasing costly medical needs include Primary Health care and Emergency Health Care”

on providing costly monthly chronic medications as well as reproductive health care for mothers and children. The project will also cover nutrition insecurity among destitute refugees and poor Jordanians through providing food items and NFIs (personal hygiene and detergents) on a monthly basis and Child health-nutrition. Protection and Counselling will also occupy an integral part of the project's assistance as more number of traumatized persons cross the border fleeing war atrocities and bloody violence prevailing in Syria. The EA 25 is expected to keep the momentum of providing basic needs to Syrian refugees, especially those who are not registered with UNHCR, new comers or whose registration documents expired thus they are not entitled to any assistance by UNHCR.

The new EA will be based on the success that the current EA44/2012 has achieved and the commended efforts exerted by Caritas Jordan and its affiliates, with the abundant support and donations by CI/ MO's

CJ contribution in UNHCR- RRP(6):

Caritas Jordan is an active participant in UNHCR Regional Response Plan (RRP6), addressing refugees' humanitarian assistance in Medical, Education, Shelter, Food and Non-Food Items, Cash and counseling sectors and services.

As part of its affiliation with UNHCR Regional Response Plan 6, Caritas has submitted its portfolio to UNHCR with an estimated budget of **\$16,056,830** USD to partake in the regional effort than aims to alleviate the suffering of Syrian refugees in Jordan.

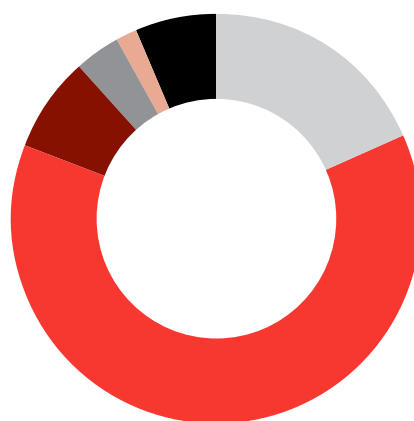
Caritas has been working in the following sectors in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa, Karak, Balqa, Madaba, Ramtha, Ajloun, Aqaba and Salt, to cover an estimated 34,000 Households in addition to serve 27,500 individuals, with a total of around 200,000 Syrian Refugees and vulnerable Jordanian beneficiaries as illustrated:

1. Medical: targeting 20,000 individuals.
2. Education: 2500 individuals.
3. NFIs (personal hygiene, detergents, household items, clothes, shoes, blankets, heaters, baby kits and bedding material): 15,000 HHs.
4. Shelter: 1000 HHs.
5. Cash/ Rent: 3000 HHs.
6. Food: 15,000 HHs.
7. Counseling: 5000 individuals.

The chart below illustrates the frequency of services provided to Syrian Refugees in 2013 according to type of services:

Service Type

● Food items	28.763
● Non-Food Items	96.990
● Medical Assistance	11.565
● Shelter Assistance	5.719
● Education Assistance	2.586
● Counseling services	9.689
Total	155.312



Additional Comments/ Remarks:

Caritas Internationalis (CI), in cooperation with Caritas Jordan, on December 16, 2013 launched an international campaign that aims to combat hunger problem worldwide and carry out awareness sessions in schools, churches sermons and other social gatherings, where this vital call for food thrift and fair distribution as well as to think about innovated ways to produce food.

Some of the highest ranking figures in the Roman Catholic Church and Evangelical Church in Germany met with Syrian refugees during a two-day visit to the Jordan meant to directly assess the humanitarian catastrophe associated with the influx of refugees. The religious leaders also visited Caritas Center in Irbid and assisted with the distribution of goods to the refugees.

Jordan and the German government signed a grant agreement of €10 million (around JD 9.5 million) to improve water supply for Syrian refugees and host communities in the northern region.

The grant builds on the first phase of the water supply for Syrian refugees' project (9.35 million euros), which is currently being implemented. A \$1.6 million German investment in Jordan's healthcare system was launched with an aim to boost the country's medical services amid its struggles to cope with a massive influx of refugees from Syria.

The Orthodox Initiative, a non-profit organization based in Amman, distributed winter aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan to celebrate Christmas. The initiative, which supports local churches hosting Syrian refugees, distributed 800 winter jackets and 500 food parcels through local churches and societies ahead of Christmas.

The parcels contained "nutritious dried goods and essential cooking items.

A total of £11 million (around JD12.5 million) in British government support has been earmarked to help tens of thousands of vulnerable Syrians in Jordan.

The assistance has targeted elderly, refugees with disabilities and chronically ill. The support will also cover the most recent refugee arrivals from Syria and vulnerable households in Jordanian communities.

The assistance will also be used to provide improved water and sanitation services for the 120,000 refugees in the Zaatari Refugee Camp, including a water treatment plant and extending piped water coverage.

The UK government is to send £18.4 million in aid over 2 years to UNHCR to provide vital assistance to refugees in Jordan fleeing the fighting in Syria. This assistance is aimed to urge others to follow this lead and help to fill the shortfall in aid for the innocent victims of this conflict.



A team of Czech cardiac surgeons will perform a series of operations in Jordan on Syrian and Jordanian children to support the country's medical services amid its struggles to cope with a massive influx of refugees from Syria.

A graduation ceremony was held to honor some of the Zaatari Camp Syrian refugee students who had completed a three-month life skills or vocational training course at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) center. The three-month vocational training course enabled the participants to learn how to make artwork out of recycled materials.

“An additional €20 million in financial assistance to help Jordan mitigate the impact of the refugee burden.”

The European Union announced an additional €20 million in financial assistance to Jordan to help Jordan mitigate the impact of the refugee burden. The additional assistance came through two agreements worth €20 million the EU signed with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UNHCR to support Jordanian authorities in ensuring safe and decent transportation to the Syrian refugees crossing into Jordan and in improving the security situation in the refugee camps.

Jordan and the World Bank signed a grant for \$10 million, which is part of an over \$50 million support program aimed at strengthening local governments' service delivery and the municipalities' capacity to host Syrian refugees. “The Jordan Emergency Services and Social Resilience Program” will improve living conditions in cities and towns most affected by refugee inflows.

Japan announced a new donation of \$1 million to UNICEF Jordan's emergency response to the Syrian crisis that will bring its contribution to \$8 million.

The donation will be directed towards water and sanitation services in public schools across Jordan as well as in the Zaatari Refugee Camp.

Turkey inaugurated a nursery school at the Zaatari Refugee Camp. The nursery will serve around 400 children and is part of the cooperation between Jordan and Turkey. Several activities were held at the Zaatari Refugee Camp to mark “Global Hand Washing Day” and to raise the children's awareness of the importance of hand-washing.

Held by Oxfam, in cooperation with several NGOs, the activities included games, plays, hand-washing demonstrations, kite-making, flying balloons and a puppet show. These activities were organized to focus on the importance of hand washing and how to make sure people have proper practice do those so they do not get sick, because hand washing can save many lives.

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) will implement two

projects in Jordan worth \$3 million. The projects will include children protection and follow up on their educational needs such as transportation and psycho-social support. DRC is currently assisting Syrian refugees with cash assistance in addition to providing counseling to 3600 families.

Jordan Red Crescent and Iraqi Red Crescent have signed an agreement to deliver all medical services to Syrian refugees in Jordan for free, besides doing some surgeries. The medical services will be delivered at Jordan Red Crescent Society, with a \$1 million funded by Iraqi Red Crescent and its duration will be 1 year and a half.



Qatar has distributed winterization assistance to Syrian refugees in coordination with UNHCR. The assistance that was distributed by “Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation” (RAF) included 90,000 blankets in addition to 25,000 heaters.

Qatari Red Crescent has allocated \$3.225 to provide exceptional medical services to injured Syrians in addition to eyes, kidney, jaws and facial surgeries.

Norwegian Foreign Minister inaugurated a women football playground in the Zaatari Camp for Syrian refugees. More playgrounds are going to be established in Azraq, Ramtha, Mafraq and Sarih to help Syrian refugees overcome their difficult living conditions.

Restored Hope

Arwa Abed Al-Kareem Al-Huneidi arrived to Jordan 2 years ago along with her 4 children; eldest 14 years old, youngest 2 years old. Her husband remained in Dara'a/ Syria where he has been captured since for 6 months now.

“I had no choice but to rescue my children from this terrifying life under destruction and with no security at all,” says Arwa. She however managed to leave with some money from their savings in addition to some of her personal jewelries.

This crisis left the majority of Syrian mothers to become the head of their families where they are the ones who need to take full responsibility of the family since most of the men have stayed back in Syrian or have been killed.

“I had no place to go and to be alone with 4 kids that need first of all to have a good shelter, I was really terrified. I had the chance through some charitable people to find a 2-room house at Zarqa area for (100) JOD

rent per month.” Explains Arwa. She accordingly had to use the money she had and to sell the jewelries to pay the rent.

“Now I had nothing and I was starting to lose hope... I had this shelter but it was empty...then I heard about Caritas center near to where I am staying and I went there to see what help can I get” she says. Caritas provided Arwa and her family vouchers*, every month, to get basic needs for the house, blankets, and a heater besides a voucher to buy clothes for her kids.

“Love does still exist amongst the unjust situation we are living...”

“I am really thankful for Caritas to help me not only with needed materialistic stuff but with giving hope and support that Love does still exist amongst the unjust situation we are living...”

“I want to help my family as well, with the help of Caritas, I aspire to find a job to benefit my family and support them so that they will be able to continue with their education here at schools as well.

**in cooperation with Caritas Denmark*



<http://www.caritasjordan.org.jo>