



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

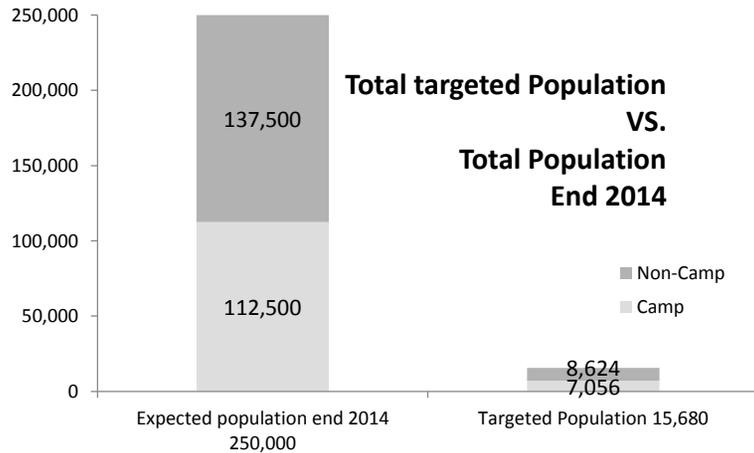
DRC has been conducting livelihoods activities in both Erbil and Duhok Governorates of KRI over the past year, with activities focusing on small business development and vocational training for refugees. In December, 202 Syrian refugees who completed small business trainings in November received grants and established businesses in Erbil and an additional 109 refugees received similar training in Duhok. Including 94 small business grants to beneficiaries who received training in November, a total of 405 Syrian refugees received small business grants in the month of December. Locations included Basirma, Kawergosk, Darashakran and Qushtapa camps in Erbil Governorate, and Domiz, Akre, and Gawilan camps in Duhok Governorate, as well as urban areas within the city of Duhok.

In Duhok, 40 businesses previously established through similar trainings and grants were identified as capable of scaling up activities, and the owners were provided with an additional day of business training and provided with a small grant to support improvements in their businesses.

Regarding vocational trainings, DRC identified and registered 100 beneficiaries in Erbil Governorate and 59 in Duhok governorates. Trainings have been contracted through the KRI Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which operates a vocational training center. All vocational training should be completed in early 2015.

Mercy Corps completed an initial cash transfer to 720 refugee and host community households in Sulaymaniyah Governorate. Subsequent tranches will follow over the coming months. Budget allocated: 500,000 EUR.

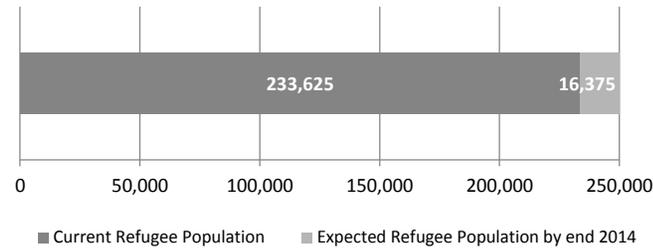
IOM provided Vocational Training to 349 beneficiaries and 9 beneficiaries with On Job Training in Domiz, Qushtapa, Basirma, Kawergosk and Darashakran and Business development service training to 620 beneficiaries in Gawilan and Qushtapa. 315 beneficiaries were provided with access to internet in Domiz camp through the Community Technology Access centers.



Leading Agencies: UNDP, Mizuho Yokoi, mizuho.yokoi@undp.org. Co-leading agency: DRC



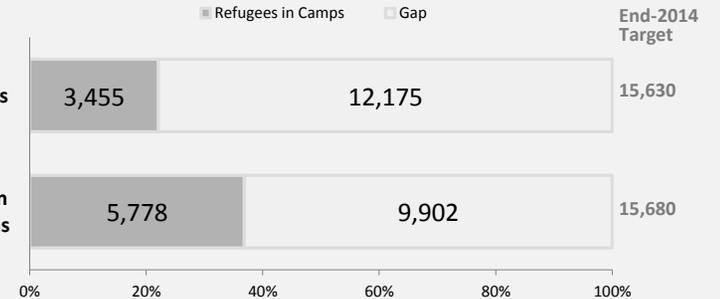
SYRIAN REFUGEE POPULATION IN IRAQ:



PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS:

3,455 (1,125 in December) persons participating in employment assistance, income generation activities or business development projects

5,778 (1,763 in December) persons participating in vocational training or skills development programs



Targets based on expected population of 250,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq by end-2014. There are currently 233,625 refugees.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

According to the Needs Assessment conducted for camp-refugees in April 2014, **47 per cent of the respondents among camp residing refugees reported no source of cash/income for their household.** The survey response in Basirma, Darashakran and Gawilan camps exhibited much lower figures of households having any income, 28 per cent, 35 per cent and 36 per cent respectively, which indicates refugees living in remote areas are in a disadvantageous position relative to other camps due to distance from urban areas and the additional burden of transportation costs.

To ensure access to sustainable employment, it is vital to equip refugees and vulnerable local populations, including women, people with disabilities, the poor and the youth, with the skills that the markets demand. According to the same study, only 6% of refugee households across all camps indicated having benefited from vocational trainings. Well-structured vocational training on marketable skills that can directly enhance employability needs to be provided to the disadvantaged populations, such as camp refugees in remote areas, women, the youth, and people with specific needs.

Special attention needs to be paid to the **refugees with vulnerability and special needs**, such as women, youth, and people with disability. The MSNA study indicated that only **18 per cent of female members of non-camp households are earning an income.** The Rapid Needs Assessment on refugees with disabilities in Domiz camp conducted by Handicap International in support of UNICEF indicates **99 per cent of refugees with disabilities were not working in comparison to 86 per cent of the non-disable**