



More than 563,000 people were assisted in January with seasonal relief items to help them through the winter

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

Assisting refugees and other affected people through the **winter** with additional basic household needs such as heaters, fuel, extra blankets, tarpaulins, and warm clothes was a focus during January. These items reached almost 50,000 people in Iraq and some 43,000 people in Jordan during the month. In Lebanon, monthly winterization assistance provided through both the provision of household items and cash to purchase items reached some 422,000 people, while around 20,000 people in Egypt benefited from monetized winterization assistance.

More broadly, the humanitarian community is developing strategies to move toward a greater use of **cash-based programming** instead of or to complement the distribution of goods and food and the provision of services. These strategies are designed to give refugee families more choice and dignity and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programme delivery. Across the region, it is estimated that at least USD 39 million was provided through cash-based interventions during January, benefiting not only the recipients but also the local economies in which that money is spent.

Notwithstanding, the provision of **basic household items** remains vital, particularly for newly arrived refugees and those living in camp settings. Basic kits were provided to some 63,000 people in Lebanon, 21,000 people in Jordan, 17,000 people in Turkey, and 6,500 people in Iraq during January.



REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE REGION:

2,441,507

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Expected Refugee Population by end-2014

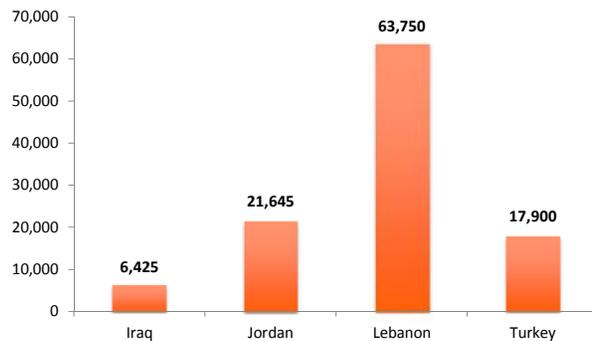
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Refugees often arrive in neighbouring countries with little else than their family members, some clothes and limited personal belongings. The distribution of basic household items such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and cooking stoves to refugees is therefore essential. Refugees in the region also struggle to meet their basic needs and gain access to essential services including for health and education. As the situation is prolonged, it is estimated that 780,000 households will need additional support to cover basic needs.

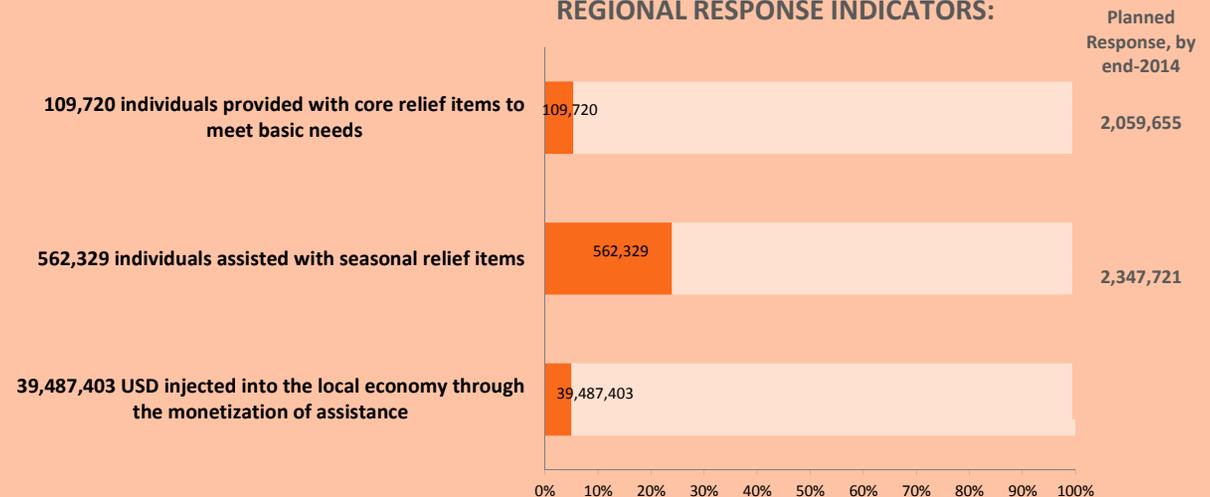
Recent assessments of refugees living in host communities have found that the income versus expenditure gap caused by limited livelihood opportunities, rising rent and service prices induces increased use of negative coping strategies as the crisis continues. These negative coping strategies, particularly eating less diverse quality foods, taking on debt and sending adolescent boys to work, are becoming more and more prevalent as households spend their savings and sell their remaining assets.

Winter in many parts of the region is harsh, and refugee response partners coordinate the implementation of far-reaching winterization programmes to address the needs of the most vulnerable amongst those who have fled their homes due to the continuing conflict in Syria. Priority is given to those living in sub-standard shelters and in areas with severe climatic conditions, as well as the most vulnerable who may have the most difficulties to cover their accommodation, utility and heating or fuel costs.

Individuals provided with core relief items in January



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. There are currently 2.4 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 12% funded.