



More than 520,000 people received thermal blankets in Jordan and Lebanon during snowstorm "Huda"

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY:

The severe winter storm "Huda" swept across the Middle East in January 2015, bringing heavy snow, rainfall, high winds and freezing temperatures to the region. Humanitarian partners strengthened winter assistance activities to keep vulnerable refugees and internally displaced people warm and protected from the harsh conditions. Agencies worked as fast as possible to replace damaged tents, provide repair kits, deliver emergency supplies and offer alternative temporary shelter for those forced to abandon their homes due to the snow storm.

In Jordan, refugees living in Zaatari and Azraq camps received a mixture of cash vouchers, thermal blankets, gas heaters and cylinders and winter clothes to help them cope with the storm, in addition to their regular winter assistance. For those refugees living outside camps, along with vulnerable Jordanian families, additional high thermal blankets, heaters, gas cylinders and cash assistance was made available to cover immediate needs during the storm.

In Lebanon, refugees and vulnerable Lebanese households living above 500 metres received basic assistance in the form of fuel vouchers, cash-for-winter and core relief items to help them cope with harsh temperatures and the extreme environment.

In Iraq's Dohuk Governorate, where winters are particularly severe, additional winter items including sleeping bags, winter coats, boots, and shelter insulation kits have been distributed during January. Insulation kits and kerosene were also distributed to refugees across northern Iraq, along with cash assistance.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of the projected 80,000 monthly new refugee arrivals to neighbouring countries in 2015 will arrive with few personal possessions and in need of domestic items to meet their needs, including blankets, water jerry cans and kitchen sets. The 3RP provides a response for basic needs which is predominantly humanitarian, with packages of basic domestic items for new arrivals, and replacement items for refugees who are accommodated in camps for long periods of time.

For the most vulnerable families, agencies have increasingly adopted unconditional, multi-purpose cash assistance programmes through the region, allowing beneficiaries to spend the assistance on goods and services they feel they need most, giving them the dignity of choice while positively impacting on local economies.

Weather in the Middle East includes low winter temperatures, near or below freezing (especially at higher elevations), and heat during the summer often reaching in excess of 40 degrees Celsius. These extremes require warm clothes, energy for heating, and reinforced shelters during the winter, while in summer refugees need basic materials to create shade and protection from disease vectors, especially for children and the elderly.

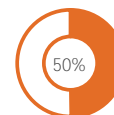


Lebanon. A. McConnel / UNHCR

Sector Response Summary:



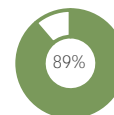
1,546,000 Refugees & Local
Community Members targeted by
end-2015
769,480 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees
expected by end-2015
3,787,715 currently registered or
awaiting



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion
required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 212.26 million received in 2015



TARGETING MECHANISM ENSURES MOST VULNERABLE RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN LEBANON

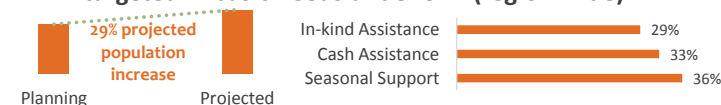
To ensure that scarce resources are used in the most effective manner to assist the most vulnerable, operations in the region are undertaking a range of assessment and targeting exercises. This month, we highlight Lebanon's vulnerability assessment process.

Under criteria jointly agreed upon by humanitarian partners, families in Lebanon are being assessed to determine food insecurity and economic vulnerability in order to establish eligibility for food and cash assistance. More than 7,000 families have been visited as part of a household visit exercise which started in December 2014. It is planned that 10-15,000 households will be visited per month in the coming year.

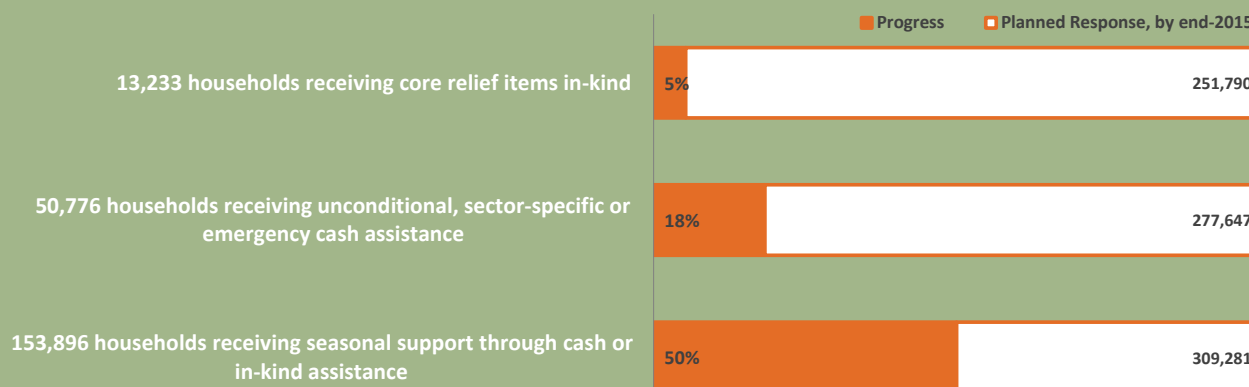
The assessment process aims to ensure that households which are severely economically vulnerable (determined as those with means below the survival living costs) are supported with sustainable, year-round support rather than temporary emergency, stop-gap, or seasonal assistance.

With enhanced assessment, targeting and programming modalities such as these, the response in Lebanon and elsewhere in the region is becoming more efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable refugees and local community members.

Percentage of projected refugee population targeted in basic needs under 3RP (region-wide)



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY 2015



These dashboards reflect the achievements of 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 the assumption of full funding of the 3RP and an expected 4.27 million refugees by end-2015.