



242 Community Support Projects, benefiting 525 communities, have now been completed in Lebanon alone during 2014.

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS:

In Lebanon, armed clashes in Arsal in early August have had an important impact on social cohesion, particularly in the Bekaa. The armed incidents and heightened security situation have further raised tensions and defiance between communities. In addition to a rise in evictions, incidents and restrictive measures imposed on refugees, local NGOs and partners are reporting increasing defiance from local institutions and communities against the international response and assistance.

Five new Community Support Projects (CSPs) were completed in Lebanon, including two CSPs se-elected by participants to Search for Common Ground local conflict mitigation mechanisms in Sour and Miye was Miye. The rehabilitation of a water well in Itanieh and the installation of a sewage network in Upper Qasmieh, were also completed in two Palestinian gatherings in the South. Thirty-five change agents were trained to mitigate tensions and address misperception in August, including 21 local leaders, civil society representatives and civil servants through local conflict mitigation mechanism in Hazmieh.

In Lebanon during August, 720 individuals benefitted from livelihoods activities, including 417 beneficiaries vocational trainings and 303 beneficiaries of income-generating activities (a large increase as against 45 in July). In Egypt, 114 people gained employment in August through the self-reliance programme, while 454 people participated in vocational training or skills development programmes. In Iraq, 51 people participated in employment generating activities and 135 in vocational training and skills development programmes. Jobs were found for 82 Syrian refugees through the job-placement programme in Erbil. Also in Iraq, the Needs Assessment conducted for refugees in camps in April found that 47 per cent of the respondents have no source of cash/income for their families.



Community support project in Lebanon which includes the provision of mechanical trucks to municipalities hosting large numbers of refugees. These trucks are used to improve the situation of neighbourhoods, benefitting both refugees and hosting communities.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

2,986,008

Refugee Population, end-August 2014

3,590,000

Refugee Population Planning figure, end-2014

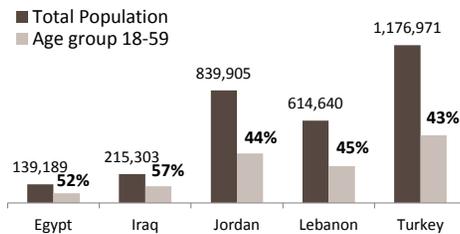
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The current legislative and policy frameworks in the region provide limited employment opportunities for Syrian refugees. Relatively high unemployment among nationals pre-dates, and is exacerbated by, the economic impact of the crisis. The International Labour Organization cites a Middle East unemployment rate of 10 per cent in 2013, with a young adult unemployment rate of 26 per cent. Economies in the region are suffering from the trade losses and reduced household market participation for locally produced or traded goods. Many countries continue to bear scars from the global economic crisis and related access to capital, foreign investment and reduced domestic growth.

Refugees seek work in informal sectors which require manual, unskilled short term labour with sub-standard working conditions and reduced salaries, often accompanied by exploitation risks. The engagement of refugees in informal labour practices has created a perception among host communities that refugees are depriving nationals of work opportunities and depressing wages. Although this is not necessarily evidenced by employment statistics, the perception may drive poor community relations, distrust and disruption of social cohesion. Many refugees originate from rural areas of Syria and lack necessary skills for work in urban settings.

An analysis of livelihood is needed to more thoroughly examine factors beyond legal barriers, including the remoteness of locations where refugees reside, language skills, tools, capita and increasing intolerance towards Syrian refugees. Longer-term strategies necessitate a mixture of legal considerations to provide avenues to allow Syrians to work balanced with the employment of national cohorts. Such strategies may offer short and longer-term cash-for-work and large public works projects for poor nationals and poor Syrians.

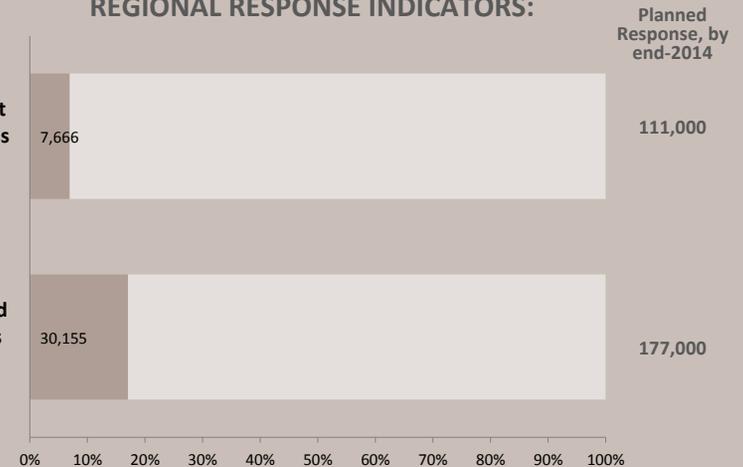
1,345,000 registered refugees are aged 18-59



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

7,666 individuals have participated in employment assistance, income generation activities or business development projects

30,155 individuals have participated in technical and vocational training, literacy initiatives and life-skills training



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 3.59 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. As at end-August 2014, there were 2.98 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal was 44% funded.