Syria Crisis
Influx situation report
24 Sept 2014

Turkey

Highlights

- Since Friday 19th of September 2014, approximately 160,000 Syrian/Kurdish asylum seekers crossed into Turkey through 8 different crossings along the border near Mursitpinar (Turkey) and Ayn Al Arap (Kobani - Syria). Since the initial crossings on Friday, the official border crossings have been reduced to two (Yumartalik and Kestence) to ensure the controlled passage of people entering Turkey. The recorded numbers of those crossing since Friday has been:
  - Friday 19th September – 59,000
  - Saturday 20th September – 65,000
  - Sunday 21st of September – 28,000
  - Monday 22nd September – 6,000
  - Tuesday 23rd September – 2,000

- Current estimations indicate that approximately 60% of Syrians crossing into Turkey are children and 85% are women and children.

- Since the beginning of the influx, UNICEF, together with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) team on the ground, has distributed 2,064 High Energy Biscuits (HEB) (20 packets per box) and water for all recently arrived Syrian refugees.

- As of Sunday 21st September 2014, the General Directorate for Migration Management stated that they had registered approximately 5,000 Syrians.

- As of Wednesday 24th of September, all children crossing into Turkey are receiving polio and measles vaccinations (0-15 years) at the two official border crossing points and registration centres. The Ministry of Health has expanded vaccinations in Suruc and the surrounding villages and districts to ensure that all children that are already living in these areas are vaccinated. UNICEF has offered support to the Ministry of Health to assist in the provision of vaccines or communication materials as required, based on their requests.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- Within 2km from Yumartalik border crossing, transit camps have been established by AFAD to accommodate just over 6,000 people. Many of the arrivals are choosing not to go to shelters with the majority of refugees leaving to stay with relatives in other provinces and districts. There are reportedly some 300 minibuses transporting Syrians from the border into Turkey including the destinations of Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Nizip, Birecik, Diyarbakir and Mersin. The estimation of the sub-governor is that there are 50,000 Syrians currently living in Suruc.

- In addition to the transit camps, refugees are being accommodated in a District Boarding School compound with a capacity of up to 4,000 persons (school buildings and 34 collective accommodation tents). A local NGO (IHH) has established a mobile kitchen with a capacity of 10,000 people per meal alongside ongoing distribution of drinking water. AFAD has also set up a children's playground in the compound. Immediate needs include diapers (children and adults), milk and baby food, hygiene kits, sanitary kits and clothes.

- UNICEF is coordinating closely at the field, governorate and national levels with the Government of Turkey (AFAD) and responsible line Ministries to determine the needs and fill any identified gaps. UNICEF is also coordinating closely with the TRCS and UN agencies on the numbers of supply items to be procured and distribution channels.

- Three UN coordination meetings were held on the 22nd September 2014. Discussions focused on the situation and the capacity of UN agencies and NGOs to respond and the current level of supplies available to be deployed.

- A rapid needs assessment exercise was conducted by CARE Turkey over the weekend on the humanitarian impact of the Kobane displacement in southern Turkey. The preliminary results indicate that the most urgent needs include temporary shelter, food, bedding, cash, hygiene items, clothing, and cooking sets. Sanitation facilities are needed in collective centres and refugees reported not having received any health assistance.
Summary of Programme Response

- UNICEF has deployed a team to the field including the OIC UNICEF Turkey Country Office, Chief of Communications, the Emergency Communications Specialist, and the Child Protection Specialists to assess the situation together with the existing field team from Gaziantep. The Regional Immunization Specialist from CEE/CIS regional office will also join the team in the field along with the Immunization Specialist from TCO.

- UNICEF is providing High Energy Biscuits (HEB) which are being distributed to new arrivals at the border. Thirty-thousand boxes (20 packets per box) will be distributed based on the needs identified by AFAD and TRCS on the ground. Additional stocks are also being procured.

- UNICEF is procuring 90,000 packets of diapers through an already established Long Term Arrangement (LTA) in country with two trucks to be delivered to Suruc warehouse in the next couple of days. UNICEF is also procuring much needed clothing for children. Health communication materials will also be provided on hygiene, breastfeeding, immunization and HEB in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

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Funding Situation

UNICEF refugee response in Turkey is currently only 27% funded. UNICEF urgently needs $10m over the next month to respond to the health, nutrition and WASH needs of newly arrived refugees.