



**While RRP6 targets proved difficult to meet, more than 66,000 people were assisted by the sector during 2014**

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

In Lebanon, partners once again reached over 1,000 beneficiaries during the month with livelihoods activities. Beneficiaries of income-generating activities remained at a high level (over 400), in line with the positive results achieved in November. However, this was not enough to significantly progress towards the 90,000 target-level for the year. This was in contrast with vocational training activities, which reached two-third of the yearly target, a positive result for a chronically under-funded sector. On the social cohesion side, the overall results for the year were positive, with over 2,000 change agents reached and 84 conflict-mitigation mechanisms established. The main progress on the social cohesion side related to the implementation of community and municipal support projects, with another 48 projects completed this month, bringing the total for the year to nearly 300 (50 per cent of the overall target). Projects completed this month benefited 51 host communities and represented an investment of nearly USD 1 million.

In Egypt, a total of 9,858 households have now been interviewed under the socio-economic assessment in Egypt - a project which will contribute to targeting assistance to those most in need.

In Iraq, 202 Syrian refugees who completed small business trainings in November received grants during December and established businesses in Erbil, while an additional 109 refugees received similar training in 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. Almost 1,800 people participated in vocational training or like skills development programmes during December.



Lebanon

## SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

3,775,798

Refugee Population, end-December 2014

3,590,000

Refugee Population Planning figure, end-2014

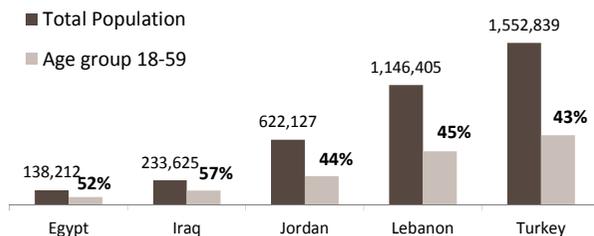
## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The current legislative and policy frameworks in the region provide limited employment opportunities for Syrian refugees. Relatively high unemployment among nationals pre-dates, and is exacerbated by, the economic impact of the crisis. The International Labour Organization cites a Middle East unemployment rate of 10 per cent in 2013, with a young adult unemployment rate of 26 per cent. Economies in the region are suffering from the trade losses and reduced household market participation for locally produced or traded goods. Many countries continue to bear scars from the global economic crisis and related access to capital, foreign investment and reduced domestic growth.

Refugees seek work in informal sectors which require manual, unskilled short term labour with sub-standard working conditions and reduced salaries, often accompanied by exploitation risks. The engagement of refugees in informal labour practices has created a perception among host communities that refugees are depriving nationals of work opportunities and depressing wages. Although this is not necessarily evidenced by employment statistics, the perception may drive poor community relations, distrust and disruption of social cohesion. Many refugees originate from rural areas of Syria and lack necessary skills for work in urban settings.

An analysis of livelihood is needed to more thoroughly examine factors beyond legal barriers, including the remoteness of locations where refugees reside, language skills, tools, capita and increasing intolerance towards Syrian refugees. Longer-term strategies necessitate a mixture of legal considerations to provide avenues to allow Syrians to work balanced with the employment of national cohorts. Such strategies may offer short and longer-term cash-for-work and large public works projects for poor nationals and poor Syrians.

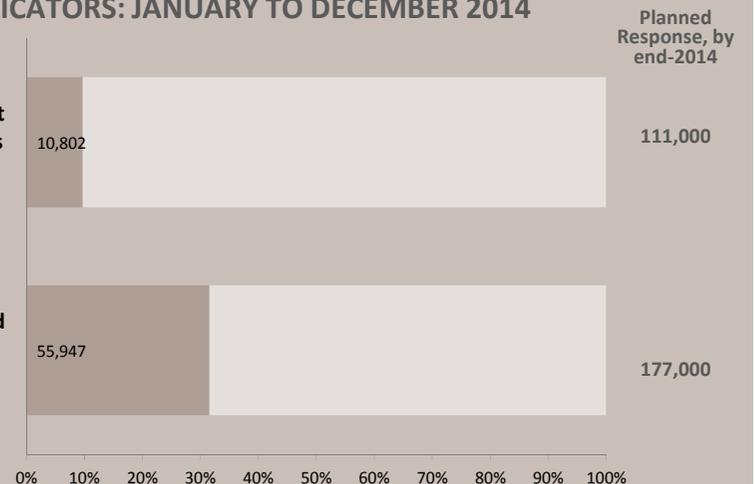
## 1,658,000 registered refugees are aged 18-59



## REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2014

10,802 individuals have participated in employment assistance, income generation activities or business development projects

55,947 individuals have participated in technical and vocational training, literacy initiatives and life-skills training



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 3.59 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. By the end of 2014 there were 3.77 million refugees in the region, and the overall RRP6 appeal was 61% funded.