

CONTINUING TO SUPPORT SYRIAN REFUGEES

Categories: Community Building/Emergency Assistance /Hygiene Assistance/ WASH

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Emergency Assistance

Preparing for the Harsh Winter: A Clothing Distribution



Above: A man smiles with his new clothes donated by UNIQLO.

Located in the middle of a desert, Za'atari camp faces extreme seasons that range from 40 degrees Celsius summers to endless rain during the winters. Similar to JEN's massive clothing distribution to more than 7,500 families in the winter of 2012, we will hold another one for this winter season in partnership with UNHCR and using clothing donated by UNIQLO. Seven containers with clothes were shipped from Japan to Aqaba port for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

JEN organized the logistics of this operation and also rented an 800 square meter warehouse in the suburbs of Amman to use for sorting and bagging the clothing for each family. UNHCR provided 9,000 bags, and there are two guards in front of the warehouse for security purposes. The first two containers arrived at the JEN warehouse on August 20th, 2013. For the next couple months, JEN staff will sort out an estimated 550,000 pieces of clothing based on age and gender. There will be both day and night shifts to complete this before the distribution begins in October 2013. Each package will be customized to suit each family.

Community Building

A Rise in the Cost of Living as a Result of the Syrian Crisis

How has the Syrian crisis, which broke out in 2011, affected the Jordanian people? The prices of daily necessities, such as foods and the cost of having cellphones, have slowly been going up. Although some Syrian refugees choose to live with their relatives who already live in Jordan, many still choose to rent their own homes. As a result rent fee has also risen 20 percent compared to 2 years ago because there is a higher demand for shelter.

In addition, there has been an increase in the price for gas and petroleum. Because gas stoves and central heating that use oil for energy are commonly used in Jordan, the increase in gas prices will surely impact the lives of Jordanians and Syrians. Nowadays, even we foreigners have begun to notice the increase in the cost of living in Jordan, so the Jordanians must feel a greater impact. JEN will continue to work to ensure safe and comfortable lives in Jordan for both the Syrian refugees and Jordanian hosts.



Left: There has been an increase in the number of Syrian license plates in Jordan since the start of the Syrian crisis.

COUNTRY: Amman, JORDAN

Hygiene Assistance

Hygiene and Health Campaign

A multi-sector camp-wide campaign sponsored by UNICEF and UNHCR took place in Za'atari Camp the first week the June. The objective of the campaign was to increase the public's awareness on diarrhea due to the increasing number of diarrhea cases, which often become worse in the summer. For the campaign, JEN's WASH committees worked with hygiene promotion teams from other agencies and community nurses from the Syrian population. Together, they visited each tent or caravan to prevent, detect, and treat diarrhea cases in the camp. While severe cases were reported to the camp hospitals, mild cases were treated on the spot with Oral Rehydration Solution.

The team continued to visit each tent despite the dusty, hot summer weather. A street leader who is also a JEN WASH committee member explained that he was motivated to participate in the campaign because his 5 year old son used to suffer from diarrhea. He said, "My son was hospitalized for a few days until he recovered. I just found out that diarrhea can be deadly so I hope this campaign will make other parents aware of the effects."

UNHCR mentioned that during the one week campaign, over 4,000 cases of diarrhea were found in children between zero and five years old. We hope that this campaign will show positive results across the camp.



Above: The team during one of their trips to visit the tents and caravans in Za'atari Camp during the campaign.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Enhancing the Capacity of WASH Committees



Above: A member of the WASH committee manages a well in Za'atari Camp.

During the summer the temperature in Jordan can go over 35 degrees Celsius, which means that the risk of spreading water-borne illnesses also increases. As a continuation of the camp-wide hygiene promotion campaign led by UNHCR and UNICEF earlier in June, JEN organized a hygiene awareness campaign to enhance the capacity of the WASH committees in the camp starting June 26th.

This campaign is unique in that the WASH committee members will learn through our hygiene trainings, and they will be the ones to spread the message to the camp. So far many members from the committees have been attending the trainings. Also, our field team visits all WASH facilities, which adds up to around 500, in the camp on a daily basis to monitor their conditions.

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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