

Training programs and workshops underway to support entrepreneurship and business development

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

In Turkey, 250 trainees participated in a vocational training programme on the use of industrial-style textile machinery and pattern creation. In each camp, there are two trainers supplied by Ministry of National Education, who are under the "train the trainers" programme. Linguistic or logistical problems were resolved while some textile factories showed an interest to support the programme by supplying fabrics. Some classes began making test productions. These products will be provided to the school children in one of the refugee camps.

In Lebanon, partners have supported 64 MSMEs this year through micro-finance and grants with a cumulative value of over USD 140,000. Some 107 entrepreneurs (including 50 youth) benefitted from business management skills training. Also this month, the Ministry of Social Affairs started the implementation of a new wave of local participatory planning processes - 'Maps of Risks and Resources' - in 128 of the 251 most vulnerable municipalities that were not covered in previous years. Forty-eight such processes were already concluded and enabled the participation of over 1,600 host community members (31 per cent women) in identifying local priorities which would contribute to alleviating resource pressure and reduce tensions.

This month in Alexandria, Egypt, 21 entrepreneurs received cash grants to start their own businesses after participating in a two-day business management skills training. During the training, business proposals developed by the participants were reviewed and approved.

In Jordan, partners are designing programmes to respond to the urgent needs of crisis-affected vulnerable households in host communities, while bridging quick cash with sustainable livelihoods and inclusive local economic growth. Some examples include private sector-led demand driven vocational training, micro-business development, emergency employment, and skills exchange between Jordanians and Syrians to enhance livelihoods and social cohesion.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Expanding access to livelihoods is central to resilience-building. In 2016, the livelihood and social cohesion sector will target around 770,100 refugees and vulnerable host community members with a range of interventions to expand opportunities to cope with, recover from and transform in response to crisis, as well as improve access to and quality of service delivery. Assessed in financial terms, this sector makes up 10 per cent, or USD 477 million of the resources required to implement the 3RP in 2016.

3RP partners will work together with the private sector and national Governments to determine how best to create livelihood opportunities for women and men that fill gaps within labour markets and contribute to the establishment of new enterprises, rather than fostering competition for jobs and driving down wages.

Overall objectives for the livelihoods and social cohesion/stabilization sector in the five 3RP countries include creating the necessary conditions and environment for job creation while enhancing existing systems and promoting social cohesion and community integration initiatives at the community and municipal levels. With expanded livelihood opportunities, affected households will be better able to contribute to local economies and move towards self-sufficiency.



Syrian entrepreneurs showing their products at UN day's open bazar, Photo/UNHCR

Sector Response Summary:



770,100 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
2,570 assisted in 2016



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,687,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,745,400 currently registered



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.55 billion required in 2016
USD 220 million received in 2016



LIVELIHOODS AND JOB CREATION, A CORE TOPIC OF THE LONDON CONFERENCE

The issue of livelihoods and job creation was one of the core topics of the London conference on 4 February, and many pledges made focused on economic development and advancing job opportunities in the host countries.

A number of the pledges made earmarked funds for economic development in the region, while several development banks made commitments to scale up support.

Participants in the London Conference agreed to grant (i) access to external markets, access to concessional financing and increased external support for public and private sector job creation; (ii) donors will support employment creation programs, such as the 'P4P initiative'; (iii) leading private sector partners bring new investment that will create jobs and decent work.

Specific targets and commitments included that in Jordan Syrian refugees will be able to formalize their existing business and to set up new, tax-generating business, including access to investor residencies. Some 200,000 job opportunities for Syrian refugees could be available in the coming years.

In Lebanon, the target is to create 300,000-350,000 jobs, of which 60 per cent to Syrians, and to provide financial and employment incentives and technical assistance to micro and SMEs.

In Turkey, one million Syrians could access the labour market, while Syrian teachers and health professionals will be appointed by the respective Ministries.

In total, an estimated 1.1m jobs will be created for refugees from Syria and host country citizens in the region by 2018.

In this context, in partnership with WFP, UNDP is undertaking an analysis designed to (a) identify critical gaps in terms of employment opportunities; (b) rallying existing and potential partnership at regional level to rapidly scale up employment generation and, (c) reinforcing advocacy for enhanced livelihoods investment at regional and global levels.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2016 *

	Progress	Planned Response, by end-2016
854 individuals accessing wage employment opportunities	0.07%	282,414
32 community support projects implemented	0.6%	5,178
1,720 people trained and/or provided with marketable skills and services	1%	167,646

These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 29 February 2016.

* Progress data not yet received for Iraq in February 2016.