

March 12 ,2013

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## 1. Recent Developments:

- With the second anniversary of the Syrian crisis, the influx of Syrian refugees to Jordan is still on the rise. This on-going influx is posing funding challenges to the Jordanian government that is striving to cope with a severe funding shortfall and refute allegations that Jordan is working in cooperation with foreign military troops to train Syrian opposition fighters, who, despite reportedly controlling 80 per cent of the 370- kilometer-long borders, have repeatedly failed to capture the crossing points. Those funding challenges are also jeopardizing UN agencies' efforts to continue its services, as UNICEF and UNHCR, have warned that their services might stop in the near future unless sufficient funds arrive. Nearly 50,000 are expected to cross the borders on a monthly basis, with an average of daily 500-600 Syrians crossing legally and more than 2,000 refugees crossing clandestinely, adding a monthly increase of 1% to the Jordanian population and causing more complications to the Jordanian overburdened economic, demographic and security conditions. According to official figures, only around a fourth of the total number of Syrians in Jordan live in refugee camps, while the rest reside in local communities. Meanwhile, Jordanians have started to voice their dissatisfaction over the presence of some 450,000 Syrians, whose presence in Jordan became visible and somewhat annoying and unacceptable as they tend to grab any work opportunity and accept minimal wages. Thousands have found jobs in the private sector. A governmental source has estimated the number of illegal Syrian workers in Jordan in all sectors 160,000 labourers.
- The Zaatari intensively populated camp, which hosts nowadays more than 120,000 refugees, according to government statistics, exceeding its 65,000 person capacity, has witnessed many incidents that have caused security disruptions and tensions as the residents stage regular violent protests against the living conditions in the camp. The new camp administration is challenged with many security breaches and tragic events that claimed many lives of Syrian refugees. Nearly 30 tents caught fire and about 20 zinc barracks destroyed in addition to the death of a 40-year-old man and two of his children were injured when their tent caught fire. More incidents about smuggling persons, arsons, preaching, arms trafficking, stealing tents and receiving relief aid items and selling them outside the camp, in addition to women trafficking and sexual harassment have been allegedly witnessed and circulated among the camp residents, which have resulted in intensified security personnels presence and imposed strict entry and exit

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procedures for the camp visitors. Meanwhile, the new administration of the Zaatari Camp has taken a controversial decision to stop receiving any types of assistance delivered through the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), a decision which might badly affect the flow of humanitarian assistance to the camp residents as well as terminate 180 JHCO aid workers contracts and undermine the relations with donors. This suspended assistance includes caravans and in-kind assistance.

- Syria's devastating war has caused around 80,000 casualties and more than 4 million displaced Syrians inside their country, leaving more than one million injured and destitute refugees in the neighbouring countries and North Africa, mostly women and children. UNHCR works around the clock to register as many as possible and try to help avert catastrophic political and humanitarian consequences on the region. The UN refugees' agency is facing a serious funding gap as it had secured some 20% of an emergency Syrian refugee aid appeal launched in December 2012, to which donor countries pledged to provide a \$1.5 billion, an amount which is outdated and insufficient, with the appeal set at a time some 500 Syrians were fleeing to Jordan on a daily basis. The UN refugee agency has so far registered more than 303,000 Syrians, with more than 56,000 awaiting registration, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees who are under the agency's concern to more than 360,000 as more than 30,000 refugees entered Jordan as of the beginning of March, according to Jordan Armed Forces and International Organization for Migration (IOM). Such constraints are likely to stall the plans to expand the Zaatari Camp and open the second and third camps.
  
- UNICEF has alerted that it is in a situation where it is going to stop services because the children agency is only funded by 19% of the \$57 million that it requested at the beginning of this year. Thus, UNICEF will no longer be able to provide water, sanitation and hygiene coverage to all refugees in the Zaatari Camp, King Abdullah Park and Cyber City, in addition to rehabilitating water pumps in Mafraq Governorate if the funding situation remains unchanged. However, the second US- funded school in the camp has been opened, with a capacity of 5,000 students, but the plans to build other four schools that are expected to host 20,000 school-age children in the Zaatari Camp will be suspended. UNICEF has the money to build the infrastructure for the third school, but is not able to pay for teachers and text books. The agency may not only be short of money to support children in the camp but it may also stop

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supporting the enrolment of Syrian children who joined public schools in host communities. More than 29,000 Syrians who study at public schools are supported by UNICEF. It covers tuition fees and text books and has also rehabilitated 50 schools and renovated another 150 schools. If the donors do not provide money, UNICEF priorities will then be supplying water to refugees in the camps, supporting basic education and unaccompanied children, who are separated from their families and whose numbers in Jordan are 6,000, where approximately 450 of them live in the Zaatari Camp; in addition to securing friendly spaces for Syrian children who comprise 57% of the refugees in Jordan, and carrying out a vaccination programme that has covered so far 120,000 Syrian children, who comprise 20% of the Zaatari Camp residents under the age of 5.

- According to Ministry of Education statistics, 50,000 Syrians study at public schools, which are crowded with plans in place to establish 4 new schools in the Zaatari Camp. The Ministry has noted that 10,000 Syrian students in the Zaatari Camp are receiving education in two primary schools for boys and two primary school for girls; in addition to more secondary schools for boys and two secondary schools for girls. The Ministry, in coordination with UNICEF, is currently applying an emergency plan, resorting to 2 shift learning classes and renting more schools to cope with the increasing number of Syrian students in the Jordanian schools. The Ministry is providing psycho-social support, daily meals to some school students along with training for new teachers on learning strategies and remedial classes on how to bridge the gap between the Jordanian and Syrian curricula.
- Health officials have warned of an alarming number of communicable diseases discovered among Syrian refugees in Jordan and the cost of treating them is more than the country can bear. The Ministry is expected to open a comprehensive medical centre in the camp to ease the burden on public medical services. 7 Syrians were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, with 41 tuberculosis and 39 with hepatitis, 75 with kidney failure who undergo dialysis in Mafraq and Ramtha hospitals, 60 with thalassaemia, in addition to some polio and malaria cases and a high prevalence of rate of intestinal worms, diabetes, high blood pressure, measles, cardiovascular disorders and cancer. The cost of treating Syrians residing in various governorates of Jordan's public hospitals stood at JD 65 million in 2012. With the influx of refugees, this year's bill is expected to reach JD 180 million.



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- The Jordanian-UAE long-awaited opening camp for Syrian refugees (Mreijeb Al Fhoud) near Zarqa is expected to start receiving refugees in early April after all logistical and infrastructure preparations have been completed. Meanwhile, Jordan is preparing to open the third camp, where it will have an initial capacity of 5,000 refugees and is situated in the “Makheizan Al Gharbieh” region in the Zarqa governorate that is lying between the Zaatari Refugee Camp and the second camp in Mreijeb Al Fhoud camp near Zarqa. The third camp will have an expandable capacity of 30,000 and is slated to host the first batches of families by April should the funding requirements be secured.

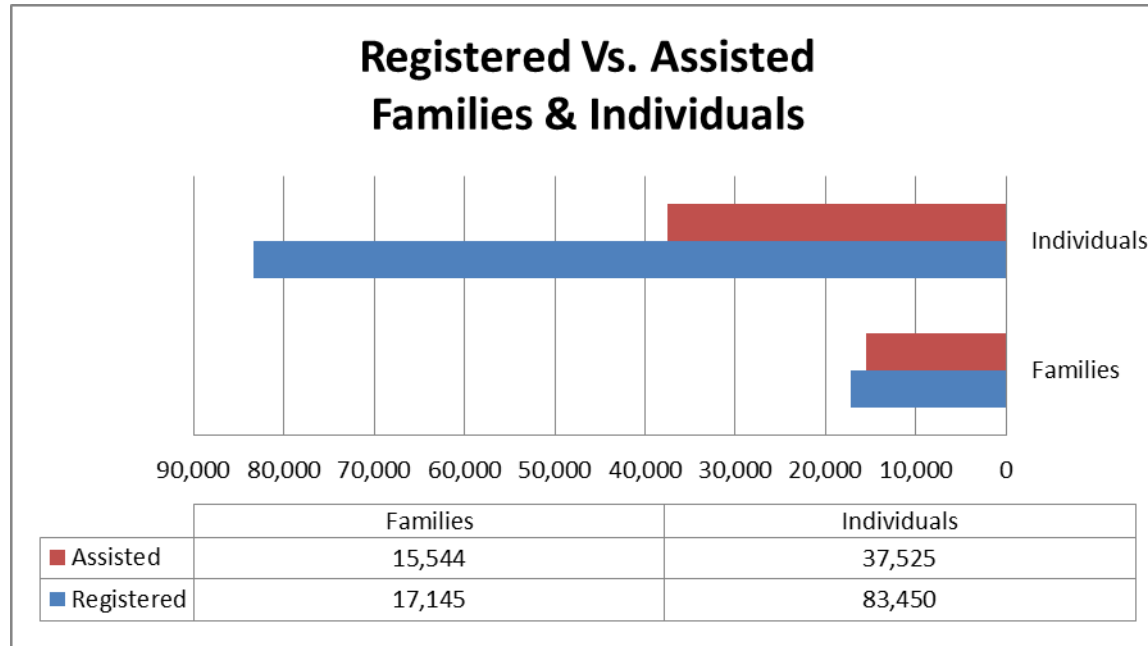
**2. Caritas Response:**

- The following table shows the numbers of Syrian refugees registered in Caritas database, which reached **83,450** individuals, with a total of **17,145** families until February 28, 2013.

Centers	Mafrq	Zarqa	Irbid	Amman	Madaba	Total
Registered cases	6600	2931	5250	1916	448	<b>17,145</b>
Average per/day	30 cases	15 cases	30 cases	107 cases	5 cases	<b>187 cases per/ day</b>
Families	6600	2931	5,250	1916	448	<b>17,145</b>
Individuals	33,000	14,675	25,334	8530	1911	<b>83,450</b>
Average Family size	5.00	5.00	4.54	6.02	4.265	<b>4.86</b>

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The above chart illustrates the number of registered cases with Caritas vis a vis assisted cases.

These numbers signify that the majority of Caritas registered cases are falling under the mandate of Caritas, according to each project criteria.

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*Psychologist talking to one of the Syrian Refugees at Caritas Center/ Zarqa*



*registering Syrian Refugees at Caritas center/ Mafraq*



*Caritas volunteer with Syrian Refugee Kids at the Non-forml Education School/ Zarqa*

*Photos by Caritas Jordan*



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### **Caritas Jordan - Emergency Response Plan:**

Caritas Jordan has launched the *Emergency Response Plan* for the Syrian urban refugees along with (30%) vulnerable Jordanians in the hosting communities; in Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa, Amman, Balqa, Madaba and Karak. Caritas is currently implementing the following activities:

**Winterization Campaign:** Caritas Jordan has almost concluded the implementation of the winterization campaign and has succeeded in delivering the seasonal items to some 6,592 families. The remainder is the activities that are supported through the extended funding of Caritas Switzerland and AVSI, which has allocated additional funds to increment the delivered services . By the end of March, the target of Syrian families is expected to reach 32,960. This figure reflects a unique capacity that has allowed Caritas to reach as many families as possible in the intervention areas, which comprises 43% of registered families with Caritas.

**Peace Building Intervention (PB):** This new MCC funded project aims to bring together young Jordanian and Syrian volunteers and

involve them in emergency work activities. The project is intended to include 3 workshops to be conducted in Mafraq, Zarqa and Irbid. The workshops entail 5-6 sessions to be given to 15 Syrians and 10 Jordanians in each area. The sessions are to be proceeded with Syrian volunteers' activities. The scheduled topics are to tackle issues such as the introduction on integration concept, peace building concept and skills, conflict resolutions, trauma healing, needs assessment and action plans for the activities.

**Emergency Appeal (EA):** The secured amount (\$507,000) has permitted Caritas to receive Syrian and Jordanian patients in areas of interventions ( Amman, Irbid, Zarqa and Karak). So far, the project has managed to respond to the medical needs of Syrians and needy Jordanians who have received primary and secondary health care service through Caritas centers and charity associates. Up to now 3050 individuals have received primary health care services, whereas 2052 individuals have received secondary health care services. This project has come in a crucial time as the medical needs of Syrian refugees are seriously in rise, with the funding crisis and crowded health facilities, which the government is witnessing and jeopardizing the continuation of delivered services.

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### 3. Additional Comments/ Remarks:

- The Japanese government will extend \$25.5 million to support relief efforts for Syrian refugees in Jordan. The amount is part of a total of around \$165 million that Japan will provide as assistance to improve the living conditions of Syrian refugees in the region.
- Canada is expected to support Jordan in hosting Syrian refugees. Canadian Public Safety Minister will present his government with a special report on the situation of Syrian refugees in Jordan in order to provide the kingdom with urgent cash and in-kind assistance as soon as possible.
- The first Arab humanitarian caravan to Syria will head to the Turkish- Syrian border. The caravan, organized in cooperation with the International Campaign in Support of the Syrian People, will provide displaced people in Syria with humanitarian and medical assistance. Many individuals and charitable societies supported the project financially by donating money and organizers bought foodstuff and medical supplies from the Turkish market. 11 Arab countries in addition to Jordan are taking part in the caravan. Representatives of local committees in Syria will receive these items at the Turkish-Syrian border and distribute them to people in need.
- The Seventh- Day Adventist Church has provided warm clothes and blankets to Syrian refugees in the Zaatari Camp, in addition to 3072 Syrian families residing in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa.



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- The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) has concluded its second phase of delivering aid to Syrian refugees in the governorates. The MECC so-called "ACT" project has offered free medical and dental services to some 400 Syrian families residing in Madaba, according to MECC statistical survey. The medical campaign included general check ups, providing free medicines, in addition to food and household items, hygienic kits, clothes and children kits distribution.
- The Iranian embassy in Jordan has handed the Jordanian Red Crescent (JRC) 2500 parcels of in-kind assistance to be distributed to Syrian refugees in Jordan donated from the Iranian Red Crescent.
- The Italian government has provided the Italian field hospital at the Zaatari Refugee Camp with medical supplies and electrical equipment, alongside furnished accommodations for the Royal Medical Services (RMS) medical staff who is running the hospital inside the camp. The shipment included medicines for the treatment of respiratory diseases, diabetes and hypertension. Plans are underway to construct a new pharmacy and an additional waiting room, to avoid over-crowding and ensure the comfort of all patients.
- 2 new Saudi dental clinics and one for psycho-social support have been opened at the Zaatari Camp to cope with the increasing number of Syrian patients who visit the 14 Saudi medical facilities inside the camp on a daily basis. It is planned that the Saudi clinics will be turned to a hospital in two months.
- The Royal Film Commission ( RFC) and UNICEF signed an agreement to screen a variety of educational and recreational films for children at the Zaatari Camp. The showcase is intended to alleviate some of the stress these children have been through and provide much needed age specific entertainment.

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#### 4.Restored Hope



*Rosan on the door of her rented small room at a Palestinian camp in Amman area  
Photo by Patrick Nicholson/ CI*

*“I cannot describe my daily life. It is empty” said Rosan Kurdi, a Syrian refugee in Amman. “I have nothing. I have no food to cook with. I have no friends. My husband is trapped in Syria. Apart from my child, I’m completely alone.”*

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*She lives with her small boy in a tiny, dilapidated room in a Palestinian refugee camp in the city. Jordan is home to many waves of refugees, especially Palestinians and Iraqis. She doesn’t know anyone in the neighborhood. Sometimes a relative comes to babysit, so she can go out to look for work.*

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*Without a husband or family to provide income or child-care, Rosan must rely on Caritas. "I received many things. Vouchers for the clothes and shoes you see my child wearing, medicine for him food and blankets. Without Caritas, I'm isolated," she said.*

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*By Patrick Nicholson/ Caritas Internationalis*

*She has lost almost all of her hope. "Only the welfare of my child gives me the strength to carry on," she said. "He has had a very tough life, a life with no dignity. My only dream is that the boy will return one day to Syria. Nobody should have to grow up outside their own country."*

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[www.caritasjorda.org.io](http://www.caritasjorda.org.io)