

REGIONAL MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE MONITORING UPDATE

JULY 2018

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



1.8 million people assessed for cash assistance in 2018 so far.



641,342¹ individuals reached across the region in the first half of 2018, with USD 95 million distributed.

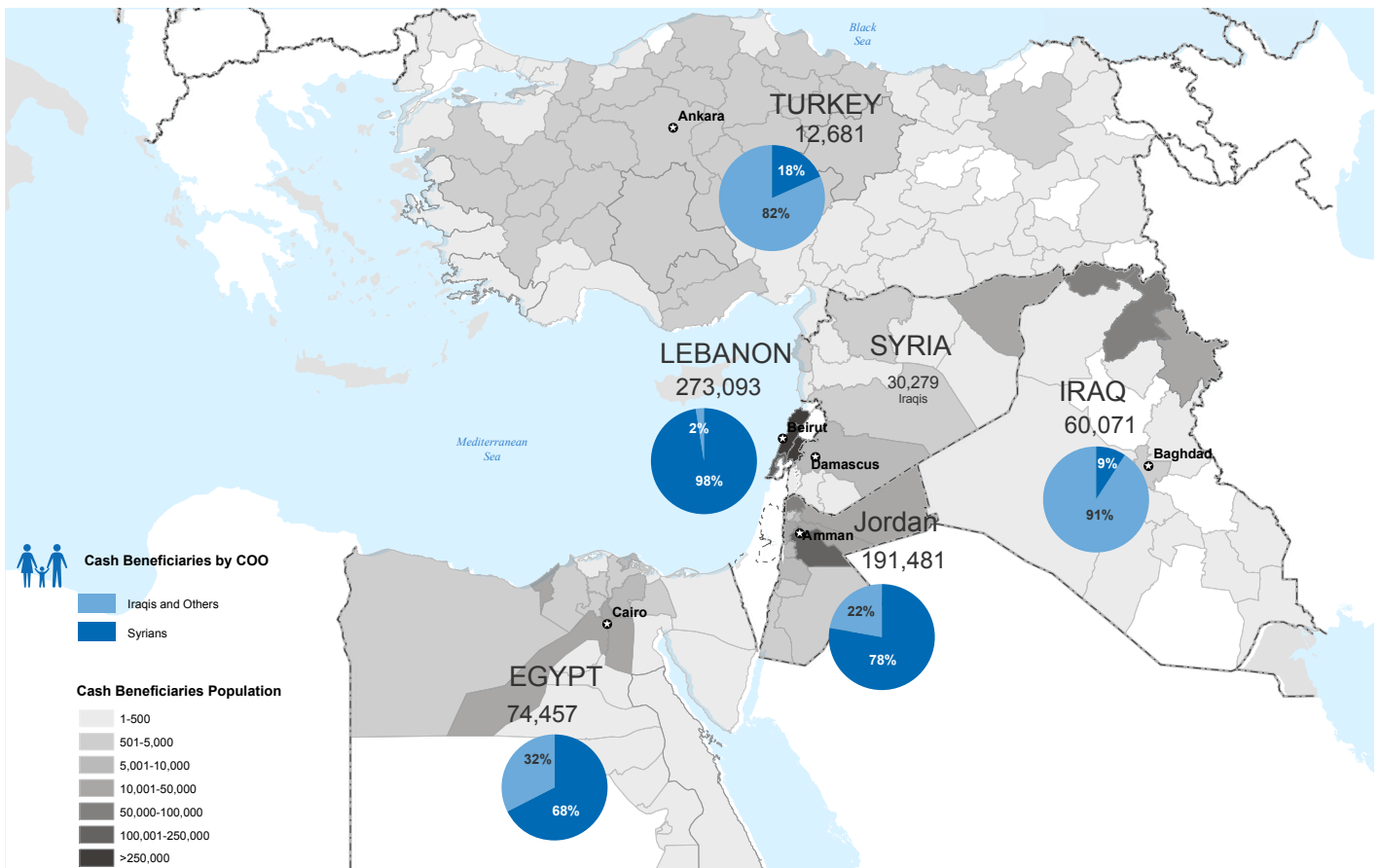


48 per cent of Syrian refugee families in Egypt need to borrow money or purchase on credit to meet their basic needs, including healthcare.



USD 44 million urgently required to continue cash assistance to 456,000 Syrian refugees through the end of 2018.

BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY COUNTRY JAN-JULY 2018



¹Includes winter cash assistance in Lebanon in January and February 2018.

REGIONAL INDICATORS

NEEDS

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Total Individuals assessed in 2018 | 1.8 million ² |
| Persons assessed by household visit - 2018 | >339,000 |
| Persons assessed by household visit - July | 23,993 |
| # found eligible for cash support in 2018 | 1.2 million |

Many refugee families have now been in the host countries for four or more years and struggle to make ends meet. While the vast majority of Syrian refugees continue to be geographically integrated with host communities in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, they are vulnerable and face extremely high rates of poverty, exceeding 50 per cent in some host countries. In Lebanon, 58 per cent of refugees are living below USD 3 a

day, while in Egypt, 48 per cent of Syrian refugee families need to borrow money or purchase on credit to meet their basic needs, including healthcare. Living conditions remain precarious, with only six per cent of those in Lebanon and 20 per cent in Jordan having a rental contract for their accommodation. Many more live in unsatisfactory conditions in unfinished buildings, garages, worksites or informal settlements.

RESPONSE

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Assisted with cash in July | >440,000 |
| Assisted with cash in 2018 | 640,000 |
| USD disbursed in 2018 | 95 million |
| USD disbursed in July | 16 million |

UNHCR cash assistance programmes are one component of a much broader and integrated network of activities which aims to provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable. UNHCR has found 1.2 million individuals eligible for cash assistance in 2018 but has been only able to reach at most around 450,000 per month due to funding constraints. In total, UNHCR has assisted over 640,000 individuals so far in 2018, disbursing more than **USD 95 million**. Hundreds of thousands more need ongoing support to meet their most basic needs.

PROTECTION (ALL FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF JULY)

| | |
|---|---------|
| # of referrals from cash to case management | 1,817 |
| # of referrals from case management to cash | 2,049 |
| # of inquiries related to cash assistance | 23,500 |
| # of updates to refugee records | 117,083 |

Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) is an on-going process used by UNHCR to monitor the effectiveness of its cash assistance programmes and their impact on recipient well-being. It provides quantitative and qualitative insights into trends among beneficiaries related to their experiences with cash assistance including the distribution, delivery methods, and channels of complaints and feedback. UNHCR Jordan's PDM exercise for the first half of 2018 indicates that cash assistance is meeting the majority of beneficiaries' basic

needs, helping them afford regular expenses while also helping them avoid negative coping strategies. It suggests that cash assistance reduces the likelihood of maintaining critical levels of debt - 17 per cent of beneficiaries receiving cash assistance for less than a year reported owing more than JOD 1,000 in debt, compared to 12 per cent of those receiving cash for over a year. For more on these findings, see the highlights section (page 3).

UNHCR witnesses a consistent pattern of cross-referrals between cash assessments and protection services, and vice-versa. In July, over 1,800 referrals to case management were made by UNHCR during cash assessments across the region, while over 2,000 individuals were referred to broader case management services from cash assessments.

COVERAGE

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Syrian refugees not receiving assistance due to lack of funds | 456,000 |
| Critical funding needs | USD 44M |
| # assisted by partners in July | 1.7 million |

Cash assistance support to vulnerable refugee families is under threat due to chronic underfunding. As of the end of July, UNHCR's response to the Syria Situation is only 31 per cent funded, with a gap of USD 1.36 billion while the response to the Iraq situation is only 13 per cent funded, with a gap of USD 505 million. Without urgent funding, UNHCR's activities to support vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi refugees and Internally

Displaced Persons will be severely restricted, leaving these vulnerable populations unable to meet their most basic daily needs including rent and accessing essential services like health care and education.

² Includes 1,478,655 Syrians in Lebanon who are ranked and scored using a desk formula to measure their socio-economic vulnerability within the overall population, this process occurs once a year and as such all Syrians in Lebanon are considered assessed already. This figure is according to Government estimates, including registered Syrian refugees, unregistered Syrian refugees as well as Syrians residing in Lebanon under alternative legal frameworks. February 2018

HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS THE REGION

Post Distribution Monitoring in Jordan

In reviewing how families spend cash assistance through the [Post Distribution Monitoring \(PDM\) Report](#), positive results have consistently been observed. The results of the Jordan PDM exercise for the first half of 2018 demonstrate that cash assistance is improving lives by having a positive impact on beneficiaries' psychological well-being, food security, health and educational access, and financial stability. Cash assistance has also been seen to improve refugee families' housing situations, and is shown to reduce beneficiaries' reliance on negative coping strategies and debt accumulation to finance their basic needs. These effects can be concluded through basic comparative analysis between recipients that have been on cash assistance for less than one year and those that have been on cash assistance for more than one year. Specifically in relation to housing, some 84 per cent of beneficiaries use the cash to pay rent while 70 per cent of beneficiaries reported that they had not moved since receiving cash assistance, indicating a correlation between cash assistance and shelter stability.



The Impact of Cash: Cash assistance gives refugees the power of choice

Taking a bank card to a cash machine in Beirut, Syrian widow Manar Al Sayer taps in a PIN and withdraws a few Lebanese pounds. Cash in hand, she can now prioritize her monthly spending for herself and her three children, Aseel, six, Abdullah, nine, and Osaima 12. "I allocate this cash assistance so that my children can attend the morning shift at school," she explains. "I use [it] to pay for my children's school transport and I am very happy that I am now able to pay for something," she adds. Uprooted from her family home in Homs by shelling in 2012, Manar sought refuge in neighbouring Lebanon the following year. After her husband was killed in a traffic accident, she is now head of the family.

The 29-year-old is among millions of refugees and others of concern in scores of countries worldwide who have been able to take greater control of their lives since UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, began expanding cash-based assistance in 2016. The programme aims to help refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, internally displaced and stateless people meet their needs in dignity, are protected and can become more resilient. In the past two years it helped [10.5 million people in need in 94 countries](#), and UNHCR now provides more cash than in-kind aid. Most of the money is disbursed without restrictions, meaning that refugees themselves can choose how they spend it. This benefits the local economy as refugees buy essential goods in local stores and pay for local services. [Click here to read the full story.](#)

DONORS

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the cash assistance programme for the Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees with unearmarked and earmarked funds as well as those who have contributed directly to the operations.

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