

## Syria and Iraq situations

(Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt)  
As of 31 January 2018

UNHCR developed a regional winterization plan for 2017-2018 based on the **assessed needs of 3.81 million Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees** in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

With the generous contributions received so far, **UNHCR will provide support for up to 3.6 million Syrians and Iraqis during the winter months.** The winterization programme covers the period from September 2017 to March 2018.

As of 31 January, **over 3.4 million Syrians and Iraqis have been reached** with winterization support. This includes 2.8 million Syrians and over 563,000 Iraqis.

### Over 3.4 million (96%)

People reached with winter assistance

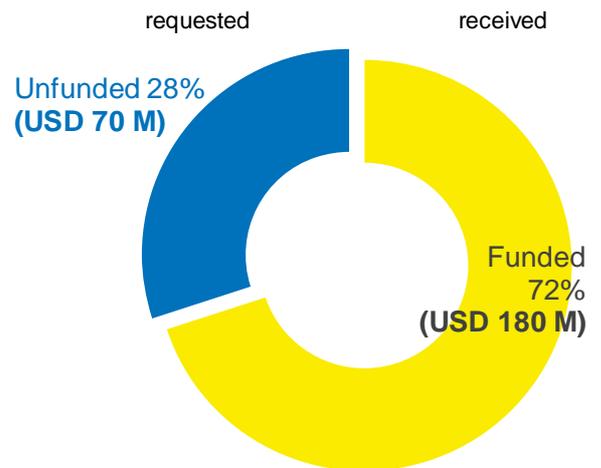
(Over **2.2 million** people were supported with seasonal cash assistance and more than **1.2 million** people with winter items)

### 3.6 million

Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees will be assisted with the contributions received so far.

#### FUNDING

USD 250 M | 180 M



UNHCR's winterization strategy focuses on three broad areas of intervention:



**Winterization of shelter including shelter weather-proofing and repairs, and improvements to drainage systems and other infrastructure in camps and informal settlements.**



**Provision of seasonal cash assistance for vulnerable families to meet their additional needs during the winter months.**

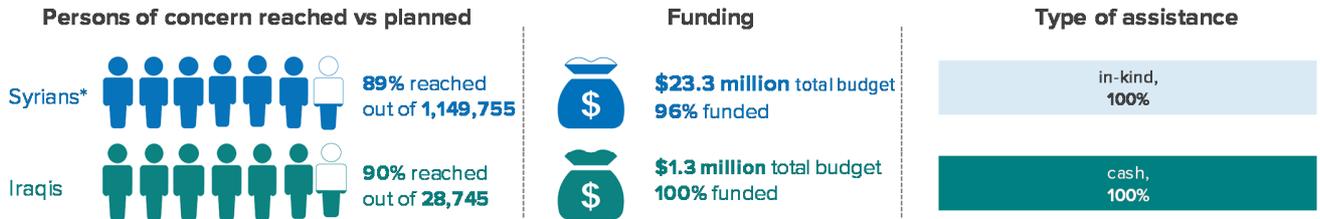


**Provision of core relief items specific to winter such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, heaters and gas cylinders, and winter clothes.**

*The winterization programme is implemented through UNHCR's own staff, government agencies, partners, and community outreach volunteers in coordination with the broader inter-agency response platforms.*

# Country updates

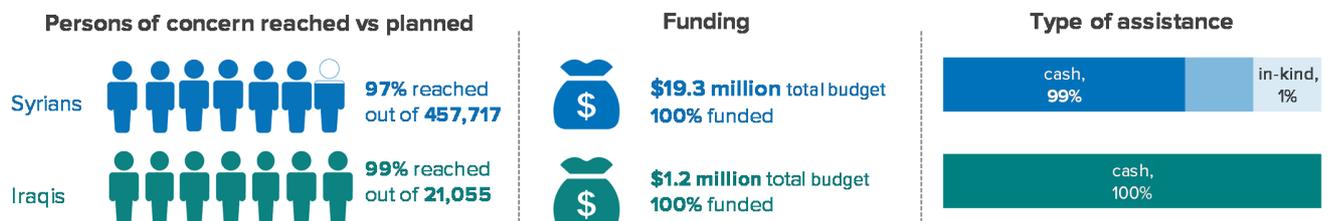
## SYRIA



\* Includes Syrian IDPs planned to be reached by UNHCR operations inside Syria and through cross-border operations from Turkey and Jordan.

- As part of its Whole of Syria winter plan, UNHCR aims to assist over 1.2 million IDPs and has so far assisted over one million with winterization assistance across Syria including through cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey. As of 31 January, more than 903,000 Syrian IDPs (189,000 families) have been reached from inside Syria with winter items in 13 governorates. The majority of the people reached were in the governorates of Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Homs. UNHCR distributed most of the winter assistance by December 2017 with only limited additional distributions needed in January.
- For cross-border operations from Jordan, UNHCR has so far distributed winter clothing to 44,975 vulnerable individuals including IDPs, returnees and members of host communities, prioritizing those living in colder and higher altitude locations, or in tented settlements. In addition, core relief kits specific to winter (high thermal blankets and tarpaulins) was provided to more than 38,000 individuals.
- From Turkey, two emergency trans-shipments took place in January to assist IDPs displaced from northern Hama and southern Idlib towards northern Idlib. The first trans-shipment took place on 9 January and the second on 16 January with 2,000 emergency core relief item kits per trans-shipments which included high thermal blankets, plastic tarpaulin, sleeping mats and jerry cans. Some 20,000 people (4,000 families) were assisted with the items, in addition to 14,688 winter kits provided to 73,440 individuals so far.

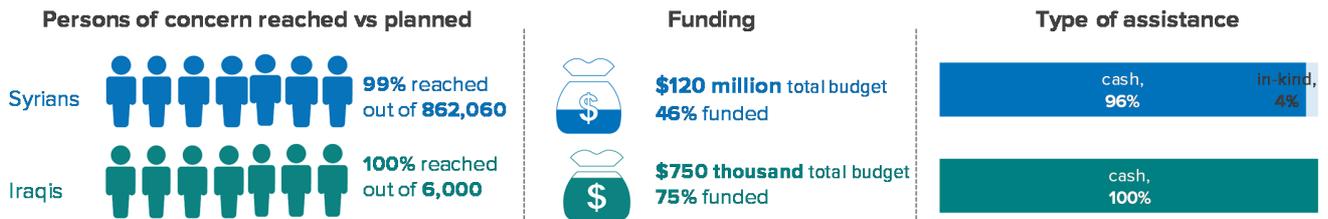
## TURKEY



- As of 31 January, UNHCR provided unrestricted, multi-purpose cash grants of USD 50 per person to 50,370 Syrian and Iraqi families (242,009 individuals) living outside camps. For refugees in camps, following an agreement with the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), UNHCR provided unrestricted, multi-purpose cash grants of USD 28 per person to 44,220 Syrian and Iraqi families (221,910 individuals).

Those eligible for assistance received a pre-paid MasterCard 'Pttkart' issued by Turkey's Post and Telecommunication Office (PTT). The card can be used in any shop that accepts MasterCard as well as used to withdraw cash from any PTT branch or ATM machine.

## LEBANON

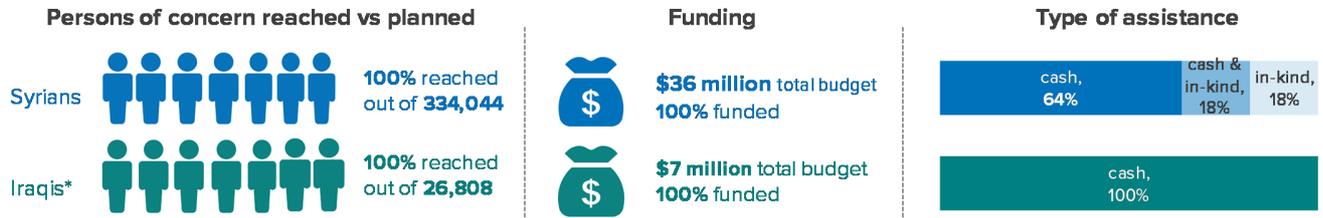


- As of 31 January, more than 852,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees (170,400 families) received seasonal cash assistance through ATM cards. UNHCR also supported more than 30,000 vulnerable Lebanese with fuel vouchers and blankets in the Bekaa valley. Furthermore, 14,100 weather-proofing shelter kits were distributed to more than 120,600 persons (24,100 families) living in informal settlements. The winterization programme for Iraqi refugees is harmonized with the Syrian refugees and close to 6,000 vulnerable Iraqi refugees (1,500 families) received seasonal cash assistance.
- Protection hotlines are open 24x7 in all UNHCR field offices including for medical emergencies, and urgent response is provided to those in need through partners and community outreach volunteers. UNHCR also has a WhatsApp communication tree with over 7,000 refugee and humanitarian worker focal points that can also function to receive urgent notifications. Core relief items specific to winter have been prepositioned in all UNHCR field offices and people in need are supported from the stockpile.



Tens of thousands of Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in informal settlements. Flooded shelters are a familiar sight in areas witness heavy rainfall in Lebanon during winter, which also brings heavy snowfall and freezing temperatures to many mountainous areas.  
 © UNHCR/Marwan Naamani

## JORDAN



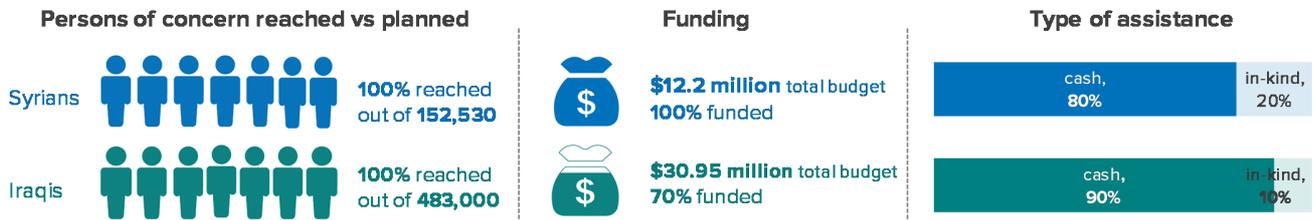
\* The figure for Iraqis include refugees of other nationalities.

- As part of efforts to assist the most vulnerable refugees in Jordan during the winter months, UNHCR distributed USD 36.8 million in cash to over 61,000 refugee families of all nationalities living outside camps. In addition, some 24,000 Syrian refugee families in the two camps of Zaatari and Azraq also received a cash payment to buy winter materials. This assistance was supplemented by distribution of items such as insulation materials, gas cylinders, and shelter repairs in both camps. Overall, UNHCR was able to deliver assistance worth over USD 40 million for the winter months, thanks to strong donor support at a crucial time.
- UNHCR Jordan has finalized its post distribution monitoring of recipients of cash assistance for winterization needs. The vast majority (94%) of beneficiaries reported the cash assistance helped them to buy winter-related items with heating accounting for the majority of expenditure (65% gas cylinders, gas refills, and heaters). Almost all non-Syrian refugees stated that the one time-winterization assistance helped them to buy winter-related items (90%). However, less than half (40%) found the assistance sufficient to meet their basic needs. For a majority of families, the accumulation of unpaid rent and debt meant that the amount received was insufficient to cover these pressing expenses in addition to the required purchases for winter, i.e. heaters, fuel canisters, fuel refills and plastic sheeting. Twenty-nine per cent of families were unable to cover health-related expenses during the winter months. Similar to the Syrian respondents, the non-Syrian respondents stated they were able to find needed winterization items in the market (95%).



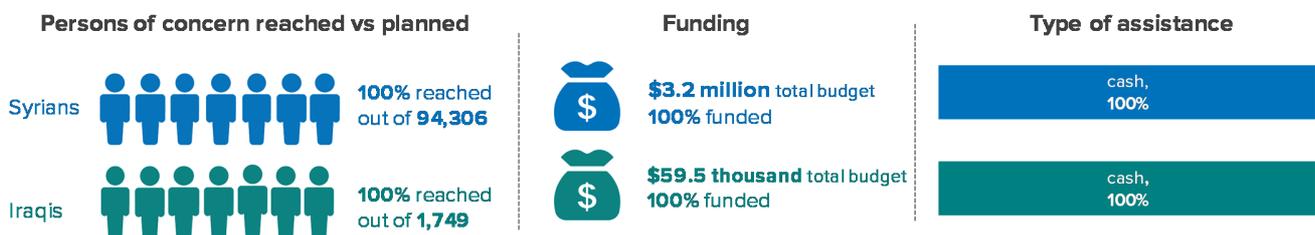
A Syrian refugee, left, receives winter cash assistance at Zaatari refugee camp, Mafraq Governorate, Jordan.  
 © UNHCR/David Azia

## IRAQ



- As of 31 January, UNHCR has provided 481,848 IDPs (out of a target of 483,000 individuals) with winter assistance in camps and urban areas, targeting displaced people from Ninewa, Salah-al-Din and Anbar governorates as well as other vulnerable IDPs across the country. UNHCR disbursed cash assistance to 432,588 IDPs living in camps and urban areas. In camps, UNHCR distributed core relief items specific to winter (including blankets, heating stove, rubber mat, and a tent insulation kit) to 49,260 displaced Iraqis.
- UNHCR has provided 152,530 Syrian refugees with winter assistance: 121,390 Syrian refugees have received winter cash assistance in camps and urban areas, and 30,600 Syrian refugees in camps have received core relief item kits.

## EGYPT



- UNHCR and UNICEF launched the winter assistance programme for 94,306 Syrian refugees (28,733 families) and 1,373 Iraqi refugees (527 families) in Egypt in November 2017 and funds were transferred to the Post Office (service provider).
- As of end January, some 91,531 Syrian refugees (27,220 families) representing 97 per cent of the Syrian refugees who were targeted collected their cash assistance through the post office. Despite multiple reminders, only 640 Iraqi refugees (186 families) representing (47%) of the Iraqi refugees collected the cash assistance. UNHCR closed the collection period of cash assistance on 31 January. A post-distribution monitoring is being conducted in February.

## FUNDING

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the winter programme for Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees with unearmarked and earmarked funds. UNHCR is also grateful to private donors, charities and other organizations for their contributions.

## CONTACTS

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