



Community Technology Access programmes providing an information and livelihoods boost for refugees

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

In Egypt, a 3RP Partner mission was undertaken to explore the possibility of setting up a Community Technology Access (CTA) project which would provide an opportunity to offer blended learning to refugees through computer technology, and promote access to telework amongst other livelihood opportunities in the country including website development. The project is expected to commence within the fourth quarter of 2015.

A CTA is a programme already underway in Iraq, where 1,944 Syrian refugees benefited from free internet access through the centres during August. This includes in the camps of Basirma, Darashakran, Qushtapa, and Kawergosk.

Also in Iraq, there was a vocational training in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, as well as Job Training in Dahuk. A total of 18 beneficiaries (out of which 4 women) received Business Development training and are waiting to receive their In Kind Grants packages, which will enable them to set up their own small business. A Business Market Survey Assessment is completed in all four camps in Erbil.

Meanwhile, business up-scaling grants (US\$ 800) are being provided in Iraq for 200 production and service businesses as well as 30 (2 rounds of US\$ 600) new businesses in the camps. The targeted beneficiaries will be supported with business management skills trainings. Selection is based on the business proposal/case of each beneficiary (this will determine how many beneficiaries per each camp). All the selected beneficiaries will be trained on various business skills topics such as budgeting, record keeping and stock management.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

A critical dimension of building resilience is to expand livelihoods and employment opportunities for vulnerable men, women and, especially youth, in compliance with national laws and regulations. In all five countries, livelihoods support under the 3RP is a key way to slow and reverse depletion of individual, family and community assets. To ensure access to sustainable employment, it is vital to equip refugees and vulnerable local populations with the skills that the markets demand. Livelihoods initiatives give refugees the means to cope with hardship, to increase their skills and abilities, and to prosper, as well as improving their prospects in a future return to Syria. In turn, the skills of refugees can help to grow and diversify local economies.

Social cohesion interventions in the region include the development of conflict mitigation mechanisms, with stakeholders helping to conduct participatory conflict analysis to identify sources of tension, along with training on conflict resolution skills such as negotiation, problem solving and mediation.



Refugee children outside the family grocery shop in Akre camp, Iraq
UNHCR/R.Rasheed

Sector Response Summary:



369,452 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
30,754 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
4,089,023 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 1.678 billion received in 2015



JOINT STUDY RECOMMENDS BOOSTING LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT, POLICY ADVOCACY AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RESILIENCE IN KRI

In order to identify the key requirements for resilience building in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, where over 97% of Syrian Refugees are residing, UNDP Iraq in collaboration with UNHCR Iraq launched a feasibility study. The study was recently completed by the Middle East Research Institute (MERI), providing insights in developing strategies and interventions to enhance self-reliance of Syrian refugees and host communities as well as institutional capacity of the government institutions to provide necessary support to them.

The study concludes that resilience-building for Syrian refugees in camps is not only feasible - leveraging the positive factors that Syrian refugees are permitted to work in the KR-I and that the relationship between refugees and the host community is relatively amicable due to the cultural proximity, but also indispensable - considering the increasing challenges caused by diminishing humanitarian funds from the international community, the protracted displacement for refugees in Iraq, and the fiscal issues faced by the Kurdistan Regional Government in sustaining humanitarian support.

The study recommends to develop a comprehensive strategic approach for (1) boosting livelihood support targeted to refugees and host community, such as building credit and saving facilities, improving the value chain in which they participate, supporting employment allocation schemes and exploring new areas like agro-processing; (2) promoting advocacy for key policy changes, such as concerns labour market reforms, legal property rights of refugees and participation in safety nets; and (3) improving basic infrastructure in camp with capacity building of the government institutions to take over humanitarian support to the refugees and cost recovery mechanisms.

The study generated more interest among the key stakeholders on resilience building and consultations with the government authorities, UNHCR, and inter-sector coordination group members have been initiated to identify the priority interventions based on the study's recommendations.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - AUGUST* 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2015



*Note updated data not yet available for Turkey response for August 2015

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. Targets are based on full funding of the 3RP and an expected 4.27 million refugees by end-2015. All data on this Dashboard is current as of 31 August 2015.