Syrian Crisis
Situation Report

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Handicap International & the Syrian Crisis

Syrians and Iraqis on the move

4.6 million
Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR (as of Dec. 2015 in all countries except Lebanon (Nov. 2015)

3.1 million
Displaced Iraqi people registered with UNHCR

7.6 million
Internally displaced people in Syria

Handicap International’s actions

Risk prevention on mines/explosive remnants of war
267,000 beneficiaries

Financial assistance
9,720 families

Psychosocial support
11,520 beneficiaries

Food/non-food item distribution
146,417 people benefitted

Prosthetic limbs & orthotic braces
5,912 people

Rehabilitation sessions
108,572 facilitated

Mobility aids
78,789 distributed

600,000
people and families have benefited from Handicap International’s actions
(as of Nov. 30, 2015)

370 staff
work in the areas affected by the Syrian crisis
**Introduction**

**Thousands of refugees and displaced persons require urgent assistance**

Handicap International’s emergency response mission in the Middle East is redoubling its efforts to bring help to thousands of people affected by the fighting in Syria and in Iraq.

In Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, Handicap International provides an emergency response in aid of vulnerable people, including people with disabilities or injuries, as well as older and isolated people. Our teams also help displaced people and refugees living in camps or host communities.

In Jordan and Lebanon, 21 mobile teams, including a physical therapist and a social worker, assist people who cannot travel to health care centers in communities or camps.
Our activities

Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq
Case-managing the injured

Handicap International provides support to hospitals, clinics, and specialist care centers that help to keep track of, and support the injured.

Handicap International teams also provide post-operative physical and functional rehabilitation to patients in rehabilitation centers, fitting orthopedic braces (prostheses and orthoses) and distributing mobility aids (wheelchairs, walking frames, etc.) and special equipment (toilet chairs, anti-sore mattresses, etc.).

These services are essential for:

- patients who have lost all or some of their mobility and who need to perform exercises to avoid developing permanent disabilities;
- patients who have permanently lost some of their mobility and who need rehabilitation care to avoid medical complications, enhance their comfort and, in many cases, move around autonomously again.

Handicap International also teaches basic rehabilitation techniques to staff that are case-managing injured and disabled people.
Helping people rebuild their lives
As well as rehabilitation, Handicap International has stepped up its psychosocial support for refugees. The organization runs one-to-one and group discussions to help people communicate and renew their ties with the outside world. When appropriate, social workers also help patients access specialist facilities.

Inclusion and accessibility capacity-building
Handicap International works closely with local and international aid organizations to ensure that services provided to refugees living in camps and communities are made accessible to people with disabilities, particularly those with reduced mobility. The organization raises the awareness and builds the capacities of other humanitarian operators about disability, inclusion, and vulnerability issues.

The organization regularly assesses facilities and equipment, such as water points, sanitary facilities, registration areas, and schools. Handicap International then makes technical recommendations, donates equipment (ramps, steps, etc.) and provides appropriate staff training, or directly equips facilities (by adapting toilets, etc.).

Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq
Disability and vulnerability focal points
The organization has set up “disability and vulnerability focal points” (static and mobile) to supply aid to the victims of the Syrian crisis.

Handicap International's teams visit camps, makeshift encampments, and communities to identify the most vulnerable people, particularly people with disabilities, to determine their needs (accommodation, health, food, etc.) and to promote their access to basic services and infrastructures. If Handicap International is unable to meet any specific needs, Handicap International teams refer the beneficiaries to other aid organizations, and follow-up to ensure their needs are met. Assistance provided to the most vulnerable includes physical and functional rehabilitation sessions, the supply of orthopedic devices (prosthetic limbs and orthotic braces) and the donation of mobility aids and specific equipment, such as wheelchairs, crutches, anti-sore mattresses, and psychosocial support sessions.

Jordan, Lebanon
Helping the most vulnerable regain financial autonomy
Since the beginning of winter 2013, Handicap International has increased its aid to refugees by providing them with financial assistance (monthly money transfers) to enable
families to meet their daily needs such as buying food, clothing, medication, and paying the rent. This aid is for extremely vulnerable families. Until November 2014, Handicap International provided Syrian families who had recently taken refuge in Lebanon with financial aid to protect them from the cold and provided them with essential household items, such as soap, mattresses, and kitchen utensils.

In Lebanon, between November 2013 and November 2015, more than 35,000 people (6,895 families) received financial assistance to cope with their precarious living conditions and their specific needs through the winter. This aid helped them cover the cost of their rent, water, and basic equipment for their homes, as well as costs relating to hygiene and the purchase of a stove and fuel. In Jordan, between December 2013 and March 2015, 14,125 people (2,825 families) also received financial assistance to cope with their precarious living conditions and their specific needs through the winter.

**Syria, Iraq**

**Weapons clearance and risk education**

Every day, our teams care for people with recent injuries caused by firearms or explosions. The number of weapons or explosive ordnance increases every day in Syria and Iraq. Explosive remnants of war will remain present and dangerous long after the conflict has ended. Handicap International has conducted prevention activities in Syria since October 2013, and in Iraq since December 2014, building on its extensive experience neutralizing mines and explosive remnants of war, and providing victim assistance.
The organization also launched prevention and weapons clearance activities in Kobanî (northern Syria) in May 2015. By the summer of 2015, our field teams had removed and destroyed a ton of unexploded devices from the rubble. Since August 2015, awareness-raising on the risks of conventional weapons and improvised explosive devices has been delivered to 9,000 people in the city and surrounding areas.

Risk education teams meet with refugees and displaced people in camps and urban areas to inform them of the dangers that explosive devices pose. These activities help families, and particularly children, identify dangerous devices on roads, in homes, and elsewhere, and keep clear of them. In Syria, nearly 150,000 people have already benefited from these awareness-raising actions.

**Syria**

**Assisting families in highly exposed areas of Syria**

In Syria, Handicap International makes emergency distributions to families in areas under siege or which are difficult to access (distribution of food baskets and kits of essential household items). More than 89,000 people have already benefited from this aid since the start of our operations in Syria.
Financial support

This work is possible thanks to the generous support of the following donors
(Donors to the humanitarian response to the Syrian Crisis, 2015-16)

★ EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)
★ UK Aid - Department for International Development (DFID)
★ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development - Crisis and Support Center (CDCS - France)
★ OCHA – Emergency Response Fund (ERF)
★ Chaîne du Bonheur/Swiss Solidarity (CdB)
★ The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
★ Department of Global Affairs (Canada)
★ Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
★ Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs
★ Directorate-general Development Cooperation (DGD - Belgium)
★ Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (SDC)
★ Light for the World
★ Government of Quebec
★ The Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation
★ Private donors

Field insight

“If I had to sum up our field work in one word, I’d say dignity.”
Brett Favis, Head of Mission, Jordan

“When we started physical therapy sessions with Mohammed, he was totally dependent on his brother and incapable of doing simple everyday things, like dressing or washing himself. Now, he can do these things by himself. He can also move around in his wheelchair. I share his joy and, as a physical therapist, I am proud of the work we have done together.”
Youseef Saleh, physical therapist for the Jordan mission (Amman)

“What motivates me every day, is finding solutions with my colleagues who work in the field, so that beneficiaries receive the assistance they need. Logistics is, above all, about team work and complementarity.”
Jessica Bazin, Logistics Coordinator for the Iraq Mission
Latest reports

Excessive weapons contamination in Syria is putting the lives of 5.1 million Syrians—including 2 million children—at high risk. Between December 2012 and March 2015, Handicap International analyzed 77,645 incidents—occurrences such as fighting and bombardments—and found that explosive weapons are the most commonly used weapons in the Syria conflict. In fact, more than four out of five reported incidents involved explosive weapons. View the report [here](#).

Hidden victims of the Syrian crisis: disabled, injured and older refugees (2014)
Older, disabled, and injured Syrian refugees are being doubly victimized as a result of the Syria conflict, according to a new report by Handicap International and HelpAge International. The new data show that these vulnerable individuals, as well as those suffering from chronic diseases, are being left in the shadows of the humanitarian responses. View report [here](#).

Syria: Causes and types of injuries (2014)
Causes and types of injuries encountered by Handicap International while working with Internally Displaced Persons in Syria: a focus on the impact of explosive weapons. View report [here](#).

Please contact the office if you’d like to request hard copies of any of these reports.

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