



Countries of origin of population registered with UNHCR (end of March 2013)

Country of origin	Refugees	Asylum-seekers & others	Total	% of total population
Iraq	61,301	966	62,267	88.7%
Somalia	2,197	79	2,276	3.2%
Afghanistan	1,720	204	1,924	2.7%
Sudan	612	700	1,312	1.9%
Others	534	1,861	2,395	3.5%
Total	66,364	3,810	70,174	100 %

Registration and file in-activations (end of March 2013)

Nationality	New Registrations (March)	New Registrations (Total 2013)	Re-activations (March)	Re-activations (Total 2013)	New registrations and reactivations (Total 2013)	In-activations and other closures (Total 2013)
Iraqis	57	158	77	340	498	964
Non-Iraqis	136	257	26	55	312	89
Total	193	415	103	395	810	1,053

The files of refugees who have had no contact with UNHCR for at least 6 months are inactivated. Following assessment of their situation, their files may be re-opened if they approach UNHCR again.

- An overwhelming majority of Iraqi refugees

88.7% of refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Syria are from Iraq. 62.2% come from the region of Baghdad alone and 69.2% sought refuge in Syria five or more years ago. 34.3% of the 20,874 Iraqi families registered are female-headed households.

- Several thousand non-Iraqi refugees

UNHCR provides protection and assistance to 7,977 non-Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers. Their situation remains precarious however as UNHCR documentation, which is frequently the only document they have, does not always suffice by itself to legitimate their presence in Syria.

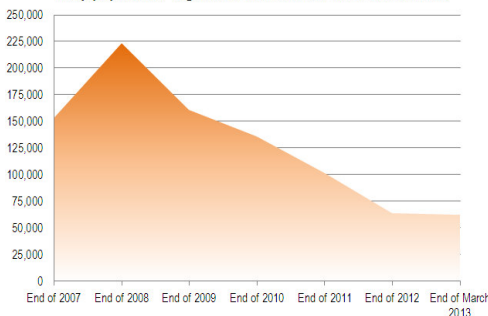
- An urban refugee operation

Apart from a few refugee families living in Al Hol camp in north-eastern Syria, all persons registered with UNHCR live in urban areas, mainly Damascus and its suburbs.

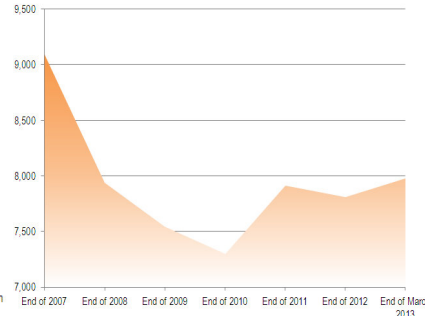
- A high proportion of refugees with special needs

30,289 individuals (or 43.1% of the overall refugee population) have special needs and require targeted support, including 27,243 Iraqis (43.7% of the Iraqi registered population) and 3,046 non-Iraqis (38.1% of the non-Iraqi registered population).

Iraqi population registered with UNHCR since end of 2007

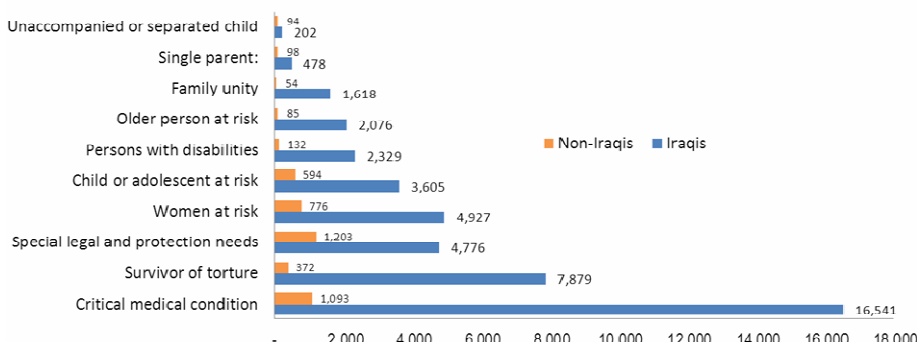


Non-Iraqi population registered with UNHCR since end of 2007



Demography percentage of registered population (End of March 2013)	Female	Male	<18
	50.4%	49.6%	37.4%

30,289 Individuals with special needs (As of end of March 2013)



Kindly note that one individual can have more than one special need.

Operational priorities

1. Maintain and consolidate a **favourable protection environment**, including through timely registration and documentation;
2. Address individual **protection needs**, notably victims of sexual and gender-based violence and children at risk;
3. Meet the **basic needs** (food, shelter, etc.) and ensure access of refugees to essential services, especially health and education, with particular consideration for the most vulnerable;
4. Find and implement **durable solutions**, mainly through **resettlement**, and foster refugees' empowerment.

UNHCR presence and staffing - March 2013

- 1 Country Office in **Damascus**
- 1 Field Office in **Aleppo**
- 1 Field presence in **Hassakeh**
- 1 Field presence in **Al-Nabek** (Rural Damascus)
- 1 Field presence in **Homs**

316 UNHCR staff: **20** international staff and additional workforce and **296** national staff and additional workforce.

Partnerships

Syrian counterparts:

The Syrian Government, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the Syrian Women's Union (SWU), the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch (GOPA), Al Nada, the Palestinian Red Crescent and The Syria Society for Social Development (SSSD). SARC is UNHCR's main implementing partner and a key operational counterpart.

Seven international NGOs registered with SARC, work in:

Education:

Première Urgence (PU), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Secours Islamique France, Help (Germany) and Action Against Hunger (Spain)

Vocational Training: L'Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD, France) and DRC

Health:

International Medical Corps (IMC)

Community Services:

DRC

6 UN and international organizations:

UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNRWA, WHO and IOM.

Latest Developments

•During the month of March, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported 926 refugee departures from Syria via Beirut international airport, including 906 of direct concern to UNHCR. A clear majority of these represent resettlement departures, but also include some sponsorship and family reunification cases of concern to UNHCR. In April, 785 refugees departed from Syria via Lebanon, mainly to Canada, Australia and the USA. This figure also includes all sponsorship and family reunification cases of concern to UNHCR.

•In the last week of April, UNHCR Syria completed the transfer of Cash for Food assistance to Iraqi refugees following a verification exercise that took place between 13 March and 16 April. The total number of beneficiaries from this 2nd distribution cycle for 2013 reached 8,937 Iraqi refugee families (or 27,031 individuals) in 12 Syrian cities. In April, UNHCR also distributed Financial Assistance for the months of March and April to a total of 4,441 Iraqi families (or 13,358 individuals).

•On 4 April, UNHCR delivered Streptomycin and Rifampicin valued \$198,260 to the Ministry of Health Central warehouse. The much-needed medicines will be used in the treatment of Brucellosis, one of the endemic diseases in Syria, and will benefit both Syrian and refugee populations. They were received in late March and are part of a first shipment of medicines purchased by UNHCR following an assessment of medical needs that was carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Health. The total value of the medicine shipments is \$3.5 m.

Durable solutions

Resettlement is the main durable solution pursued by UNHCR in Syria. Since 2007, 34,323 refugees, including 31,891 Iraqis, departed on resettlement to 16 countries, including two-thirds to the USA. Most resettlement programmes have experienced significant delays in view of the prevailing situation in the country. UNHCR does not promote voluntary repatriation to Iraq but assists refugees who make a free and informed decision to return, after individual counselling.

Resettlement in 2013				
Nationality	Submissions March 2013	Submissions Total 2013	Departures March 2013	Departures Total 2013
Iraqis	172	327	660	742
Non-Iraqis	8	8	35	35
Total	180	335	695	777

Voluntary repatriation in 2013				
Nationality	Assisted returns March 2013	Assisted returns Total 2013	Own returns March 2013	Own returns Total 2013
Iraqis	29	274	218	596
Non-Iraqis	3	5	35	82
Total	32	279	253	678

Resettlement of Iraqi refugees (cumulative from 2007 to end of March 2013)		
Country	Submissions	Departures
Australia	4,749	2,143
Belgium	39	29
Canada	6,968	4,981
Denmark	20	11
Finland	1,164	662
France	102	94
Germany	2,948	2,046
Ireland	24	14
Luxemburg	38	25
Netherlands	720	255
Norway	498	225
New Zealand	438	246
Portugal	39	22
Sweden	768	486
Switzerland	74	40
UK	508	188
USA	43,832	20,424
Total	62,929	31,891

2013 Budget of UNHCR Syria refugee operation

UNHCR Global Appeal budget for the 2013 refugee programme in Syria amounts to 85.7 million USD. Out of this budget, Services (including financial assistance) for persons with specific needs (28.3 million USD), Food security (19.3 million USD), Health (10 million USD) and Education (6.4 million USD) reflect the largest activities.

Governments & multilateral donors supporting the UNHCR operation in Syria in 2012 - 2013

