

CIDS PROGRESS REPORT

June, 2012
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Who are CIDS?

Concerned Individuals for Displaced Syrians (CIDS) is a non-political and informal group of individuals who are committing some of their time, energy, and private and professional networks to mobilize humanitarian support for displaced Syrians in Jordan. Since March, CIDS has collected financial and in-kind donations. The money raised has been used to meet the urgent needs of displaced Syrians. CIDS has worked mainly in two ways: firstly, through direct assistance to displaced Syrians, and secondly, through supporting an Irbid-based NGO, Sanabel, and their targeted families. CIDS chose to work with Sanabel because they have no political or religious affiliations, and they work on the basis of humanitarian need alone.

Sanabel mainly works with disabled children and orphans. In late 2011, due to the current displacement crisis, they began assisting Syrian families seeking solutions to their immediate needs. Presently, they are working on a supply driven basis, whereby the organization assists in securing shelter, food, non-food items, and medical referrals. Sanabel has extensive community support and outreach. It relies largely on private donations and the good-will of the community to match the needs of Syrian families with available local resources.

Context

According to the Government of Jordan, about 110,000 Syrians crossed into Jordan since the unrest began in March last year. Between 40-100 people entered illegally per day, during the month of April. However, since mid-May this pattern changed with over 300 arrivals in one day at some points. The number of arrivals fluctuates greatly, and is dependent upon military operations on the Syrian side of the border with Jordan. Given the fragile situation in Syria, there is a risk that an increasing number of Syrians will continue to flee to Jordan. UNHCR figures indicate that 52% of Syrians registered with UNHCR are from Homs, with 26% arriving from Dara'a, and 7% arriving from Hama and Damascus respectively. The majority of Syrians are concentrated in the Northern Governorates and Amman.

There are currently three transit sites operated by the Government of Jordan in North: Bashabshe, Cyber City and the King Hussein Stadium. A fourth site, King Abdullah Park in Ramtha, is close to completion. The transit sites are for those who have crossed the border illegally (by virtue of their illegal exit from Syria). There is a bailing system in place, which allows Syrians to leave the transit sites, which repeatedly reach their capacity.

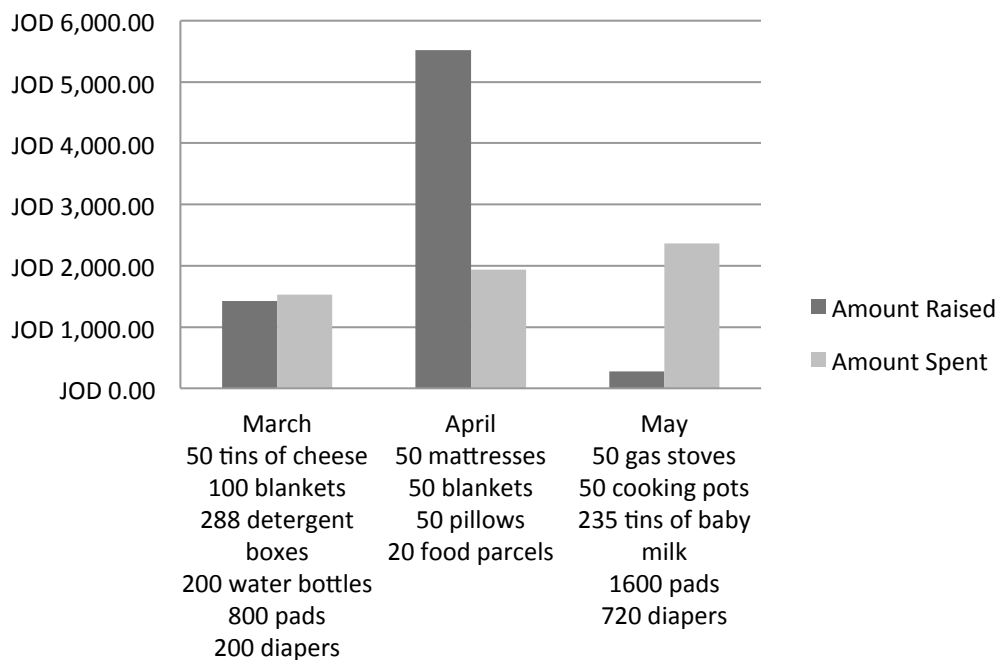
Estimations from the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization suggest that up to 50,000 Syrians are vulnerable and in need of assistance. CIDS has undertaken three needs assessments in and around Amman. Difficulties mentioned included high rents for apartments, lack of employment opportunities for men and women, and limitations on children sitting end of year exams and school matriculation. Other protection concerns include early marriage for young girls. Additional basic needs include food and non-food items (gas cookers, mattresses, blankets, kitchen utensils, sanitary items, diapers, baby milk, basic medicines and mosquito repellants).

What we have achieved so far

In March, CIDS visited multiple NGOs working in the North to assess local actors and pressing needs of displaced Syrians. After an initial distribution and 3 fact-finding visits, CIDS decided to launch its 'Help Now' campaign. The campaign included fund raising through e-mail, the development of a Facebook page, collection days in collaboration with local businesses and a warehouse, and the distribution of fundraising kits. Over 40 fundraising kits were distributed to friends, colleagues and networks, and progressively collected over the following weeks.

Thanks to the generous contribution of our supporters, CIDS has collected 7,222 JOD (\$10,193 USD), of which 5,832 JOD (\$8,231 USD) have already been spent to meet the basic needs of displaced Syrian families in Jordan. The bulk of the funds raised have been allocated to purchase basic items deemed as essential by beneficiaries. CIDS also received a number of in-kind donations, discounts from wholesalers, and in-kind support. The table below illustrates the goods purchased, collected and distributed since March 2012.

Purchases, Collections and Distributions



CIDS estimates that the group has supported over 300 families since its establishment, with seven distributions through Sanabel, two donations to Babshabshe transit center, and two direct distributions targeting 30 families in and around Amman.

What we are working on now

In the near future CIDS will continue to expand its activities. Increasing efforts will be placed on networking and coordination with other humanitarian actors working with displaced Syrians. Moreover, as an extension of previous activities CIDS is currently preparing for three events.

Concert- On June 30th CIDS and Al-Balad theatre are hosting a benefit concert -Beats for Syria- featuring two well-known Jordanian rock-bands: Autostrad and Aker Zafeer. The concert starts at 7:30pm at Al-Balad theatre with tickets costing 10 JOD. Tickets will be available in advance from Turtle Green (1st circle, Rainbow Street) and Al-Balad theatre or at the door. This concert is made possible with the kind support of Al-Balad theatre, the bands and our media sponsors.

Bazaar- CIDS is currently preparing to host a Syrian-themed bazaar. The Bazaar will be an occasion to fundraise, but it also provides an opportunity for the Syrian community to share its cuisine, art, and music.

Training- CIDS is planning two different trainings with Sanabel on conducting participatory needs assessments and providing psychosocial support to displaced Syrians. The trainings will be carried out by two expert volunteers between 16 June and the end of July.

How to help

You can help by donating:

- **Cash** that will go towards meeting the basic needs of displaced families
- **Basic items** like mattresses, blankets, gas cookers and food

For more information on time and dates of collection points visit the campaign's constantly-updated page on Facebook. CIDS is happy to collect donations from homes or offices. Contact CIDS for more information:

- **Telephone:** 079 941 4391
- **E-mail:** cids.jordan@gmail.com
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/CIDS.JO

Thank You for taking the initiative to support our efforts to assist Syrian refugees - Thank You for being a Concerned Individual for Displaced Syrians.