

April ,2013

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1. Recent Developments:

- Despite the severe funding crisis and the government’s intention to brand the northern region of Jordan as an “afflicted area”, Syrian refugees continue to overflow Mafraq and some areas of Irbid governorates, outnumbering Jordanians in some districts and raising house rents as well as subsidized and unsubsidized commodities to sky-rocketing figures. However, Jordan will continue to receive Syrians and will never close the borders, according to minister of foreign affairs.
According to Free Syrian Army(FSA) allegations, rebel forces had secured 90 per cent of the Syrian borders and are about to liberate the Nasib/Jaber Syrian-Jordanian crossing point, which stretches some 10 kilometers north of the border city of Mafraq, with light clashes with the remnants of the regime posted at the crossing. The rebels advances have placed the Jordanian military units on high alert and seriously consider stationing electronic reconnaissance devices to monitor the borders. Nevertheless, the influx of destitue Syrians and injured refugees to Jordan remained unchanged.
- More recently, the number of refugees who voluntarily have returned to their country as of the beginning of this year has reached 13,000 returnees, with more than 35,000 returnees since the beginning of the influx of refugees to Jordan in March 2011, according to official statistics. The reasons behind their return vary from unbearable tough living conditions in the Zaatari Camp as well as costly living conditions in urban areas of Jordan, or checking on properties and belongings in their home country as a result of the devastating war. Other reasons for their return are attributed to the strategic gains the FSA is attaining on the ground in border towns of Deraa and Dael. Those who are willing to go back, will have to fill and sign voluntary repatriation application forms one day prior to their departure and hand their tents and belongings to the concerned authorities. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Public Security Department (PSD) vehicles are taking them to the border crossing points the following day. Urban refugees are to submit their applications to UNHCR and go to the Zaatari Camp to be transported through the allocated vehicles.
- As many as 75% of the 500,000 Syrian refugees recorded by the Jordanian authorities are living in urban settings and are in dire need for medical, educational, humanitarian assistance, sheltering and protection; UNHCR has so far registered 362,000 Syrians with more than 64,000 pending reg-

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istration. The refugee agency has issued future most likely and worst case scenarios pertaining to Syrian crisis' ramifications on Jordan, based on the current levels of Syrian influx, which forecasts a sustained influx of Syrians and third country nationals of 3,000 persons per day (including both legal and illegal crossings) until the end of the year that leads to an aggregated total of 770, 000 refugees in Jordan by end of July 2013 and 1.2 million refugees by the end of 2013. The anticipations suggest a gradual deterioration of medical, educational, humanitarian assistance, sheltering and protection in Syria with its negative repercussions on Jordan as a result of the Syrian exodus, which will apparently cause further worsening conditions for Jordanians who are already burdened with living and economic hardships. Moreover, the presence of big numbers of Syrians in Jordan will likely create more tensions and frictions between the two communities, which might end up in increased poverty and unemployment rates, thefts, crimes, exploitation, smuggling, early and forced marriages and general instability and disruptions.

- Meanwhile, UNICEF spokesperson in Geneva cautioned that the UN agency may be forced to end vaccination programmes, education support and water supplies to more 150,000 Zaatari Camp residents if the international community fail to increase its aid in response to the refugee crisis. According to the children agency, the donors have provided only \$12 million out of a \$57 million pledge the agency requested urgently to sustain its services to the refugees this year. UNICEF has also warned it will not be able to open the third school in the Zaatari camp as teachers salaries, text books, furniture and operational expenses are not yet secured, besides, the agency will no longer be able to provide educational support to some 50,000 Syrian students who are studying in the northern area schools, which lack proper infrastructure, are always crowded and operate in two shifts, in addition to the discrepancy between the Jordanian and Syrian curricula.

The second school at the Zaatari Camp has been recently opened in the so-called " Saudi Quarter" having 180 teachers who have been trained on how to deal with the traumatized children who are seriously affected by the ongoing violence and war atrocities in their country. The third school infrastructure at the Zaatari Camp has been completed after putting beams and laying base course pending classrooms installations.

- The long-awaited second Syrian refugees' camp "Hallabat" or (Mreijeb Al Fahoud) has been finally opened, with 106 refugees received on the first day. The camp is located 85 km north-east Amman, east of Zarqa city, has been built on 250 dunums and will initially receive 5500 Syrians. The refugees camp has been sponsored by UAE with a 75 million dinars and is

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expected to receive 100 refugees on a daily basis. The camp residents will comprise orphan children, special cases, widows, families who have no single males and those who have no source of income. It will hold 750 trailers, a school and a specialized primary health care hospital and water treatment plant. The UAE government will likely expand the camp's capacity to host 30,000 refugees if the influx continues.

- Officials have announced that the work is underway on a third new camp near the eastern city of Azraq. The ministries of public works and water have begun their infrastructure work in the so-called Mkheizan camp, a facility designed to hold up to 30,000 Syrians, with a possibility to increase its capacity to 60,000 Syrians. The ministry of water and irrigation is about to locate a nearest water well, from where the camp will receive its water and they start digging accordingly. The UN will be tasked to lay the foundation of its infrastructure and run this camp under the supervision of the Jordanian government.

- Despite funding challenges that have emerged as a result of hosting thousands of Syrian refugees in Jordan and the costly medical treatment which strains medical supplies and medication, the ministry of health has agreed to a mass vaccination campaign against measles and polio in the Zaatari Camp starting April 13th, 2013 and in host communities starting April 27, 2013.

Meanwhile, Doctors without Borders Organization, a French medical body operating in Jordan since 2006, has opened a pediatric hospital in the Zaatari Camp to treat a significant number of Syrian children as the medical services are witnessing huge pressures. The hospital includes 30 beds and 3 beds for emergency cases, receives Syrian children aged 1 month to 10 years.

Children aged 6 to 23 months have received micronutrient fortified porridge with the support of UNHCR, UNICEF and Save the Children.

The French Hospital at the Zaatari Camp, which its surgical services is expected to come to an end, nevertheless will keep a basic team to finalise post-surgery care to approximately 32 patients who need follow up. The hospital has vaccinated 25,000 children in the Zaatari Camp in one week. The closure of the hospital will place an increased burden on both Moroccan Field Hospitals and Italian/Jordanian Hospitals.

- Currently, Jordan ministry of health (MoH) has warned that the growing number of refugees is threatening to drop the Kingdom into a healthcare crisis, calling for JD250 million in emergency aid to continue providing medical services to the refugee community. The ministry has

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highlighted the growing pressure the refugees are placing on the healthcare sector, noting that it is devoting 25 per cent of its budget to extend basic public healthcare to Syrians within refugee camps and across the country. Should the government fail to receive urgent financial assistance, the ministry may be forced to cut basic health services for Syrians.

Meanwhile, 53 tuberculosis (TB) cases have been registered among Syrian refugees while seven were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, seven cases of skin infection and nine cases of measles were detected among refugees. Officials believe that hosting this number of refugees will cost Jordan over \$1 billion in 2013. Jordan hosts an estimated one-third of the total number of Syrian refugees in the region, totalling an approximate 6 per cent of the Kingdom's population, according to minister of health. As of March 2013, Jordan had received just over \$132 million out of \$495 million, which is 27 per cent, of the funding pledged by the UN Regional Response Plan.

- The Mafraq labour office has brought the number of Syrian illegal workers in the governorate to 4,700 labourers, working in agricultural, industrial, construction sectors as well as in other professions. Although the current labour law prohibits any foreign labourers to practise any work without having an official permission, Syrian refugees always break this law and are constantly caught and brought to security centres, where they are obliged to sign undertakes not to practise any illegal work, then they are caught again in different areas. However, they are not deported due to the bad security conditions that are prevailing in their home country. The labour office has issued many warning letters to a number of commercial shops that are hiring Syrian refugees, subject to temporary or permanent closure of their shops should the violations be repeated.

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2. Caritas Response:

- The following table shows the number of Syrian refugees registered in Caritas database, which reached **99,127** individuals, with a total of **18,738** families until March 31, 2013. These numbers of registered individuals represent 26% of a total of some 375,000 urban Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Centers	Mafraq	Zarqa	Irbid	Amman	Madaba	Total
Registered cases	6963	3035	5723	2383	634	18,738
Average per/day	30 cases	15 cases	30 cases	25 cases	5 cases	105 cases per/day
Families	6963	3035	5723	2383	634	18,738
Individuals	36284	15964	29931	13993	2955	99,127
Average Family size	5.21	5.26	5.23	5.87	4.66	5.246



Employees and volunteers receiving and registering syrian refugees
Caritas Center/ Mafraq. Photo by CJ



Caritas staff paying a field visit for a syrian refugee for needs assessment
at Huson area. Photo by CJ

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Caritas Jordan - Emergency Response Plan (ERP):

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 in addition to Madaba and **Karak offices**, which are intended to officially be opened very soon . Caritas has finished implementing some projects, is currently performing the other activities, whereas other projects are slated to emerge soon:

Winterization Campaign:

Caritas Jordan concluded the implementation of the winterization campaign and had succeeded in delivering the seasonal items to some 7,592 families. By the end of March, the target of Syrian individuals was 32,960. This figure reflects a unique capacity that has allowed Caritas to reach a considerable number 27% of the total families of Syrian refugees in the intervention areas, where 2507 vulnerable Jordanian families have advantage and benefited from the winterization 30% allocation.

Emergency Appeal (EA):

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. The project is scheduled to have a revision in May to determine the following procedures and activities that are to be implemented at a later stage, with hopes that more fundings will cover basic medical needs and complete the medical intervention and other Medical Humanitarian Assistance (MHA) in addition to counselling. The current allocated € 507,000 is dedicated to medical needs.

Material resources:

Following one year impementation of a successful project, this 1 year project has started in April 2013 and is scheduled to conclude in March 2014. The project will target underprivileged Jordanian and Syrian refugees in all areas of intervention and will be distributing school kits for needy students, hygiene kits, baby/Infant kits, relief kits, medical supplies, in adition to comforters, milk and diapers for families accompanied with infants less than one year and Peace Building intervention for Syrian and Jordanian communities.

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Education:

Caritas Jordan, in cooperation with CRS, Caritas Germany and Misereor, is implementing three educational projects, which mainstreams non-formal education, pre-school learning, informal education activities and life skills & vocational training, income- generating for families' livelihoods, as well as extra-curricular coping mechanism on trauma healing until the end of 2013. The plan is to employ 6 non-formal education schools in Caritas areas of intervention Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, Karak, Madaba and Zarqa, serving 800 students in remedial classes and 150 pre-schoolers and 255 vocational training, bearing in mind that these

target groups are subject to changes, according to project implementation.

Emergency- Humanitarian Assistance :

This project aims to secure 5120 Syrian refugees in Jordan with humanitarian assistance that includes food and non-food vouchers and bedding materials, offered to those who are living within host communities (outside refugee camps), Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa, Balqa, Madaba and Karak, and to support vulnerable underserved Jordanian families. The project started in February 2013 and is scheduled to complete its activities in July 2013.

Syrian children receiving school kits at Caritas Center/ Huson area... photo by CJ



Caritas staff & volunteers distributing H.A assistance at Caritas Center/ Huson area...Photo by CJ



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3. Additional Comments/ Remarks:

- ❖ Canada has pledged \$13 million in aid to help Jordan with the pressing humanitarian and security needs due to hosting thousands of Iraqi refugees.
- ❖ A Russian aircraft carrying aid supplies for Syrian refugees landed in Jordan. The aircraft was carrying 36 tonnes and other supplies in addition to an electric power generators. Another aircraft is expected to arrive soon carrying humanitarian assistance for the refugees.
- ❖ The Tunisian embassy in Amman, in cooperation with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) and the administration of the camp, distributed 500 family parcels to Syrian families in King Abdullah Garden and Cyber City.
- ❖ Japan has donated \$ 6 million in aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan. The donation will be utilized in supporting water and drainage system, hygienic kits, children protection in addition to health and nutrition activities.
- ❖ The US president has pledged an additional \$ 200 million assistance to support Jordan in hosting thousands of Syrian refugees. The US is considered the biggest donor for emergency assistance for those affected by the war. So far, the US has donated \$ 385 million in food, shelter, health care, psycho-social support in addition to other services provided for Syrians inside their country and in the neighbouring countries including Jordan.
- ❖ Qatari Red Crescent, in cooperation with Jordan Red Crescent, has inaugurated a new psycho-social support centre in the Zaatari Camp. The activities in the centre that has costed \$ 200,000 aim at providing psycho-social service to alleviate the Syrian refugees' families through offering children therapy games and work for women, in addition to sports activities for youth. Around 50 volunteers have been trained to provide this service in the Zaatari Camp.
- ❖ A number of 41 Saudi humanitarian aid convoys arrived to Jordan, laden with in-kind donations, food items and other shelter needs. This shipment is donated by the Saudi people to Syrian refugees in Jordan. It will be distributed inside and outside the camp in cooperation with JHCO. This campaign also covers Syrian refugees' needs in Turkey and Lebanon. The Saudi campaign has signed an agreement with one of the Jordanian industrial companies to manufacture 1000

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caravans and place them in the Saudi Quarter at Zaatari Camp, in addition to another 300 trailers that were delivered to Syrian refugees through UNHCR and the new camp administration.

4. Restored Hope

“I received... HOPE”

This is how Azad Al Bardan, a 42 – years old Syrian Refugee described the milk and diapers packaged that she received at Caritas Jordan Center/ Mafraq through MCC “Mennonite Central Committee”.

Azad and her husband, Karim Ahmad, escaped from Syrian because of the crisis, along with their four kids; Haneen, a 7- year old girl, Sara 3.5 years old and twin boys, Hussam and Sam 6 months.

“We stayed at a refugee camp when we first arrived to Jordan. We managed, thank God, to leave it soon... the situation there was so horrible and inappropriate all especially for the kids” explains Azad. She and her family reside now in a small rented house in Mafraq area. From neighbors, she heard about Caritas Jordan Center and went there to be registered and to ask for help in particular for her twins.



Azad with her 6 months son Hussam who is one of her twin boys waiting her turn at Caritas Center in Mafraq ar. Photo by CJ

“I received a package of milk and diapers... they were my hope here since I desperately needed them for my new born twins especially that I left with nothing all from the refugee camp... Thank for this assistance... thank you for the HOPE you gave me” concludes Azad.