

REGIONAL WINTER ASSISTANCE 2016-2017

PROGRESS REPORT - Syria and Iraq situations

As of 9 November 2016



(Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt)

UNHCR's regional winter assistance plan for 2016-2017 will address the winter needs of **4.51 million** vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt with an overall budget of **USD 334 million**.

Planning for the winter programme began during the summer months including procurement of critical items to respond to the winter needs in a timely manner. Distribution of winter assistance to beneficiaries has started in most of the countries. Assistance includes seasonal cash assistance to meet the winter needs of the vulnerable refugees, core relief items specific to winter, and shelter insulation support which will be provided in coordination with partners and Clusters/Sectors. Winterization also includes engineering work for camps and settlements, and improvement of drainage systems.

Regionally for both Syria and Iraq situations, **33 per cent** of the winter core relief items (CRIs) has been distributed, **27 per cent** are in stock, and **15 per cent** are currently in the pipeline. **25 per cent** of all winter CRIs remain to be procured.



Total beneficiaries

4.51 million

Syrian and Iraqi IDPs
and refugees



Total budget

USD 334 million

Current funding shortfall

USD 80.4 million



Two volunteer workers offload UNHCR thermal blankets in a warehouse in the besieged town of East Harasta, in the eastern countryside of Damascus, Syria, on 29 October. UNHCR supplies contained crucial items in preparation for winter such as plastic sheets, winter clothing kits, thermal blankets, kitchen sets, and elderly diapers. © UNHCR/Bassam Diab

SYRIA

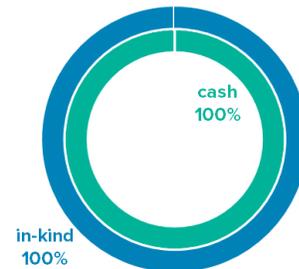
Targeted Beneficiaries vs. Current Populations



Funding



Type of Assistance



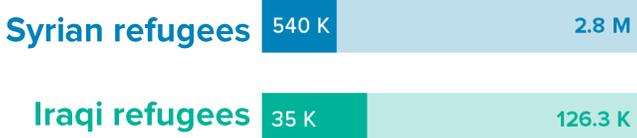
As part of its Whole of Syria winter plan, UNHCR plans to assist over 1.2 million IDPs and has so far provided assistance to 633,129 individuals in several governorates with high thermal blankets, plastic tarpaulins and winter clothing kits. The winterization programme in Syria began in September and priority has been given to newly displaced vulnerable families (including those who have been displaced multiple times) and those living in hard-to-reach areas in sub-standard shelters. For cross-border interventions from Amman and Gaziantep hubs, UNHCR has already prepositioned winter items including high thermal blankets and plastic tarpaulins, and deliveries will begin in November, together with the regular cross-border deliveries. An estimated 91,500 vulnerable IDPs, within the overall planned beneficiaries, will be supported from Amman and 120,000 IDPs will be reached by Gaziantep. UNHCR will also provide winter support to 23,800 Iraqi refugees in Syria through a one-time cash assistance of USD 65 per person.



70-year old Aisha was displaced five years ago along with her two daughters and three grandchildren from the besieged town of Beit Sawa in the eastern Ghouta district of Rural Damascus in Syria. Since then, they have lived in an unfinished building in the hard-to-reach town of Qudsaya in Rural Damascus. On 31 October, UNHCR delivered 6,000 winter clothing kits - enough for 30,000 people living in Qudsaya. UNHCR's winter assistance is crucial for Aisha and residents there, where temperatures often fall as low as minus 2 centigrade.

TURKEY

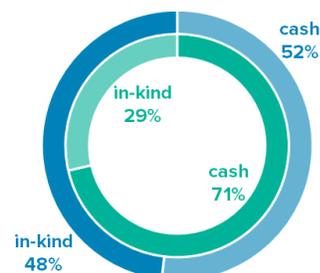
Targeted Beneficiaries vs. Current Populations



Funding

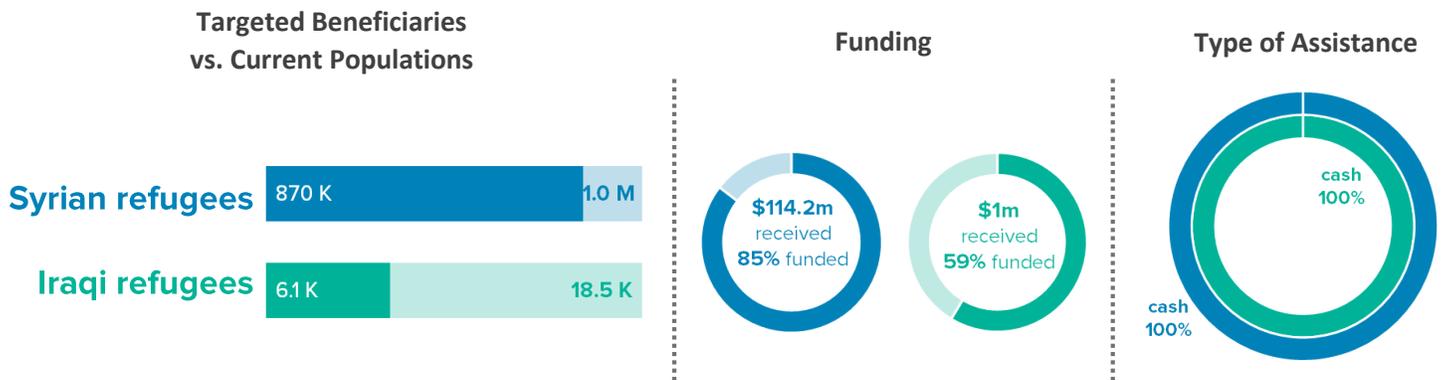


Type of Assistance



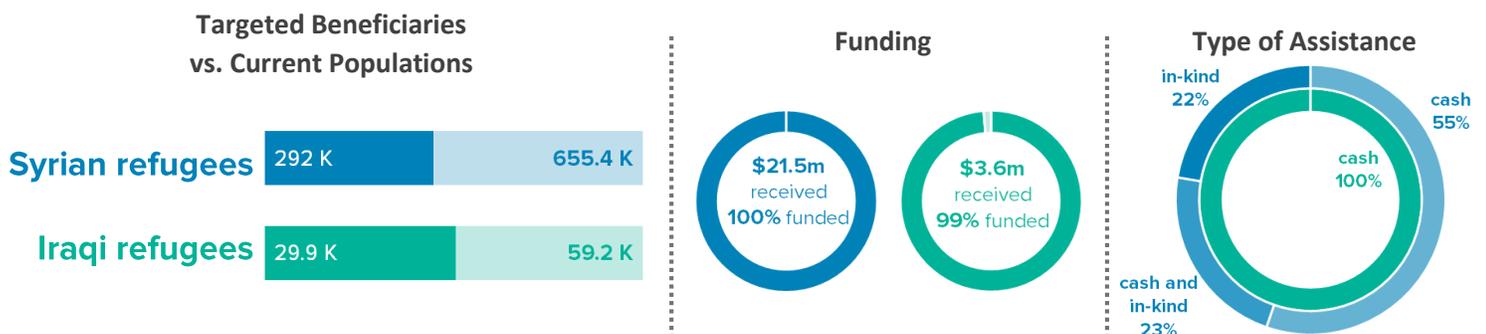
UNHCR plans to provide targeted winter assistance to 540,000 vulnerable Syrian and 35,000 Iraqi refugees in Turkey. For those living in camps, procurement of winter clothing for 270,000 refugees is currently in the pipeline due to be delivered by end November. For refugees in urban areas, assistance will be provided through a one-off cash payment of USD200-USD 300 per family (depending on the family size) via debit cards issued by PTT (Posta ve Telgraf Teşkilatı - the national post and telegraph directorate of Turkey). The PPT card replaces the voucher cards used in previous years and will enable recipients to purchase a wide variety of winter goods in thousands of shops across the country. The distribution of the cards is planned to begin in November targeting 96,000 Syrian and 11,600 non-Syrian households in 50 provinces out of the 81 provinces hosting large numbers of refugees and with cold and snowy winters.

LEBANON



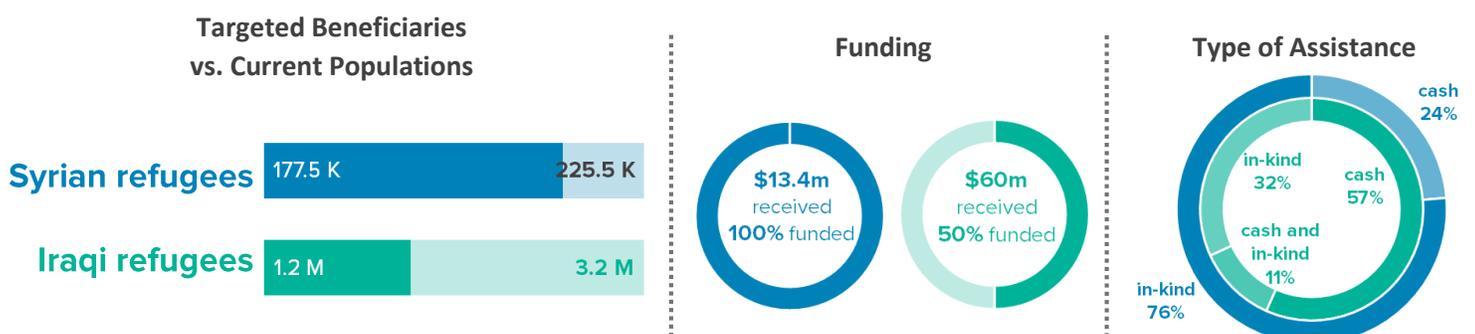
UNHCR aims to provide winter support to a total of 870,337 Syrian refugees and 6,110 Iraqi refugees. By mid-November, UNHCR will transfer approximately USD 22 million to more than 178,000 Syrian refugee households and 2,400 Iraqi refugee households for the first instalment of winter cash assistance. Seasonal cash assistance of USD 150 will be provided to vulnerable households and for those already receiving monthly multipurpose cash assistance, UNHCR will provide an additional USD 78 per month to help families meet the extra expenses for a period of five months. The distribution of high thermal blankets and diesel stoves to selected vulnerable families has already started, with the first distribution reaching 3,126 families in the Bekaa region. The pre-positioning of high thermal blankets in municipalities expected to face extreme weather is underway.

JORDAN



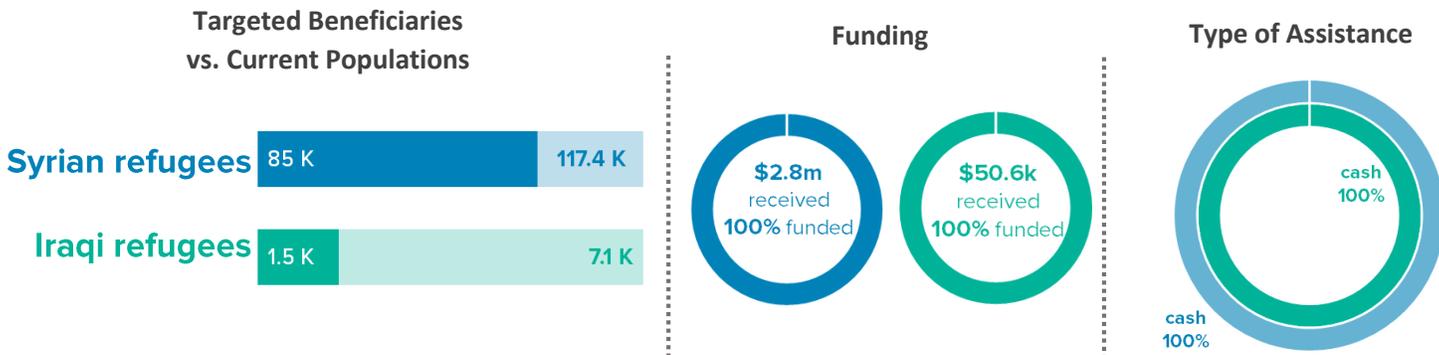
UNHCR will provide winter assistance to over 292,000 vulnerable Syrians and nearly 30,000 Iraqis and other nationalities. All Syrian refugees in camps will be provided with cash for winter to address shelter maintenance or non-food item needs, and cash for gas for covering the cost of refills during the four winter months starting from November. For Syrian and Iraqi refugees in urban areas, a one-time cash assistance will be provided as a 'full' or 'half' package through the Common Cash Facility system. UNHCR has already released 95 per cent of the total requirements for high thermal blankets to its partners for distribution to refugees in camps and in urban areas through community centres.

IRAQ



UNHCR has begun distributing essential winter items to 1.2 million IDPs, including families newly displaced due to the current Mosul offensive and to communities across Iraq that are hosting them. Nearly 178,000 Syrian refugees will also benefit from the winter programme. Distributions of winter items are underway in camps and host communities and will continue until February 2017. UNHCR is providing winter kits comprising blankets, heating stove, plastic tarpaulin, jerry cans for kerosene and water and tent insulation kits. Cash assistance and kerosene are also being provided.

EGYPT



A total of 96,500 refugees (85,000 Syrians and 1,500 Iraqis) in Egypt will be supported with winter assistance with cash assistance the main means of support. A one-time cash payment of USD 38 per person will be distributed in third week of November through the Post Offices for Syrian refugees in cold areas in Egypt, while for Iraqi refugees and other nationalities, cash assistance will be provided through ATM cards.



Distribution of winter items such as heaters and kerosene jerry cans to the newly displaced people from Mosul and surrounding areas in UNHCR Hasansham camp, Ninewa Governorate, Iraq, 8 November 2016.
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