

CRITICAL FUNDING NEEDS

IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

29 September 2022



Mauritanian fish merchant Welly Henballi watches Malian fishermen return with their catch on Lake Mahmouda. He buys smoked fish from Malian asylum-seekers which he transports by truck to Nara, a town in Mali on the border with Mauritania. Photo: © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

INTRODUCTION

Multiple compounded crisis have increased the challenges facing refugees and internally displaced populations across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The COVID-19 pandemic and its severe socioeconomic impact led to a significant increase in poverty and vulnerable populations' dependency on humanitarian assistance.

In parallel, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) MENA operations are currently facing severe funding gaps which are having immediate and devastating effects in countries which have been hosting large number of refugees for several years. Intercommunal tensions and negative rhetoric towards refugees are increasing due to competition for meagre available resources.

Faced with mounting economic, social and protection pressures, refugee men, women, girls and boy have increasingly resorted to harmful coping mechanisms, such as reducing the number of meals per day, accumulating debt and taking children out of school to send them to work. In an even more worrisome

development, UNHCR has noted an increase in sea departures from countries in the MENA region compared to previous years. In Lebanon, the number of people who have departed or attempted to depart by sea increased by 73% in 2022 when compared to the same period in 2021.

This reality is a direct result of the fact that UNHCR partners, including within the Refugee and Resilience Response Plan for the Syria Crisis, the 3RP, are facing reduced funding in 2022. UNHCR alone has to operate with approximately \$180 million less in available funds as compared to the same point last year, and thus needs to prioritize its activities to the most life-saving ones during the final quarter of 2022.

This document provides an overview of the most critical funding gaps in the region and the consequences for vulnerable populations if additional funds are not forthcoming. UNHCR's activities described here are part of the comprehensive needs presented in the [Global Appeal](#) and can be implemented by 2022 year-end if additional funds are to be recorded.



Total critical needs for MENA: **\$112 million**

Total winter needs for MENA: **\$247.5 million**

Country/Situation	Critical funding gap (US\$)	Overview of needs and # of impacted people of concern
Syria and Iraq situations winter programme	247,500,000	Cash assistance for winter needs in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria as well as winter items distributed inside Lebanon and Syria (3.4 million individuals)
Jordan	24,000,000	Healthcare (16,500 refugees); cash assistance for basic needs (30,000 Syrian refugee families and 3,000 refugee families of other nationalities outside of camps)
Lebanon	22,000,000	Cash assistance for basic needs (160,000 refugee families); healthcare (9,000 refugees)
Syria	21,500,000	Basic needs assistance (172,000 IDP and returnee families); rehabilitation of 2,500 damaged housing units
Yemen	15,000,000	Shelter and core relief items distribution (45,000 displaced families), cash assistance (7,200 refugees + 77,800 internally displaced families)
Iraq	11,200,000	Cash assistance for basic needs (6,500 Syrian refugee families); protection (4,000 refugees)
Egypt	7,600,000	Cash assistance (40,000 refugees and asylum-seekers), healthcare (12,000 refugees and asylum-seekers), support to gender-based violence survivors (1,000 refugee women and girls)
Algeria	4,000,000	Access to shelter, energy, water and sanitation (WASH) (1,005 refugee families in camps); cash assistance (1,500 refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas)
Morocco	3,400,000	Cash assistance (1,000 refugees), healthcare (2,500 refugees), and registration and refugee status determination (RSD) activities (9,700 refugees and asylum-seekers)
Mauritania	2,000,000	Shelter and camp coordination/ camp management activities (8,700 refugees from Mali), access to health services (96,000 refugees and asylum-seekers)
Tunisia	670,000	Shelter and cash assistance (800 refugees and asylum-seekers)
Israel	400,000	Protection and access to basic services (25,000 Ukrainian refugees)

SYRIA AND IRAQ SITUATIONS - WINTER PROGRAMME

 **Critical funding need: \$247.5 million**

UNHCR estimates that **3.4 million forcibly displaced people** in the MENA region are in need of critical assistance to help them prepare for and cope during the forthcoming winter. UNHCR requires \$250 million to provide life-saving winterization assistance for people in need before the onset of the harsh and challenging winter season. This programme is currently less than 1% funded, leaving almost the entire winter response unfunded in **Egypt** (\$10 million), **Iraq** (\$35.3 million), **Jordan** (\$46 million), **Lebanon** (\$87.9 million), and in **Syria** (\$68.2 million) including for cross-border activities from Türkiye to **north-west Syria**.

For more information on the country-level response, please see [UNHCR MENA's Regional Winterization Assistance Plan 2022-2023](#).

JORDAN

 **Critical funding need: \$24 million**

In Jordan, UNHCR cash assistance supports critical healthcare costs, as well as primary health care consultations and referrals to secondary or tertiary care. Without additional funding, over **16,500 refugee women, men and children** who are in need of urgent medical interventions and are facing life-threatening situations will not be able to obtain the treatment they need. Without the additional funds, **one in five refugees** needing cash assistance in Jordan will not receive it. As a result, there will be an increase in the already rising number of refugees resorting to harmful coping strategies, such as eating less, child labour and begging.

LEBANON

 **Critical funding need: \$22 million**

The deepening socio-economic crisis in Lebanon continues to have a devastating impact on already vulnerable refugees and Lebanese. Nine out of ten Syrian refugees are living in extreme poverty and the situation is not likely to improve in the coming year. Additional funding of \$15 million is needed for the critical survival of **160,000 refugee families** (800,000 individuals) during the last three months of this year. Furthermore, as part of the harmful coping mechanisms of refugees to prioritize their most basic needs, reduced spending on medicine and healthcare is now reported at their highest recorded rates. Without an additional \$7 million in funds, some **9,000 refugees** risk not receiving urgent hospital care for the remainder of 2022.



Lebanon. Syrian refugees and host community struggle economically. Photo: ©UNHCR/Nour Tarabay

SYRIA

💰 Critical funding need: **\$21.5 million**

The humanitarian needs in Syria remain staggering, with the ongoing crisis continuing to impact the protection and well-being of people in need. The economic situation is increasingly dire with some 90% of Syrians living below the poverty line. Underfunding to UNHCR's operation in Syria will result in **172,000 IDP and returnee households** (850,000 individuals) across different parts of the country not receiving full core-relief item (CRI) kits to address their immediate and basic needs. In addition, **2,500 damaged houses** are at risk of not being repaired if additional funding is not received by year-end. These minor repairs include installation of doors and windows and target the most vulnerable families to ensure basic conditions and safety.

YEMEN

💰 Critical funding need: **\$15 million**

The protracted nature of the displacement, coupled with socioeconomic deterioration, continues to impact the lives of millions of Yemenis and thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers, pushing them into a spiral of harmful coping mechanisms and fuelling protection risks. Underfunding would force the reduction of UNHCR core activities in Yemen, such as access to documentation, cash assistance, and provision of shelter and CRI. UNHCR needs funds to assist some **77,800 displaced Yemeni families** (467,000 individuals) and **7,200 refugees and asylum-seekers** with cash assistance for winter and basic needs, including 96,200 in an extremely vulnerable situation. Furthermore, lack of funds will prevent **45,000 IDP families** (270,000 individuals) from accessing adequate emergency shelter and benefitting from CRI support, such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps.



Yemen. Displaced family living in Harsh conditions, telling their story and how they benefited from UNHCR Cash Assistance. Photo: © UNHCR/Ahmed Al-Mayadeen

IRAQ

Critical funding need: **\$11.2 million**

Despite three years of relative stability and an ongoing transition from a humanitarian emergency response toward one rooted in recovery and development, refugees and IDPs in Iraq continue to have humanitarian needs. Without additional funding, **6,500 vulnerable Syrian refugee families** (23,500 individuals) will not receive cash assistance to meet their essential needs. This will increase vulnerabilities and drive people to resort to harmful coping mechanisms. Additionally, without financial resources, critical protection activities, such as child protection and for gender-based violence prevention, will be affected, thus exposing over 4,000 refugees to protection risks due to the reduction in the provision of specialized case management and psychosocial support.



Iraq. Woman shovels snow away from her tent to prevent water leaking into shelter at Essian IDP camp in Duhok. Photo: © UNHCR/Rasheed Hussein Rasheed

EGYPT

Critical funding need: **\$7.6 million**

In Egypt, underfunding risks reducing support to **60,700 refugees** in need of registration activities, protection counselling, psychosocial support, and cash assistance. UNHCR also requires funds to ensure gender-based violence prevention responses and housing assistance reach **1,000 refugees and asylum-seekers**, mainly women and girls. Additionally, the Office needs to secure funds to provide cash assistance to **11,200 refugee families** (approximately 40,000 individuals) during the last quarter of the year. Lack of funding would also reduce assistance to **8,000 refugees and asylum-seekers** living with chronic illnesses, and **4,000 patients** in need of referrals to secondary and tertiary health care.

ALGERIA

Critical funding need: **\$4 million**

Without sufficient funds, Algeria operation will be unable to provide new tents to **1,005 refugee families** in the camps, which would place them at risk due to frequent windstorms and flooding. To enhance access to water in the camps, UNHCR needs funds to construct three water reservoirs in Laayoune camp, as 70% of refugees continue to rely on water trucking. In urban areas of Algeria, UNHCR continues to note an increase in the number of arrivals of unaccompanied and separated children. Underfunding will put at risk the provision of cash assistance to support the temporary informal foster care arrangements for **300 refugees and asylum-seeking children** living in urban areas.

MOROCCO

💰 Critical funding need: **\$3.4 million**

Morocco continues to be impacted by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic with severe socio-economic hardship for both national and forcibly displaced persons in the country. Underfunding will negatively impact implementation of activities focusing on the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, including the provision of financial assistance to cover the cost of housing and food of **1,000 vulnerable refugee families**. Without additional funds, **2,500 refugees** risk not receiving critical medications and lifesaving specialized medical interventions, and **9,700 asylum-seekers** in need of registration and refugee status determination (RSD) risk not being assisted.

MAURITANIA

💰 Critical funding need: **\$2 million**

With support from donors, UNHCR has been able to reinforce cash assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Mbera camp and in urban areas, undertake biometric registration and update the registration database, identify and respond to people with urgent protection needs and optimise the existing water system in the camp. A strong engagement with development actors has enabled refugees to access national services such as healthcare and social protection. However, insufficient funds are limiting UNHCR's capacity to provide shelter and camp coordination camp management (CCCM) interventions to refugees in Mbera camp, impacted by an influx of more than **8,700 refugees** in 2022. UNHCR also needs funds to cover expenses related to healthcare for the camp-based and urban refugee population, which has today surpassed 96,000, during the longer-term transition to a full reliance on the national system.



TUNISIA

💰 Critical funding need: **\$670,000**

In 2022, UNHCR established two new temporary facilities in Raoued, Greater Tunis, to ensure safety and security for a group of **200 refugees and asylum-seekers** requesting 'evacuation' to a third country. The group is comprised of asylum-seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR, including vulnerable women and children as well as unaccompanied minors. Underfunding will limit UNHCR's ability to provide safe and dignified accommodation for this group, as well as legal support, exposing them to increasing protection risks such as trafficking, smuggling and possible onward movements along the Mediterranean Sea. UNHCR also requires funds to provide cash assistance to **800 refugees and asylum-seekers** in Tunisia. Lack of funding would risk placing displaced families and individuals further into poverty and having them resort to harmful coping mechanisms including reducing meals and selling possessions.



Tunisia. Zemzem is from Ethiopia, she was rescued at sea with her two young children Yosra and Mohamed while she was trying to cross the sea to flee abuses in Libya. Now, she is staying in the governorate of Medenine, Tunisia. Photo: © UNHCR/Hallouli Mohamed Ameer

ISRAEL

💰 Critical funding need: **\$400,000**

Since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine, some **25,000 Ukrainians** who arrived in Israel are struggling to cope due to their unpredictable legal status, limited socioeconomic rights and intermittent access to public services such as health care. UNHCR needs funds to address these gaps while advocating for rights and provision of civil documentation for Ukrainians. Specifically, there is a need to provide food vouchers for those who are unable to work due to caring responsibilities for children and elderly, as well as funding for youth and children's afterschool and community-based activities. Finally, UNHCR aims at increasing the capacity of partners to set up reception services for protection and legal counselling for Ukrainians.

For more information, please contact the UNHCR MENA Regional Office in Amman (Jordan) at: MENAreporting@unhcr.org