

SYRIA AND IRAQ SITUATIONS

REGIONAL WINTER ASSISTANCE PROGRESS REPORT

1 October – 1 November 2015

(Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt)



Refugees receive shelter kits in settlements in the Bekaa region of Lebanon. These kits include timber plywood and plastic sheets to reinforce their make shift shelters ahead of winter. UNHCR/D. Mawad

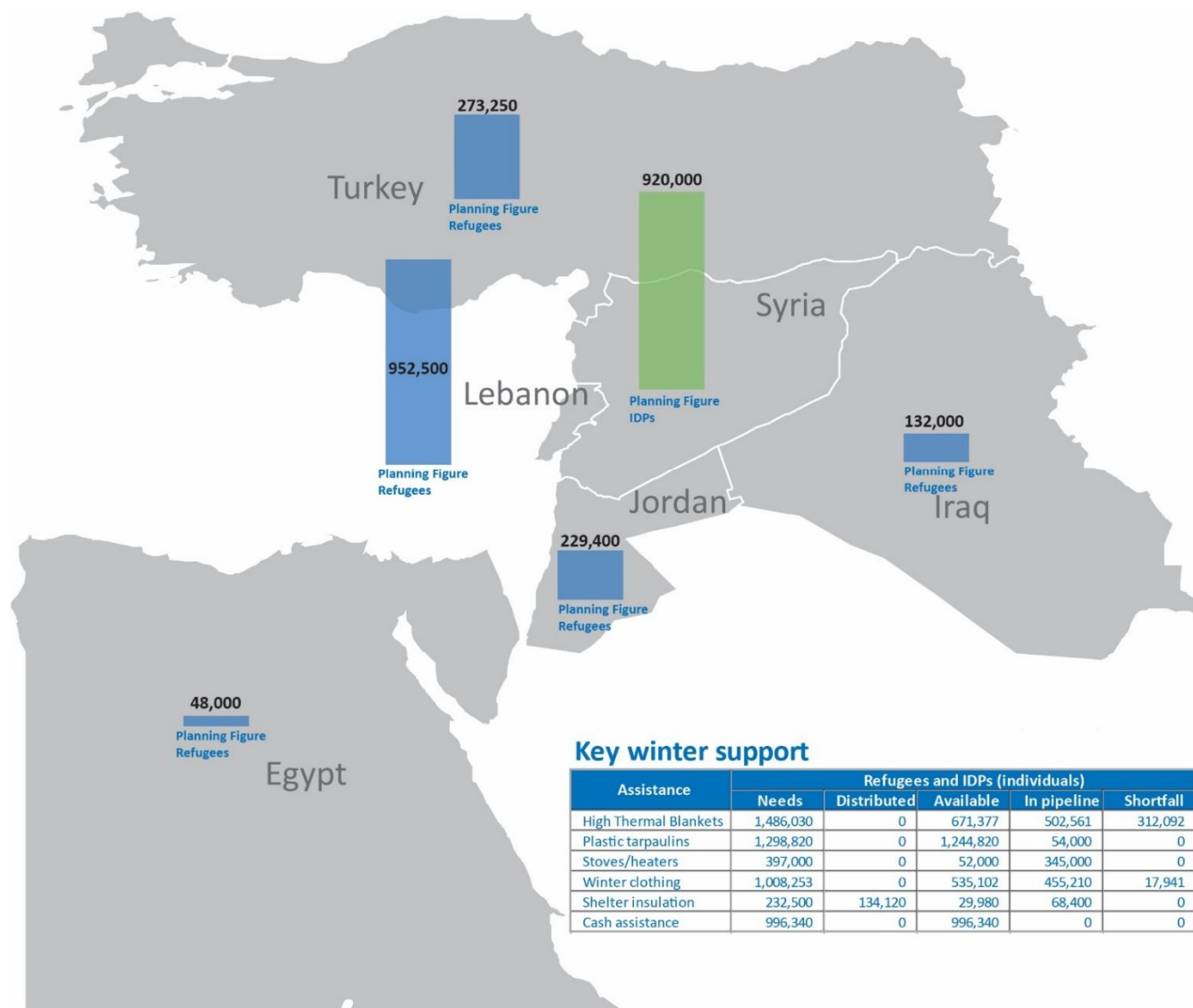
For the 2015/2016 winter assistance, UNHCR planning began during the summer months including procurement of critical items to respond to the winter needs in a timely manner. Assistance includes cash to help refugees purchase needed items and cover heating costs, shelter upgrades, stoves, blankets, and weatherproofing kits.

Regionally, for both Syria and Iraq situations, **eight per cent** of the winter in-kind assistance has been distributed, including shelter insulation kits. A further **52 per cent** of winter core relief items (CRI) are in stock, including high thermal blankets, plastic tarpaulin, stoves, kerosene jerry cans and winter clothing. The majority of the shelter insulation assistance has now been distributed. The distribution of CRIs will commence in early November, as planned, to avoid the misuse of items before the need becomes apparent.

SYRIA SITUATION

UNHCR's regional winter plan for the Syria situation will address the winter needs of **2.5 million Syrians** (1.5 million refugees and 1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)), requiring **USD 170 million**, out of which **USD 159 million** was gratefully received in contributions by the end of October. To-date, the Regional Syria situation winter plan is **94 per cent** funded, with **USD 11 million** still outstanding.

REFUGEE AND IDP PLANNING FIGURES FOR UNHCR WINTER ASSISTANCE



Key winter support

Assistance	Refugees and IDPs (individuals)				
	Needs	Distributed	Available	In pipeline	Shortfall
High Thermal Blankets	1,486,030	0	671,377	502,561	312,092
Plastic tarpaulins	1,298,820	0	1,244,820	54,000	0
Stoves/heaters	397,000	0	52,000	345,000	0
Winter clothing	1,008,253	0	535,102	455,210	17,941
Shelter insulation	232,500	134,120	29,980	68,400	0
Cash assistance	996,340	0	996,340	0	0

Key Facts



11.7 million
Total Refugees and IDPs



1.6 (39%) million
Refugees
Winter Planning Figure



0.9 (16%) million
IDPs
Winter Planning Figure



73,426 (5%)
IDPs and Refugees reached

SYRIA

For cross-border from Amman, Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Working Group Jordan Hub is meeting regularly to discuss planning and coordination for winter assistance implementation. An additional six member organizations of the working group have committed to implement winter assistance projects. These organizations have confirmed an increase in collective secured funding, to meet the needs of 139,000 people in need for Shelter and NFI support in South Syria.

For cross-border from Gaziantep, distribution is planned to begin soon to assist 5,000 Syrian families with high thermal blankets and plastic sheeting. Following the distribution, the partners will provide winter assistance in the areas of Idlib, Aleppo and Hama for up to an additional 3,000 Syrian families. Due to the on-going challenges, the olive-pit-bricks, originally planned as a source for heating, are no longer a viable option, therefore this will now be excluded from the winter assistance.

Geographical Area of Responsibility (AoR) discussions were held with partners in the Damascus hub resulting in the Jordan hub being able to focus on 22 sub-districts in Dar'a and Quneitra governorates which has been prioritized taking into account severity levels separately for shelter and NFI, over-laid with predicted snow coverage projections.

In Syria, UNHCR planned and prepared winterization activities in a timely manner to ensure that hard-to-reach areas such as Qamishly are in a position to initiate delivery of winterization, while a supply contingency plan has been established. A comprehensive winterization plan has also been developed by the Shelter and NFI sector as a whole with contributions from several partners covering all governorates inside Syria. Selection of beneficiaries for winter assistance is based on vulnerability and priority is given to the newly displaced persons (including those who have been displaced multiple times), and those living in hard-to-reach areas.

TURKEY

UNHCR held several coordination meetings with organizations which plan to implement winterization activities targeting 392,800 Syrian refugees living in the camps and urban areas. This has resulted in the development of a consolidated inter-agency plan. A total of 72,560 Syrian refugee families living in camps will receive winter clothes, boots, high thermal blankets and heaters, and 6,000 refugees living in urban areas will receive cash assistance.

LEBANON

UNHCR has revised its initial plan and now aims to reach 952,500 individuals (88 per cent of the Syrian refugee population) with winter support. The cash beneficiaries and the package will be as below;

- Vulnerable families eligible for food assistance and living above 500 metres, including families that are included in monthly multipurpose cash assistance – (USD 147 x 4 months);
- Vulnerable families eligible for food assistance and living below 500 metres, including families that are included in monthly multipurpose cash assistance – (USD 100 x 4 months);

Along with cash assistance, basic CRIs will be distributed such as stoves, high thermal blankets, and winter clothes. Shelter weatherproofing kits and heating fuel for schools is also planned for this winter. UNHCR is also providing support during the winter to 5,000 vulnerable Lebanese families through the National Poverty Targeting Programme run by the Government of Lebanon.

JORDAN

The Winterization Task Force, chaired by UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), has agreed on the winter cash assistance amount for the full and half cash packages. The winterisation cash grants will be transferred to beneficiary families from November through February 2016.

Implementation of shelter activities has already commenced and, as of 20 October, concrete flooring has been laid in 3,126 shelters in Azraq camp, and 940 shelters in urban areas have received upgrades to ensure adequate insulation prior to the start of winter. An additional pledge of 40,000 mattresses and 30,000 winter blankets has been received as an in-kind donation to UNHCR, towards the winter plan, from the Government of the United States of America.



UNHCR teams are reaching the most vulnerable refugees along with Jordanians in host communities across Jordan before winter storms hit. UNHCR/ M.Hawari

IRAQ

UNHCR continues to coordinate with partners and local authorities in preparation for an integrated winter response. All winter items have been procured to arrive at UNHCR warehouses between mid-October and mid-November and partners are prepared to deliver winter supplies in a timely manner in all governorates.

EGYPT

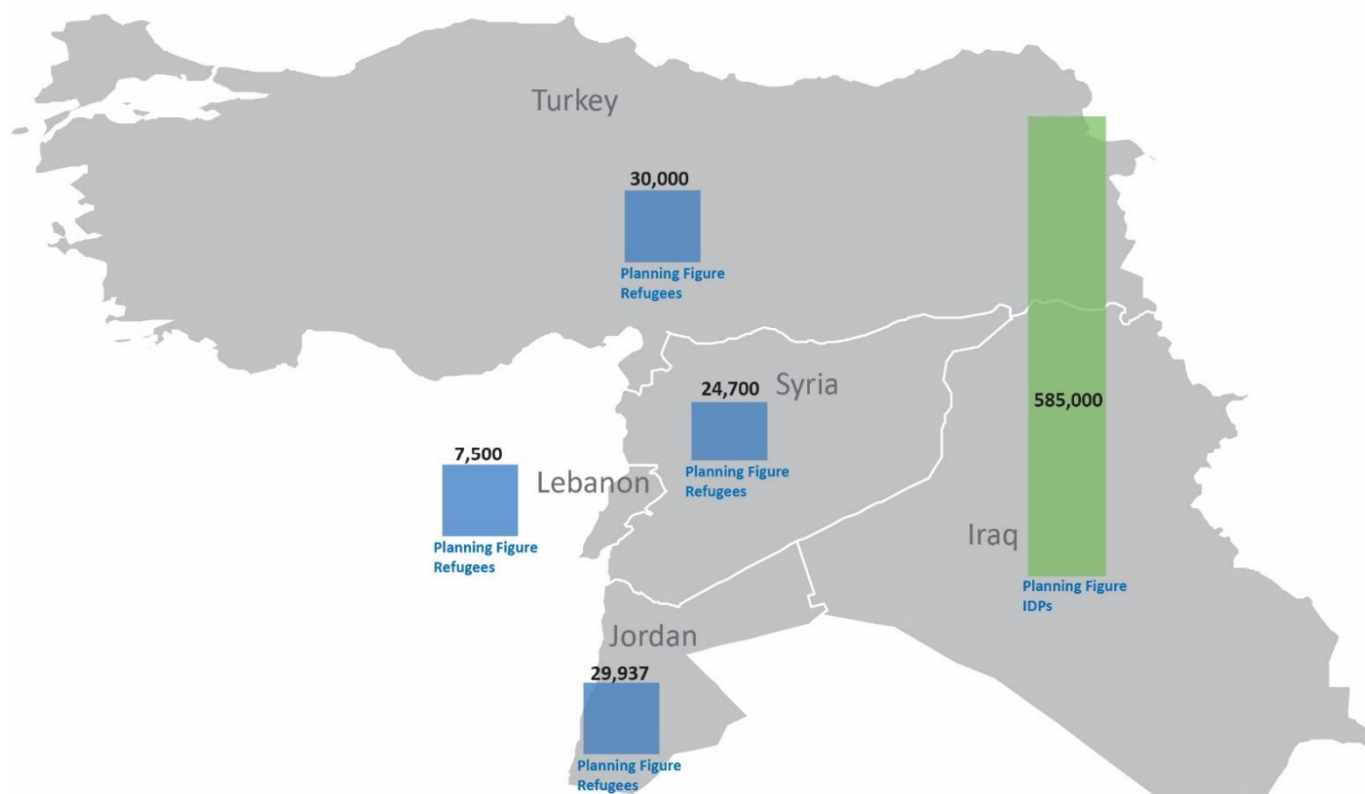
UNHCR plans to distribute winterization grants during the second week of December to some 48,000 persons. Coordination meetings began in October with partners to discuss resources available for collective implementation.

Categories of people being considered for winter assistance prioritization include: elderly persons; unaccompanied or separated children; single mothers with children; families with large number of children; families with the lowest or zero income from loss of work; families who never previously benefited from winterization assistance; and those who are considered vulnerable based on the socio-economic assessment. Geographic distribution is also taken into consideration, prioritizing those living in the northern governorates due to the harsh winter conditions and lower temperatures.

IRAQ SITUATION

UNHCR's winter plan for the Iraq situation will reach **700,000 Iraqis** (almost 100,000 refugees and close to 600,000 IDPs), requiring **USD 66 million**, out of which **USD 34 million** was gratefully received in contributions by mid-October. To-date, the Regional Iraq situation winter plan is **52 per cent** funded, with **USD 32 million** still outstanding.

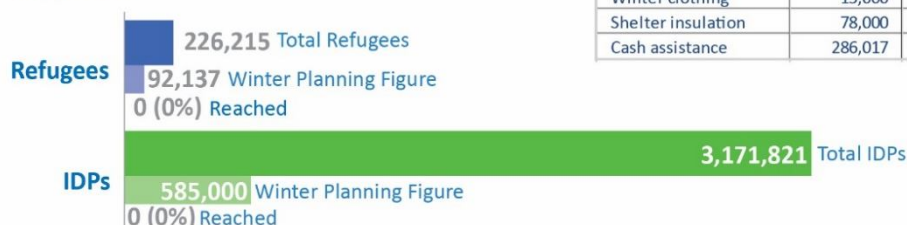
REFUGEE AND IDP PLANNING FIGURES FOR UNHCR WINTER ASSISTANCE



Key winter support

Assistance	Refugees and IDPs (individuals)				
	Needs	Distributed	Available	In pipeline	Shortfall
High Thermal Blankets	382,500	0	170,612	192,388	19,500
Plastic tarpaulins	360,000	0	214,716	67,044	78,240
Stoves/heaters	375,000	0	360,000	15,000	0
Winter clothing	15,000	0	0	0	15,000
Shelter insulation	78,000	0	78,000	0	0
Cash assistance	286,017	0	109,017	0	177,000

Key Facts



3.4 million
Total Refugees and IDPs

92,137 (41%)
Refugees
Winter Planning Figure

585,000 (18%)
IDPs
Winter Planning Figure

0 (0%)
IDPs and Refugees reached

IRAQ

UNHCR finalized the distribution plan for winter CRIs to 60,000 IDP families and the distribution will commence on 1 November 2015. UNHCR will distribute cash assistance to a further 37,500 vulnerable IDP families across Iraq through an electronic cash card transfer system. Additional cash to be distributed during the winter months (November-February) will be part of UNHCR's winterization programme. The winter plan will reach a total of 585,000 Iraqi IDPs.

TURKEY

The distribution of winter CRIs is coordinated in the NFI Working Group meetings held on a monthly basis in Gaziantep. The Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (AFAD) manages the distribution of winterization packages in the camps. For non-camp Iraqi refugees, UNHCR plans to implement either one-off cash assistance or CRIs for winterization or both, subject to availability of resources.

JORDAN

The UNHCR winter plan will assist 8,805 vulnerable families (29,937 persons) with winter cash assistance across Jordan. The amount associated with the cash packages has changed since the initial development of the plan, in accordance with the amounts set by the Winterization Task Force. A per capita approach will now be employed as the basis for the full and half packages. It is expected that the winterisation cash grants will be transferred to the beneficiary families from November through February 2016.

LEBANON

The winter assistance for Iraqi refugees and other registered refugees initially aimed to assist 3,000 households (approximately 7,500 individuals) with high thermal blankets and cash based interventions. In October, the planning was revised and beneficiaries have been identified through the vulnerability identification process. The first process aimed to include families through a multi-functional-team approach and reviewed vulnerability findings and decided to grant seasonal cash assistance. The criteria are aligned with UNHCR protection standards and takes into account that Iraqi families face socio-economic difficulties to cover basic needs during the winter months. A second and complementary process takes into account their vulnerability situation – relying on the proGres database that identified households having a specific vulnerability status within family composition. Both processes are on-going and more households will be identified, pending matching the criteria in place.

In addition to over 1,500 families who have been identified and will receive ATM cash cards, UNHCR will distribute basic CRIs such as stoves and high thermal blankets to more families, aiming to reach an estimated 3,000 households in total with these CRIs. The winter assistance programme for the Iraqi refugees will also include cash assistance through ATM cards and this approach follows UNHCR's objective to harmonize cash assistance transfer modalities, including value of amounts, for all refugee families registered with UNHCR.

SYRIA

Cash assistance for winterization will be transferred to the ATM cards of all registered Iraqi refugees who receive the cash for food, and will commence in the second week of November.

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