



Almost 45,000 people have now participated in employment assistance or vocational training during 2014

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Projects to enhance social cohesion take on a wide variety of forms across the region. In Egypt, the Outa Hamra (Red Tomatoes) Troupe, composed of Egyptian, Syrian, and European artists, gave a performance during October on personal stories and songs from different cultures to a large audience from the Syrian and Egyptian communities. The troupe's performances are part of a Community Support Project (CSP) which aims to engage impacted Egyptian communities and refugees from different countries through theatre and other artistic events.

In Lebanon, 14 new community participatory mechanisms were established, involving 222 new change agents, mostly youth (74) and Lebanese community leaders (77) who are now engaged to play a positive role and mitigate tensions and misperception at the community level. Local groups have been trained them on conflict analysis and resolution in Halba, Akroum, Zahle, Zgharta, and Hermel. Nine additional participatory mechanisms were established through activities in Social Development Centres, resulting in the implementation of nine quick impact projects by active youth. 79 of the most vulnerable communities now benefit from a participatory or conflict mitigation mechanism to facilitate dialogue and mitigate tensions.

In Lebanon, over 1,000 new individuals benefited from livelihoods activities in the month of September. This includes 341 beneficiaries of income-generating initiatives and 685 new participants in vocational training initiatives.

In Iraq, more than 1,000 people participated in employment assistance, income generation activities or business development projects during the month, while almost 1,000 participated in vocational training or skills development programmes.



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SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

3,181,848

Refugee Population, end-October 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.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2014

9,024 individuals have participated in employment assistance, income generation activities or business development projects

35,538 individuals have participated in technical and vocational training, literacy initiatives and life-skills training

Planned Response, by end-2014

111,000

177,000

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

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-October 2014, there were 3.18 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal was 51% funded.

1,411,000 registered refugees are aged 18-59

