

# Regional Strategic Overview 2023



**3RP**  
REGIONAL REFUGEE  
& RESILIENCE PLAN



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# Foreword

**It's been twelve months since we wrote our last foreword to the 3RP. Twelve more months added to the protracted situation of the over 6.8 million Syrian refugees hosted in the sub-region and 6.1 million affected host community members. Twelve more months in which new crises and shocks are putting solutions further out of reach for Syrian refugees and making life harder for their host communities.**

The socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, fewer livelihoods and economic opportunities, high inflation, currency devaluation, high unemployment and increased social tensions in some countries, climate change, the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine including on food and fuel prices and dwindling levels of aid financing are all adding to a grim outlook across the region.

Assessments continue to show clearly how far conditions have deteriorated in recent years. For example, in Lebanon, 750,000 Syrian refugees or close to 90 per cent of the refugee population could not meet their basic survival needs in 2021, an increase from 55 per cent since 2019, with all communities across the country impacted by the unprecedented economic crisis. In Jordan, around 430,000 refugees or 65 per cent of the refugee population were forced into debt in 2021 with debt equally rising among vulnerable host communities, while in Türkiye more than 3.2 million Syrian refugees or 90 per cent have been unable to cover their monthly expenses and basic needs in 2022. The limited capacity or lack of access to social safety nets in some 3RP countries has resulted in more families falling below the poverty line and having to resort to harmful coping strategies including meal reduction, and child labour and marriage.

Now twelve years into the crisis, and with no political solution in Syria on the horizon, it is vital to carefully consider where we go from here in our collective response. An independent evaluation of the 3RP since its inception in 2015 was released in mid-2022, confirming the added value of this unique model of strategic coordination, planning, advocacy, fundraising and programming. To ensure more effective engagement

of partners and supporters at all levels in the 3RP, we are clarifying the conceptual framework and operational model of the platform, sharpening our focus on work that will build resilience for all, promote social inclusion, and achieve clear results advancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN). We will redouble our efforts in pursuit of the four strategic directions that guide our overall approach: protecting people, supporting durable solutions, contributing to dignified lives, and enhancing local and national capacities.

We are reinvigorating the linkages between the 3RP and broader processes such as the upcoming 2023 Global Refugee Forum – a reminder that the 3RP's innovative humanitarian-development approach was itself an inspiration for the Global Compact on Refugees. At the same time, we are reinforcing our commitment from the regional level to support the nationally led country response plans which, through a coordinated approach at all levels, are delivering tangible support to refugees and host communities on the ground. In 2022 for example, 3RP partners supported 5.7 million people with protection services, reached over 3.5 million people with food and unconditional cash assistance, and trained over 235,000 staff of national public institutions including front line workers.

3RP partners will continue with our strong investments in supporting national systems while also seeking to directly reach 6.8 million Syrian refugees and 6.1 million affected host community members with assistance in 2023.

While the number of people we are targeting have greater needs and vulnerabilities than ever, funding to the 3RP has been falling in recent years. In 2022, we are likely to record the lowest level of funding since 2015.

Twelve years into this crisis, we invite our donors and supporters to join the 3RP partners in recommitting to doing all we can to build resilience and to advance durable solutions for refugees and host communities, and to strengthen and promote inclusion in the services on which they depend for dignified lives.



**Dr. Khalida Bouzar**

*Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director for Arab States, UNDP*



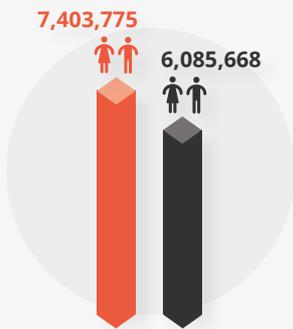
**Ayman Gharaibeh**

*Director, Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa, UNHCR*

# 2023 Response

## Population Targeted

**Total**  
**13,489,443**



Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 6,848,185 Syrians)

Host community members

**EGYPT**  
**159,199**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 159,199 Syrians)

**41,560**  
Host community members

**LEBANON**  
**1,699,720**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 1,489,500 Syrians)

**1,500,000**  
Host community members

**IRAQ**  
**317,400**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 277,000 Syrians)

**416,488**  
Host community members

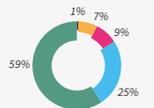
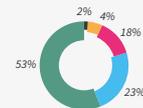
**TÜRKIYE**  
**3,927,456**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 3,622,486 Syrians)

**3,607,620**  
Host community members

**JORDAN**  
**1,300,000**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 1,300,000 Syrians)

**520,000**  
Host community members

### Population Targeted per Country



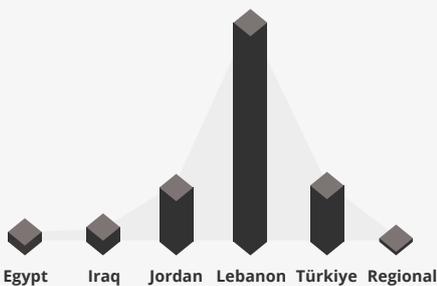
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons

Host community members

## Financial Requirements

**Total**  
**USD 5,773,414,431**

### Financial Requirements per Country



**EGYPT**  
USD 154,624,641 required

**LEBANON**  
USD 3,595,290,689 required

**IRAQ**  
USD 211,313,017 required

**TÜRKIYE**  
USD 896,603,187 required

**JORDAN**  
USD 885,182,791 required

**REGIONAL**  
USD 30,400,105 required

Note: The figures may change subject to further updates from countries.

# Regional Needs, Vulnerabilities and Risks

The protracted nature of the Syria crisis has led to increased needs and deepening vulnerabilities among refugees, many of whom are now past their twelfth year of displacement. It also results in the continued need for host countries to keep providing access to public services and infrastructure, including housing, education, healthcare, waste management, water and sanitation, with associated decisions over resourcing and service delivery for displaced populations. At the same time, socio-economic conditions have been further impacted by multiple compounding crises: the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, climate change, and political and economic challenges in some of the refugee-hosting countries leading to social tensions with the refugee community. The following section provides an overview of these key trends and how they shape the needs and vulnerabilities of refugees and host communities across the region.

## Protracted displacement with growing vulnerabilities

The Syria crisis will enter its twelfth year in 2023. It continues to be one of the largest refugee crises in the world, with over 6.8 million Syrians<sup>1</sup> in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt - the five countries covered by the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). While most Syrian refugees hope to return home one day, according to UNHCR's [Return Perception and Intention Survey](#), the majority do not plan to do so in the near future. During 2022, the number of refugees in host countries remained relatively stable, without major influxes, onward movements or large-scale returns. Between January and November 2022, UNHCR verified the return of some 47,623 Syrian refugees from 3RP countries to Syria. This figure is slightly higher than in 2020 and 2021, but well below the number seen prior to the pandemic. Intention data suggests that the number of refugees returning to Syria is likely to remain at similar levels, with only 1.7 per cent of Syrian refugees at the beginning of 2022 (compared to 2.4 per cent in 2021) intending to repatriate within the next twelve months. In terms of third-country resettlement, although the numbers of submissions and departures are slightly higher than last year, they remain relatively low, with just over 21,000 departures by the end of November 2022.



Photo by UNHCR / Jordi Matas



### Growing Vulnerabilities

#### Jordan

*Fajer (48) and her family fled to Jordan in 2012. Her husband passed away in 2017, leaving her alone with her son Nour (9) who suffers from heart issues. They depend on monthly cash assistance to pay their daily expenses and rent.*

In this context of protracted displacement and limited opportunities for durable solutions, the COVID-19 crisis has further aggravated pre-existing structural challenges and vulnerabilities in all 3RP countries. The overstretched resources<sup>2</sup> and capacity of social safety nets in some 3RP countries as well as limited accessibility to refugees have resulted in refugee families resorting to harmful coping strategies such as meal reduction, child labour and child marriage. It also has had a particular impact on those people with needs and vulnerabilities related to legal status, gender, age and disability. For instance, the vast majority of Syrian refugee women are not in income-generating activities and more women are seeking employment opportunities as they struggle to make ends meet. However, this is counteracted by the fact that there are few job opportunities available which tend to be temporary, precarious, and inconsistent.<sup>3</sup> While strengthening social cohesion is an essential part of the response, political rhetoric combined with the protracted nature of the Syria crisis and the difficult socio-economic context has made mitigating tensions between communities increasingly challenging in most 3RP countries.

The worsening situation for Syrian refugees has been highlighted by needs assessments conducted in the 3RP countries. For instance, according to the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon,<sup>7</sup> most households cannot meet their basic needs without assistance, 58 per cent of Syrian refugee families live in inadequate and unsafe shelters, and 67 per cent are moderately or severely food insecure. Moreover, 90 per cent of Syrian refugee households were still below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) compared to 55 per cent in 2019. This is despite the support provided by 3RP partners in Lebanon, where humanitarian assistance remains the main source of income for Syrian refugees and where many are unemployed or not adequately compensated for their work. Meanwhile, in Jordan, findings of the Food Security Outcome Monitoring for the second quarter of 2022 showed that 77 per cent of refugees living in host communities are food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Forty-nine per cent of households were below the abject poverty line which would have significantly increased to 77 per cent without assistance.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, nine out of 10 refugee women had struggled to meet their household's basic needs.<sup>9</sup> In Türkiye, according to the latest Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment, 90 per cent of refugees cannot fully cover their monthly expenses or basic needs, while 94 per cent have adopted a survival strategy by reducing food consumption and borrowing money.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, a joint assessment<sup>11</sup> by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Turkish Red Crescent, demonstrated that less than half of the refugees have acceptable food consumption scores and are adopting livelihoods coping behaviours to meet their basic needs - buying food on credit (72 per cent) and borrowing money from non-relatives to meet basic needs (48 per cent). In Egypt, 46 per cent of the Syrian population is estimated to be living under the national poverty line in 2022 with 28.5 per cent scored poor or borderline food consumption. In Iraq, 86 per cent of refugees living in camps remain food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity.<sup>12</sup>

60% of people in Arab states **do not** have access to social protection<sup>4</sup> (against 53% globally).<sup>5</sup>



Arab states<sup>6</sup> spend 4.6% of their gross domestic product (GDP) on social protection (excluding health), against 12.9% globally and 16.4% amongst the high-income countries.

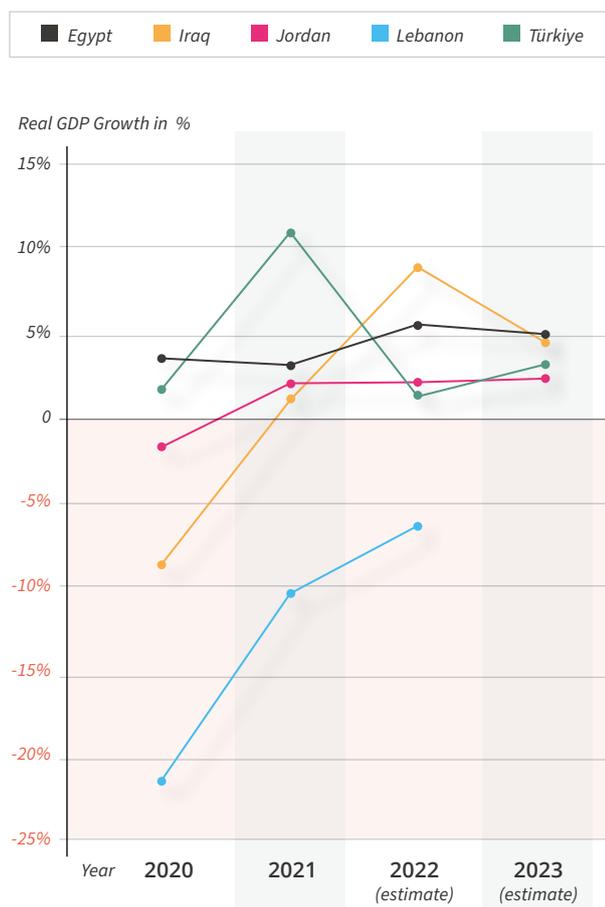


Twelve years into the Syria crisis, the needs are higher than ever, with over 7.4 million refugees<sup>13</sup> including 6.8 million Syrian refugees and 8.4 million impacted host community members in need of support going into 2023 – the highest number of people in need since the crisis began. These needs highlight starkly the importance of continued and predictable funding for the 3RP response to ensure the safety and dignity of refugees and affected host community members.

# Socio-economic dynamics on national, sub-national and local levels

In 2022, two years since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the reopening of economies, businesses, global and regional trade gradually led to a slight economic recovery among the 3RP countries, with the exception of Lebanon. However, the brief period of economic growth in 2022 is projected to slow down in 2023 as both direct and indirect impacts of the war in Ukraine, including rising energy and commodity prices, create economic headwinds for the 3RP countries.

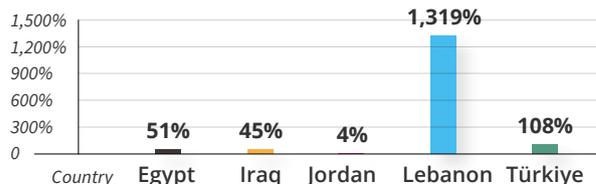
## Overview: Real GDP Growth



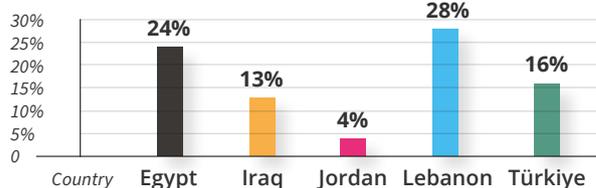
Throughout 2022, all 3RP countries experienced an increase in the price of basic food supplies. Additionally, disrupted supply chains and high energy costs as well as climate change, noticeable through record-high temperatures and severe droughts, are taking a heavy toll on agricultural production, making 3RP countries more reliant on imports.

## Increase in the Food Basket

### December 2019 to June 2022



### January 2022 to June 2022



This is having a particularly strong and lasting impact on forcibly displaced people, informal workers, women, people with disabilities, youth and children, who are faced with high unemployment and poverty rates. The deteriorating economic situation reduces the purchasing power of vulnerable households, which encounter challenges in accessing food, health care, and other basic needs.

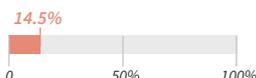
Moreover, refugee children, particularly girls and those out of school, are highly vulnerable to numerous protection risks, including psychosocial distress, exploitation and gender-based violence. The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to disrupt access to routine immunization and formal education, while increased food insecurity and poverty are resulting in an overall decline in children's wellbeing. Children and youth with disabilities are also acutely marginalized because access to services remain out of reach.

The war in Ukraine is also shifting donors, as well as humanitarian actors' priorities away from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region,<sup>14</sup> leading to a reduction of assistance from the international community, and exacerbating needs among refugees and their vulnerable host communities, which is threatening earlier achievements made on all fronts.

## Lebanon



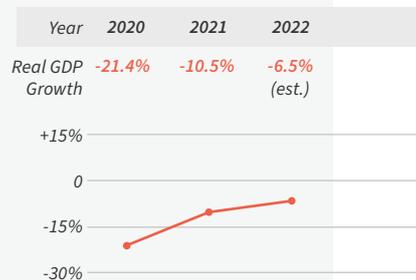
### Unemployment Rate in Lebanon in 2021\*



Lebanon has been facing a multifaceted political and economic crisis since 2019. As a result, the Lebanese pound has lost more than 95 per cent of its value, reducing peoples' purchasing power.<sup>15</sup> Combined with diminishing income levels and high inflation, this has devastated livelihoods<sup>16</sup> and has led to high levels of poverty and food insecurity amongst all populations in Lebanon. Based on the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC)<sup>17</sup> January – April 2023 projection, 38 per cent of Lebanese and 53 per cent of Syrian refugees are expected to face high acute food insecurity levels (IPC Phase 3 and above). The Food Price Index rose by nearly 4,696 per cent from October 2019 to June 2022,<sup>18</sup> which was aggravated by Lebanon's previous reliance on Ukraine and Russia for wheat and oil imports.<sup>19</sup> An exodus of Lebanese professionals such as those engaged in healthcare and state employees in search of more sustainable livelihood opportunities undermines the professional capacities required to support the recovery of the country. As people are driven to harmful coping mechanisms, UNHCR recorded a threefold increase in known attempts to undertake dangerous sea-crossings compared to 2021, sometimes with tragic results.<sup>20</sup> The recent cholera outbreak in Lebanon<sup>21</sup> highlights the state of critical infrastructure and services, such as water and wastewater treatment, on the brink of collapse without immediate support and longer-term solutions. The economic situation has further strained inter-communal relations, with rising anti-refugee rhetoric witnessed in 2022.



### Real GDP Growth



Source: World Bank (2022): Lebanon's Economic Update

## Iraq



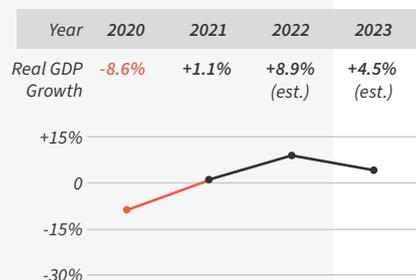
### Unemployment Rate in Iraq in 2021\*



In 2021, the decreasing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic allowed Iraq to experience an economic growth of 1.1 per cent, rooted in sectors like transport, accommodation, and retail, representing an increase of 9.7 per cent compared to 2020.<sup>29</sup> Due to reinvigorated oil markets, the country's medium-term economic outlook is positive, characterized by a real GDP growth of 8.9 per cent.<sup>30</sup> While rising oil prices are contributing to the growth of Iraq's fiscal balance, increasing food prices and restricted agriculture imports are exacerbating the prevailing poverty and food shortages. The national labour participation rate remains one of the lowest in the world (39.5 per cent) and is particularly low among women (10.6 per cent) and youth (26.5 per cent). Additionally, risks posed by climate change and water scarcity remain of concern.



### Real GDP Growth



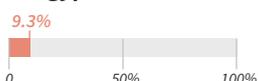
Source: World Bank (2022): Iraq's Economic Update

\* Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)  
Source: International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database. Data as of June 2022

## Egypt

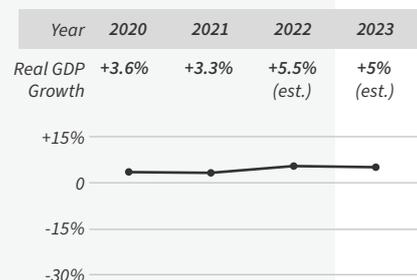


### Unemployment Rate in Egypt in 2021\*



Egypt's recent economic growth of 9 per cent in 2021/2022 thanks to the re-opening of export-oriented sectors, is projected to decrease in 2022/2023.<sup>22</sup> The reasons for this are partly found in the aftermath of the pandemic. Moreover, as Egypt is one of the largest importers of wheat, the war disrupted imports of wheat and cereal from Ukraine and Russia and led to an increase in poverty among refugees and host communities. Climate change, characterized by fluctuations of the Nile River water volume, the rising sea level, flooding, extreme temperatures, pollution and desertification will have a devastating impact on the country's most vulnerable, increasing the number of people living below the national poverty line of USD 4 a day by more than 9 million in 2030.<sup>23</sup>

### Real GDP Growth



## Jordan

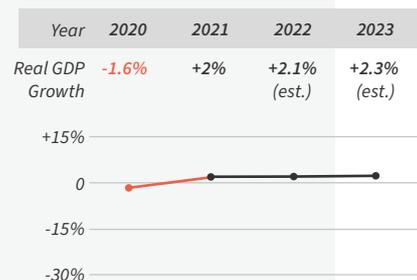


### Unemployment Rate in Jordan in 2021\*



In Jordan, the unemployment rate has fallen slightly from 25.0 in Q1-2021 to 23.2 per cent in Q3-2021 and economic growth is expected to reach 2.1 per cent in 2022.<sup>24</sup> However, unemployment in Jordan is still by far the highest among the 3RP countries, with women (30.8 per cent)<sup>25</sup>, young people (an estimate of 50 per cent)<sup>26</sup> and refugees most affected.

### Real GDP Growth



## Türkiye



### Unemployment Rate in Türkiye in 2021\*



In 2021, Türkiye's economic growth rate amounted to 11 per cent<sup>27</sup> due to increased exports resulting from the resumption of global trade and an acceleration in domestic private consumption as COVID-19 measures were relaxed. However, this growth is expected to slow down to 4.7 per cent in 2022 due to increased commodity prices (especially food and energy) resulting from the war in Ukraine, coupled with inflation (as high as 80.2 per cent as of August 2022) and the depreciation of the Turkish lira (USD 1 equals TRY 17.99, as of August 2022).<sup>28</sup> The poverty rate in Türkiye is projected to remain above pre-2019 levels due to persistently high inflation which predominantly affects the poor. There are also concerns about an increase in tensions between refugees and host communities linked to economic challenges and elections in 2023.

### Real GDP Growth



\* Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)

Source: International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database. Data as of June 2022

## Key cross-cutting challenges

### Fragility and Conflict

Some of the 3RP countries continue to face inequality, political instability and an increase in incidents of violence linked to community tension fuelled by, among other factors, economic decline, increased poverty levels, and governance challenges, including insufficient access to or quality of service delivery, and lack of transparency and accountability. The protracted Syria crisis is not only impacting each country individually, but also has regional implications with spill over effects. In Jordan and in Lebanon, where infrastructure and public services were already fragile, the Syria crisis has impacted the country's development efforts and undermined socio-economic conditions for growth.

### Policy and regulatory frameworks

Host governments have generously hosted Syrian refugees, among other vulnerable populations, for over a decade. Refugees face different legal statuses and circumstances depending on the country they are seeking refuge in, including as it relates to access to services, documentation and livelihoods. For example, access to the labour market differs for Syrian refugees across the 3RP countries. Going forward, inclusive policies and regulatory frameworks, including those linked to legal status and access to civil documentation, would strengthen refugees' self-reliance, incentivize refugees and create pathways for them to contribute to the economy, financial and social protection systems that strengthen their host communities and countries in a meaningful way. See the Durable Solutions annex for a more detailed analysis on how policy frameworks relate to solutions.



Photo UNICEF / Emad

### Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

The 3RP countries lie in a subregion which has always been prone to water scarcity, a severe problem that affects the health and sanitation of people as well as inhibits crop growth, which results in economic decline especially for those engaged in the agricultural sector.<sup>31</sup> In addition to the impact on water and livelihoods opportunities in the short term, climate change impacts mobility, health, energy and food security in the mid- to long-term. The rapid population growth in the region,<sup>32</sup> especially in Iraq and Jordan with younger population profiles, is a key factor that further contributes to overstressing the limited existing water, waste and energy services. Furthermore, climate change coupled with environmental degradation, partly attributed to lack of good governance and years of conflict in some countries, has hugely impacted available natural resources across the region. In 2023 and beyond, climate change and environmental degradation will continue to be among the prominent drivers for increased needs and vulnerabilities of refugees and host communities.

### Financing for solutions

Over the coming period, support to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable populations will be needed alongside investment in longer-term positive outcomes. Overseas Development Assistance remains the primary albeit increasingly constrained source of financing to address the impact of the Syria crisis on refugee hosting countries.<sup>33</sup> Across the 3RP countries, challenges around financing to alleviate the impact of the Syria crisis include the operational difficulties for Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) programming, multiple funding flows outside of the 3RP including by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and bilateral development assistance,<sup>34</sup> and the restrictive regulatory policy frameworks.

#### *Egypt:*

*Children are at risk of climate change related hazards in the Middle East and North Africa: Egypt scores highest in the region in children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks. [Read more](#)* 

## Gender

The MENA region has the second-largest gender gap worldwide in the areas of economic and political participation and access to education and health services.<sup>35</sup> Alongside social norms and gender stereotypes that create significant barriers for women and girls, displacement status adds disproportionately higher legal and cultural barriers for refugee women and girls. Legal and regulatory restrictions on residency and work permits, as well as language barriers (in the case of Türkiye), often lead refugee women to work in informal sectors, which are normally unprotected settings with a high risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and exploitative labour practices.<sup>36</sup> Lack of protection mechanisms in workplaces, restrictive social norms, onerous household responsibilities, and limited availability of safe transportation can inhibit women's ability to move freely and therefore negatively influence their decision to work. Furthermore, limited employment opportunities for refugees, and particularly for women, often contributes to refugee households adopting harmful coping mechanisms to address household economic challenges related to child marriage and child labour, as well as women engaging in jobs that place them at increased risks of exploitation and abuse.



In Lebanon, **only 17% of registered Syrian refugee women & men** have legal residency, contributing to compounded exploitation and abuse from authorities, employers, and local communities.<sup>37</sup>



In Lebanon, **24% of Syrian refugee women** reported that **one or more of their children were working in some capacity<sup>38</sup>, and child labour and child marriage** being one of the most commonly reported harmful coping mechanisms in response to economic challenges.<sup>39</sup>

## Palestine refugees' needs and vulnerabilities

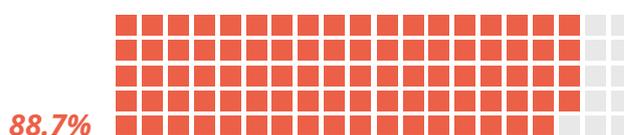
Twelve years into the Syria crisis, Palestine refugees in Lebanon and Jordan continue to face increasing humanitarian and protection needs. The consequences of protracted displacement are aggravated by worsening socio-economic conditions, pushing this already vulnerable population further into poverty and despair.

Lebanon's deepening socio-economic crisis has undermined Palestine refugees' ability to cover their most basic food and health needs. Regular food price monitoring surveys conducted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) revealed that between October 2019 and July 2022, the average cost of a food basket in the Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon rose from LBP 130,441 per month to LBP 860,000 per month, an increase of approximately 560 per cent.<sup>40</sup> The cost of food basket staples increased exponentially in this period, with a packet of bread rising from LBP 1,500 in October 2019 to LBP 16,000 in October 2022 – a 966 per cent increase. Palestine refugees including those displaced from Syria are increasingly adopting negative coping mechanisms to survive. An UNRWA crisis monitoring survey conducted in March 2022 found that

89 per cent of Palestine refugee families had to purchase leftovers from the market and 68 per cent of them have reduced the number of meals they consume in the face of high food costs.<sup>41</sup> UNRWA Protection Monitoring focal points report that children in some areas are now arriving at school on an empty stomach and without food for their lunches.

In Jordan, Palestine refugees, including those from Syria (PRS), are highly vulnerable due to the protracted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, high unemployment rates and the general increase in prices and fuel costs. PRS without Jordanian documents are particularly vulnerable, facing additional protection concerns and are unable to work. According to the Youth Online Survey carried out by UNRWA in May 2022, 88.7 per cent of PRS youth (aged 15–24) were unemployed.<sup>42</sup>

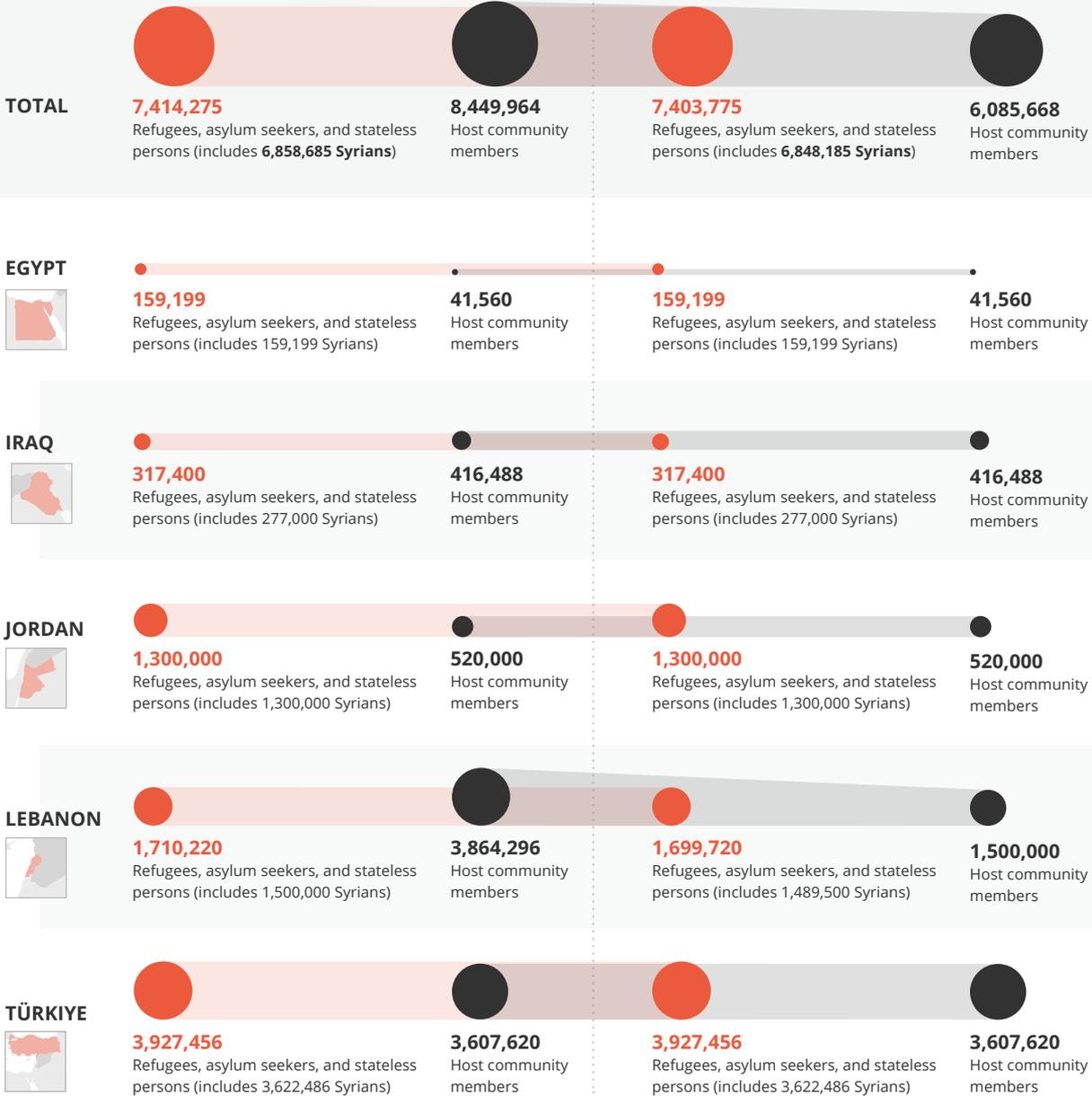
### Jordan: Unemployment amongst PRS youth (aged 15–24)



# Population

## People in Need

## Population Targeted



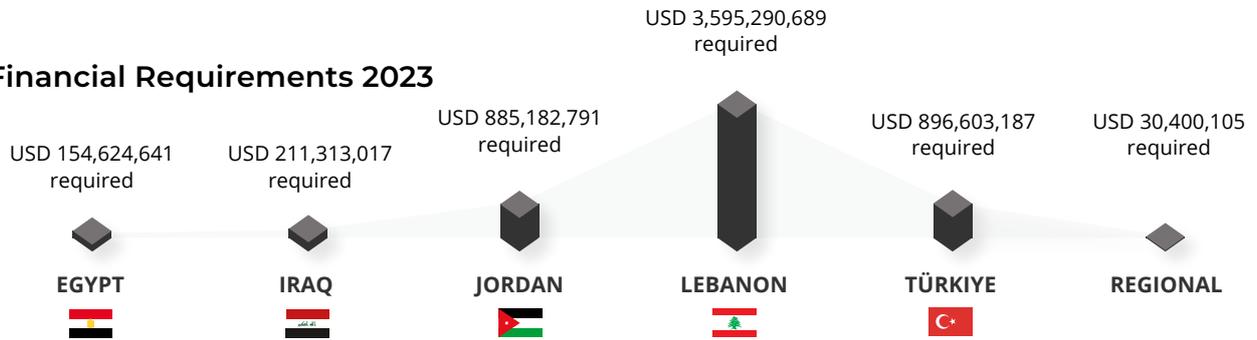
## Targeted Refugee Population



\* Regional Estimation, based on available data. Data Source: [UNHCR data portal](#), as of 1 Dec 2022

# Funding

## Financial Requirements 2023



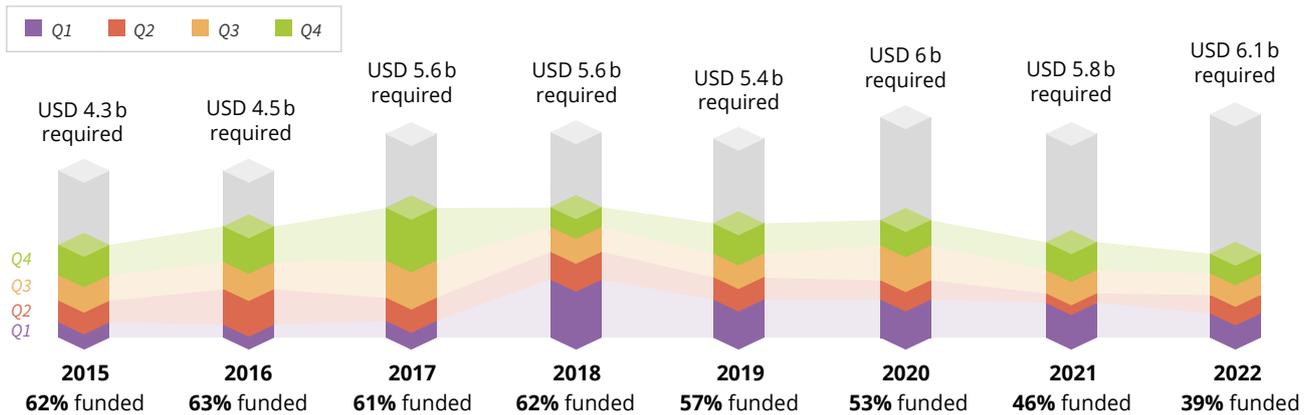
Estimated Total Requirements 2023

**USD 5,773,414,431**

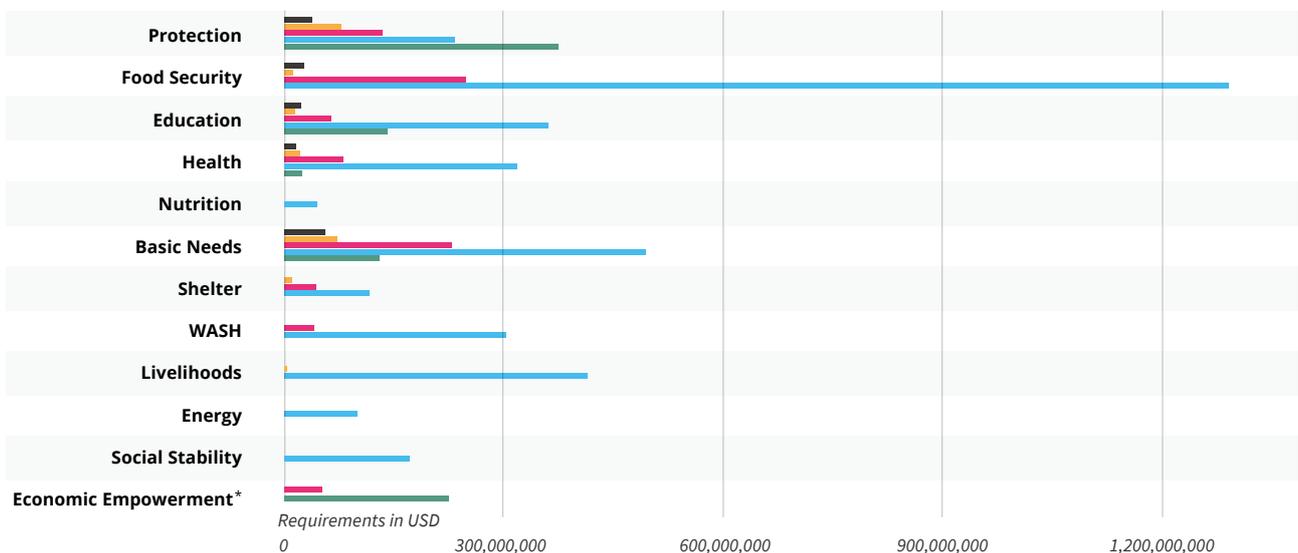
*Note: The figures may change subject to further updates from countries.*

## 3RP Funding Trend over the Years

[Read more](#)



## 3RP Sector Requirements 2023



*Note: This does not include regional funding requirements and some other country-level requirements which have not yet been allocated to a sector.*

\* Economic Empowerment is a new sector in Türkiye and Jordan.

# Guiding principles and approaches

## Accountability to Affected Populations

Amid increased economic deterioration and instability in the MENA region, participation and accountability to affected populations (AAP) stands up as a crucial element in the Syria 3RP to enable equal and inclusive access to information and services, effective engagement to inform the interventions throughout the programming cycle, timely response to feedback and complaints, and prevention of fraud and misconduct.

In 2022, 3RP partners strengthened accountability mechanisms and increased participation of refugees and host communities. Digital and face-to-face tools were used to engage populations of different ages, genders, and backgrounds, receive their feedback and complaints, and provide timely responses. According to RAIS data,<sup>43</sup> 1.8 million calls were responded to through centralized helplines, of which 314,515 were feedback and complaints. Other top issues of concern included registration, cash-based interventions, durable solutions, protection, and health. Due to budget reductions, maintenance of mechanisms that facilitate participation, timely information sharing, and feedback and complaints may not be possible, which would hamper the ability of partners to identify needs and implement targeted interventions adequately responding to needs. Strengthening of the collaboration and knowledge exchange initiated amongst the 3RP partners in 2022 will promote the active commitment to AAP and standardize rights-based and participatory approaches across all interventions.



Photo by UNHCR / Shaza Shekfeh

**Iraq:** Abd Al-Hakeem is a community worker and one of the Syrian refugees living in Kawergosk camp. He studied Social Sciences in his home town Qamishli, Syria. Today, he is a Community Outreach Volunteer and supports his community through the provision of information and awareness-raising activities.

### Calls through centralized helplines in 2022

**1.8 million**

calls were responded through centralized helplines



Other top priority issues included **registration, cash-based interventions, durable solutions, protection, & health**

**314,515** feedback & complaints

## Prevention of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) of persons in need by humanitarian workers who are meant to assist and protect them remains a risk. Although SEA can happen at any time, the risk increases during crises, when there is a scale-up in humanitarian interventions and in situations where essential needs of those most at-risk in communities are not adequately met. Women and children are particularly at risk. It is thus critical to enhance measures aimed at providing protection from and responses to SEA across sectors, which include recruiting staff responsibly, including through systematic vetting and reference checking; providing Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training for staff; raising awareness among and engaging with the community; strengthening complaint and feedback mechanisms in consultation with all segments of the community; ensuring provision of victim-centred assistance through safe referrals to GBV response services; building the capacity of 3RP partners to conduct investigations; and reinforcing the PSEA Focal Points Network and boosting coordination mechanisms.

## Leaving no one behind

Leaving no one behind is a central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that undermine the potential of all individuals. For the 3RP, the principle of leaving no-one behind provides a rights-based approach that is centred on empowerment, inclusion, equity, participation and human development. The principle is at the core of the 3RP response and for its partners in all steps and phases of planning, programming and advocacy. The principle of leaving no-one behind not only entails reaching the most vulnerable populations, but also addressing the intersecting inequalities that hinder affected displaced and host communities' access to services, resources and equal opportunities.



Photo by Takaful Al Sham (TAS)



### Women's Rights in Turkish Law

Türkiye

*Takaful Al Sham (TAS) organizes this session with the aim to raise awareness amongst refugees, specifically about the topics of women's rights, GBV, inheritance, marital relationships, and labour rights of women under the Turkish Law.*

*The session emphasizes that the Turkish Law encourages women to work, guarantees their rights, education is a right for both girls and boys, as well as informs women how to obtain their rights after marriage and during divorce. Additionally, information is provided on how to identify threats and how to complain in cases of domestic violence. The session is concluded with Q&As and advice from the lawyer.*



Photo by Tdh / Ahmad Farhat



### "Children and Young People under Migration" and "Access to Justice"

Lebanon

*Terre des hommes (Tdh) in Lebanon implements its activities under two programs, "Children and Young People under Migration" and "Access to Justice" for Children and Young People."*

*Within the Qudra 2 program, Tdh implements activities for children from different age groups including on mental health and psychosocial support services. The project aims to improve the overall wellbeing of children and families we serve and for them to live a life with dignity.*

## Resilience for all

Resilience-building refers to strengthening the ability of individuals, households, communities, and societies to withstand shocks and stresses, recover from such stresses, and work with national and local government institutions to achieve transformational change for sustainability of human development in the face of future shocks.<sup>44</sup> In crisis contexts, resilience-building can be seen as a pathway towards strengthening development and advancing locally and nationally owned adaptive solutions and capacities. The concept of “resilience for all” was introduced in 2020 to describe an approach of helping both refugees and host communities to be self-reliant and included, where possible, in local and national systems and plans, including the national social systems.

Resilience programming in the 3RP therefore aims at strengthening resilience of individuals to become more self-reliant, for example through income generating activities, and of local and national systems to ensure equitable access to basic services to all. Enabling refugees to contribute to social insurance can lead to a greater sustainability of such basic services that are also supported by donor efforts. Thus, while the international community has a role to play, refugees can also contribute to the country they work and earn an income in, recognising that national systems are overstretched and challenged. For this purpose, 3RP partners have been working with public institutions at different levels by providing direct support (financial and capacities) as well as indirect support. Resilience building programming also supports beneficiaries through livelihood projects, including language and skills training, internships/on-the-job-training, job placements, and support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives. The initiatives also include work on regulatory areas, such as legalizing refugees’ working status.

All 3RP partners are committed to smart and risk-informed programming that facilitates coherence across the HDPN by building on the respective comparative advantages of each organization to achieve common outcomes that enhance self-reliance of refugees and contribute to resilience of host communities. The programmes delivered as part of the 3RP will to the greatest extent possible be context-specific, multi-level and multi-sectoral, system based, combining immediate relief with long-term outcomes.

## Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus

The vision of the HDPN in the 3RP is based on the OECD definition as: “the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace actions” with the aim of “strengthening collaboration, coherence and complementarity” and “to reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities and address root causes of conflict.” The 3RP acknowledges that “humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and peacebuilding are not serial processes: they are all needed at the same time in order to reduce needs, risk and vulnerability,” such as protection risks, poverty and deprivation, lack of social cohesion or challenges in accessing quality basic services.

The 3RP furthers the conceptualization and application of several successful approaches, including local development approaches, conflict sensitive programming, the “Resilience for All” Approach, the “One Refugee Approach,” and the concept of “Leaving No-one Behind.” These have helped to advance the HDPN by ensuring that actors across the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding fields address forced displacement and foster opportunities for longer-term solutions. For example, national governments and local institutions, civil society and the private sector have come together to address complex issues such as economic growth and access to decent work and sustainable employment, access to education and healthcare as well as social protection.

Furthermore, maintaining social cohesion and stability has always been a priority for the 3RP given the millions of Syrian refugees living in host communities across the region for years. The 3RP aims to mainstream social cohesion across the response including the mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity and the do-no-harm approach. This entails providing data and analysis on social cohesion and tension monitoring so that



*In Iraq, a project was implemented in Erbil to strengthen capacity of municipalities in areas inclusive of refugee camps and host communities.*

*Extensive collaboration with 3RP partners on area-based programming is done to gradually integrate refugees camps in the local service delivery.<sup>45</sup>*



operational 3RP partners share the same understanding of social tensions trends and causes, and how their interventions impact them. 3RP partners conceptualize social cohesion as a key aspect of peacebuilding and have therefore established strong and functional links with peace actors outside of the 3RP platform (UNIFIL and UNSCOL in Lebanon for example), development partners (IFIs), and key humanitarian stakeholders (Red Cross and Red Crescent movement). The maintenance of social cohesion is also conceived as a key condition whereby steps toward the achievement of durable solutions can begin to be taken by refugees.

Going forward, priorities include strengthening the HDPN across the 3RP, strengthening the evidence base that informs joint decisions, expanding the network of actors who engage in the 3RP, expanding government ownership, promoting the sustainability agenda, and finding further synergies between planning and coordination structures.



A recent assessment<sup>46</sup> on social cohesion in Jordan recommended to empower and create opportunities for refugees to enable them to explain their perspectives on social cohesion,

as well as the importance of securing their full rights, including an identity and access to work, education, healthcare, and sufficient earnings to secure shelter and a place to raise their family.



Photo by UNHCR / Farah Al Sadi



## Syrian refugee and Jordanian start hydroponic farming business

Jordan

Fatima (Syrian Refugee; left) and Saja (Jordanian; right) are neighbors living in Sabha, Mafraq who started a hydroponic farming business through support from UNHCR.

Saja and her family owned a small piece of land in front of their house and based on Fatima's families experience of agriculture back in Syria, they joined forces. After receiving 2,670 JOD to equip their greenhouse with hydroponic technology, they now grow fruit and vegetables which they sell at the local market.



Photo by UNICEF



## Youth training and paid employment opportunities

Lebanon

UNICEF's Cash for Work programmes help address basic needs and prevent negative coping mechanisms.

"I've learned useful skills over the past six weeks", he adds, citing his new knowledge regarding concrete and steel works, piping, and mechanical engineering". On top of the practical knowledge gained, Maher learned social skills and acquired knowledge about the lives of others in his community, particularly the refugee population.

"At the beginning of the project, the Lebanese stayed in one group, the Syrians in another", he recalls. "Gradually though, we came together and worked as one. We soon realized there's more to bond us together than keep us apart".



Photo by SPARK



## Tough but bright journey

Türkiye

Amer's journey was full of challenges.

"When I arrived in Turkey, I made many job applications, but unfortunately, I couldn't get a job," he says. "Then I focused more on starting my own business."

While pitching his idea at Startup Roadshow-Wired, a startup competition run by SPARK and Jusoor, Amir Alkadri captivated the audience with his positive energy and enthusiasm. Today, Amir is the founder of his own successful start-up named USTA OL.

# Strategic Directions

## Protecting People

### Strengthening of GBV Prevention and Response through Access to Specialized Services; Mainstreaming of GBV Risk Mitigation across Sectors; and Bolstering Gender Equality

Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by Gender-based Violence (GBV) in 3RP countries. Risks are particularly exacerbated for those with specific needs, for adolescent girls, adolescent brides/mothers, for widowed women, and for divorced women. Individuals with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities face GBV alongside other forms of discrimination, while men and boys can be subjected to sexual violence. Among the frequently reported forms of GBV affecting refugees and host communities, domestic violence, including intimate partner violence; child marriage and forced marriage; sexual violence, including sexual harassment; and sexual abuse and exploitation, are the most common, while instances of online GBV are on the rise.

In recent years, economic and social stress have heightened the risks of GBV, while also hindering access to life-saving services for survivors and persons at risk. Women and girls face gender-specific barriers to education and labour markets, with women most likely to hold precarious jobs and to face disruptions in livelihoods and income generating activities, while sexual harassment by employers is reported increasingly.<sup>47</sup> Female-headed households generally have far lower household income than their male counterparts, they are more food insecure and are most likely to resort to harmful coping mechanisms.<sup>48</sup> Individuals with diverse SOGIESC<sup>49</sup> also face heightened challenges in accessing services and the labour market. A further emphasis on mainstreaming gender equality, GBV risks mitigation and women's empowerment across all sectors is essential. Gender-responsive programming will be strengthened, while gender transformative activities will also be expanded.



In Jordan, **28%** of Syrian refugee women experience psychological abuse and **29%** physical assault.<sup>50</sup>



In Lebanon, it is estimated that **90%** of Syrian refugee households are living below the poverty line and unable to meet their survival needs for food, health, and shelter. This is even higher among female-headed households, **75%** of whom experience food insecurity versus **64%** of male headed households.<sup>51</sup>



#### Iraq:

The creation of women and girls safe spaces has emerged as a key strategy for the protection and empowerment of women and girls affected by the Syrian crisis. "After several sessions with the case manager, I began to feel better, as if a weight was slowly falling off my shoulders.", says Maya, a Syrian refugee living in Domiz 1 refugee camp. She is visiting one of the women centres which is supported by UNFPA.

[Read Maya's story here.](#)

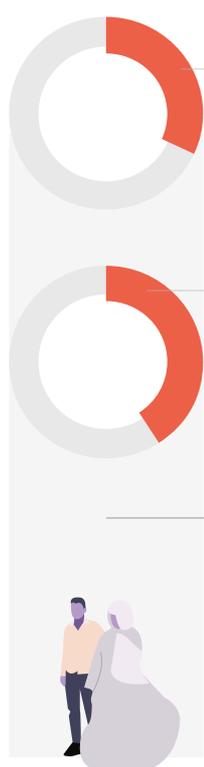
## Child Protection Awareness & Services

In MENA, approximately half of displaced people are children. They are among the most affected by conflict and displacement, facing heightened protection risks, including physical and sexual violence; recruitment by armed groups; torture; kidnapping; child marriage; child labour; family separation; being out of school; lacking birth registration; experiencing mental health and psycho-social issues, including as a result of bullying; and facing continued barriers in accessing services. Within refugee families, fears around livelihoods and financial difficulties further aggravate tensions increasing the risk of child abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation, with harmful coping mechanisms increasing among adolescents as their displacement becomes more protracted. One of the major child protection concerns is the persistent prevalence of child labour and child marriage among refugee children and vulnerable host communities. In addition to poverty, refugee children are also affected by other determinants of child labour, such as the breakdown of social fabric of families and communities, economic crisis, and the disruption of education and training. Female-headed households face additional vulnerabilities and rely on child labour twice as much as male-headed households. Children with disabilities often live in isolated situations due to discrimination, which may result in situations where they are exposed to additional risks, stigma, and exploitation, including child trafficking and abuse, and inadequate access to services.

**Early marriages accounted for 32% of marriages among Syrians in Jordan, which is twice as high as the level in Syria before 2011.**<sup>52</sup>

Similarly, **41% of Syrian women refugees aged 20-24 in Lebanon were married before the age of 18 in 2018, compared to 13 per cent of Syrian women married before the age of 18 according to the 2006 Syrian household survey.**<sup>53</sup>

**In Jordan, child and early marriage was cited as the reason for not going to school – 12 per cent of the cases were 12-14-year-olds, and 29 per cent of cases were 15-17-year-old girls.**<sup>54</sup>



## Access to and Quality of Education

As of September 2022, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye, were hosting slightly more than 1.9 million school-aged Syrian refugee children (5-17 years old). Around two thirds of these school-aged refugee children were enrolled in education, but 41 per cent of them were not in either formal or non-formal education, reflecting an increase compared to 2019, when the share of out-of-school refugee children was 36 per cent. The decade-long war and domestic economic declines placed a tremendous stress on the overstretched education systems in the host countries, impacting previous investments and progress made in the sector. Despite continued efforts made by host governments, humanitarian actors and development partners, the number of out-of-school children remains high. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 created an unprecedented disruption that continues to have an impact as it heightened protection risks for the most vulnerable and worsened inequalities. Many children, adolescents and youth faced unequal access to distance learning opportunities because they lacked internet connectivity, devices, and the necessary support services, such as language classes and psychosocial support. As schools reopened their doors, a substantial number of children from forcibly displaced communities remained at risk of not returning to school or dropping out completely due to learning loss, protection issues and economic pressures encountered by their families. While children have benefited from quality and capacity improvements made in education systems across the 3RP countries over the past decade, increased efforts towards mainstreaming the refugee response in long-term education development plans are required to ensure that inclusive and flexible education systems remain available to all children.



Photo by Humanity & Inclusion (HI)



Lebanon

*Imane is a little girl with a hearing impairment. Long excluded by the society, Imane can now go to school and is making progress, thanks to Humanity & Inclusion (HI). [Read Imane's story here.](#)*

## Civil Documentation

Ensuring that Syrian refugees have access to registration and civil documentation in 3RP countries is an essential component of the protection response to guarantee their enjoyment of basic rights. Ensuring that refugees can obtain, replace, and renew civil documentation remains a key need across the region, noting that many refugees arrived in neighbouring countries either without, with few or with expired documents. A wealth of evidence from recent years continues to prove how valid documentation is essential for refugees to be able to move freely, access education, work opportunities, government services and other entitlements. Notably, Syrian children born abroad acquire nationality exclusively through their fathers, but in approximately one-fourth of refugee households, children have no fathers to attest to their nationality. Birth registration is therefore especially important in providing legal evidence of a child’s paternity, as well as nationality on this basis. Furthermore, while significant progress has been made in reducing the number of Syrian refugee children born in the region who go undocumented at birth<sup>55</sup> from 35 per cent in 2012 to 4 per cent in 2021, further progress is needed. The failure to register the birth of a Syrian child places the child at risk of statelessness. The registration of vital life events, such as births, deaths and marriages in a timely manner is also critical to avoiding more complex challenges in the future, including related to achieving durable solutions.

There are several reasons why refugees often face challenges in accessing these documents including, for example, complex and often bureaucratic procedures; a lack of awareness of requirements and processes to obtain civil documentation and their importance/relevance; limited access to legal support; and inconsistencies in the application of laws and procedures. Lack of documentation from Syria also creates or contributes to obstacles to registration of civil events in host countries. Since 2020, COVID-19 exacerbated many of these challenges, as have deteriorating economic situations in host countries. As a result of these and other factors, many Syrian refugees remain in host countries without valid legal residence. For PRS, specifically in Lebanon and Jordan, issues related to documentation are an added protection challenge. These result in, amongst other things, restrictions/challenges linked to employment, access to courts, civil status and registration processes, putting people at risk of arrest, detention and other consequences.

## Community-based Protection

Economic deterioration and budget reductions affect the ability of 3RP partners to enhance community development and impact negatively on social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. In a context where some 55 per cent of the population has specific needs, including people with disabilities, female-headed households, older people and people with diverse profiles, it may be more difficult for these people to access basic needs, social protection, and community support structures.

In response to the increasing challenges, community-based approaches are applied across sectors to enable equal access to information and services, and prevent exploitation, harmful coping mechanisms and community conflicts. Some of the identified risks and concerns highlighted by communities are school dropout, child labour, risk of falling victim to trafficking, or reducing food intake. 3RP partners prioritize support to community-led organizations, participation, inclusion and localization, and feedback and complaint mechanisms.



*In Lebanon, 512 outreach volunteers (59% females) support access to health, cash, education, child protection services, and shelter.*

*Volunteers are coached and trained to increase their positive impact in communities, including on community-based psychosocial support.*

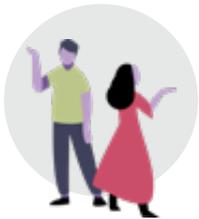


*In Egypt, refugee-led organizations participate actively in the interagency Communication with Communities Working Group, while Jordan disability organizations are members of the Interagency Disability and Age Task Force.*

*Note: All points are based on UNHCR MENA internal report*



*In Jordan, 22 community support committees and 122 refugee & host community volunteers have been key to reduce tensions and enable safe access to basic needs for most vulnerable populations.*



*In Iraq, UNHCR has a network of almost 230 refugee volunteers across the country, as well as 34 community spaces in both urban and camp settings.*



*Financial grants for refugee-led organizations have been provided to organizations working with children at risk in Egypt and organizations working with children with disabilities targeted for support in Iraq.*

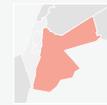
*Note: All points are based on UNHCR MENA internal report*

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS)

The mental health situation of many refugees in 3RP countries has deteriorated further due to exposure to stressors related to their protracted displacement and uncertain future, in addition to the socio-economic crisis, rising violence, as well as increased discrimination, and increased reports of xenophobic attacks.<sup>56</sup> Children and adolescents are particularly at risk of toxic stress, including in the online environment, while access to mental health and psychosocial support services remains limited. Mental-illness stigma, misconceptions towards mental health and lack of specialized services are increasing the risks of developing a mental health condition. Increases in self-harm and suicidal behaviours were also reported across 3RP countries.<sup>57</sup>



Photo by UNICEF



## Prioritizing mental health in youth-friendly spaces

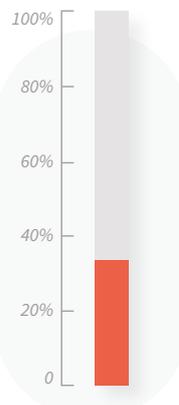
Jordan

*Salam was 11 years old when she fled to Jordan for safety from her home in Homs, Syria. Eight years later, her journey to recover from the psychological impacts of conflict and becoming a refugee is a work in progress.*

*"If there is such a thing as good and bad mental health, I'm currently somewhere in the middle," she explains pragmatically.*

*Salam, who lives in Azraq refugee camp, found a safe haven where she could engage and socialize, and slowly begin to improve her mental health.*

*UNICEF Youth Centres provide much-needed youth-friendly spaces in Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps. Inside the centres, young people, like Salam, engage in recreational activities, receive study support, training and social innovation courses, access the internet and hang out with their friends and peers.*



*In Türkiye, 33.5% of Syrian refugees reported significant symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder while in Lebanon, postnatal depression symptoms were significantly higher among Syrian refugee mothers than in Lebanese women.<sup>58</sup>*

# Pursuing Durable Solutions

## Voluntary Return

Despite the fact that significant and persistent barriers to returns remain and that there is a generally low level of interest amongst Syrian refugees in the region to return in the immediate future, thousands of refugees do make the spontaneous or self-organized movement every year. The reasons are diverse, but often include personal circumstances, including the wish to be closer to loved ones. By the end of November 2022, 47,623 voluntary returns were verified by UNHCR in 2022. While there has been a sharp decrease in returns during 2020 and 2021, the number is expected to increase slightly by the end of 2022. While UNHCR’s Return Perception and Intention Survey<sup>59</sup> found that of those surveyed, less than two per cent intended to return to Syria in the next 12 months, some 29 per cent expressed an intention to return in the medium term.<sup>60</sup>

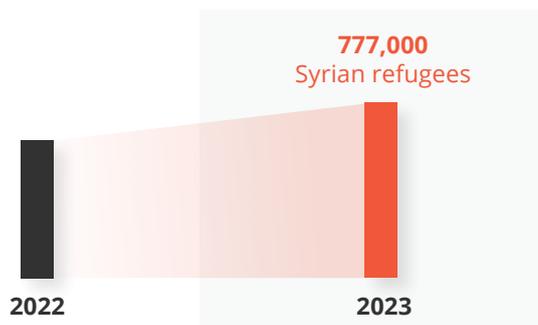
The 3RP acknowledges that voluntary return in safety and dignity is the fundamental right of every refugee and respects those who have made the free and informed decision to return at a time of their choice. Those who make the decision to return display a range of needs, including counselling, information and advice, assistance with documentation, or other specific needs. All 3RP interventions are guided by refugees’ decisions. While there is no facilitation or promotion of return due to the significant security and humanitarian challenges inside Syria, supporting those who make the decision to return is vital to ensure important protection standards including that voluntary, safe and dignified return are respected, the risk of harm reduced, and the sustainability of informed and dignified returns. The 3RP continues to strengthen prospects for refugees’ long-term safety and stability through information provision on housing, land, property (HLP) matters in Syria, pre-departure counselling on conditions inside Syria, voluntariness confirmation, assisting people with specific needs, and regularization of documentation. This is guided by UNHCR’s Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy (CPSS) and operationalized through the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group.

## Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

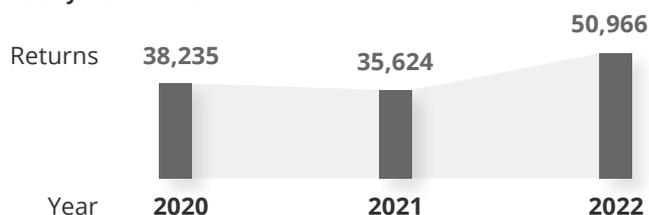
Syrians remain the largest refugee population globally in need of resettlement<sup>61</sup> in 2022, with over 777,800 Syrian refugees projected to be in need of resettlement in 2023 – an increase of 27 per cent compared to 2022.<sup>62</sup> The easing of COVID-19-related restrictions led to a steady recovery of resettlement activities, including the resumption of submissions to increased quota opportunities in the region, which will continue to be needed moving forward. It is vital that the international community continues to support and stay on course with Syrian resettlement, and ensure ongoing, reliable, and ample resettlement quotas in the years to come given the changing protection space in the host countries.

Complementary pathways opportunities to third countries remain critical to ensure protection and solutions as the needs of Syrian refugees continue to outstrip the available resettlement places. A variety of pathway programmes to third countries, ranging from employment and education opportunities to family reunification, have been carried out in the region to facilitate access to refugees.

### Projected Resettlement Needs



### Yearly Return Trend



## Access to local opportunities and solutions

As many Syrian refugees are likely to remain in host countries in the medium term, expanding local opportunities and solutions remains a key need across the refugee population. While the scale and scope of such opportunities are different in each of the 3RP countries, refugees' needs include a supportive legal and administrative framework that protects rights and provides a range of socio-economic opportunities to build self-reliance in the short term, while enhancing the prospect of achieving future durable solutions. Such opportunities can help people regain full agency of their legal, material, and physical wellbeing and safety. It also reduces the risk of displaced persons moving onwards irregularly to third countries, which often entails perilous journeys, sometimes under exploitative conditions. In the past year, there have been increased reports of Syrian refugees moving onwards from the region, placing them at risk of numerous dangers including drowning,<sup>63</sup> and death from exposure to harsh weather, trafficking, assault and detention.

Working towards advancing local opportunities and solutions for refugees cannot be disentangled from supporting vulnerable host communities considering that host countries have been responding to the Syria crisis for more than a decade, while many refugees may remain in host countries in near future. Therefore, not only increasing participation and enhancing self-reliance of refugees is critical, but also it is important to elevate the "resilience for all" approach. The 3RP continues to work on the key features of enabling local solutions including the strengthening of local and national capacities, promoting predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing and expanding partnerships across the HDPN.

The 3RP will continue advocating for a supportive legal framework and enabling environment for sustainable service delivery in education, healthcare and social welfare on par with host communities. The 3RP will also continue to promote access to formal and decent job opportunities and finance, as well as to strengthen and support the formation of MSMEs to bridge the gap between refugees' skills and local market demands through provision of training and certification, and recognition of education, qualifications and skills, all while accounting for gender inequalities. Both economic activity and social cohesion are promoted in host countries. Moreover, linkages will be explored to ensure access to skills development, which is available for third country opportunities, given that such access can have a positive knock-on effect, benefiting those who may remain in host countries as well.



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*Measuring progress on complementary pathways remains difficult and will be dependent on the continued development of a more robust reporting process. UNHCR continues its work to develop and improve the data on complementary pathways across the region. In Jordan, a quarterly dashboard has been created to showcase UNHCR's assistance in facilitating access to pathways directly provided by partners, states and/or other stakeholders. The dashboard further illustrates the existing data gaps particularly on departures and the importance of monitoring refugees access complementary pathways in order to grow the evidence.*

### More information in Annex 2: Durable Solutions

**1. Background**

The 3RP continues to be framed to the extent possible from a solutions perspective. While countries lead efforts related to durable solutions, the Regional Technical Committee (RTC) established a dedicated Regional Durable Solutions Working Group (RDSWG) to facilitate regional coordination in 2017. Meanwhile, support to durable solutions has been a regional Strategic Direction of the 3RP since 2018, defining the issue as a regional priority. Eight years into the 3RP, and almost thirteen years since the onset of the crisis, durable solutions continue to be out of reach for the vast majority of refugees. Each country now outlines a durable solutions strategy based on the specific context and informed by refugees' wishes and intention. These strategies are underpinned by UNHCR's 2018 Comprehensive Protection and Solution Strategy as well as the 3RP's regional Strategic Direction on supporting durable solutions.

The 3RP's approach to durable solutions for Syrian refugees is guided by international protection and humanitarian standards and centered on refugee intentions and concerns. The outcomes and objectives of solutions-related interventions are therefore:

- Refugees have access to information on durable solutions so that they can make informed decisions on their future.
- Refugees continue to access safe and secure asylum spaces, and host countries continue to be supported by the international community.
- Refugees have increased access to and opportunities for economic and social inclusion in host countries.
- Refugees have access to and opportunities for resettlement and other third-country solutions.
- Refugees can voluntarily return to their countries of origin in safety and dignity at the core of their own choosing based on their free, informed and voluntary decision.

**Voluntary Repatriation**

**Background and context**

Returns continued to take place at a steady but modest rate, with a gradual increase in return of Syrian refugees from neighboring countries observed during the second half of 2022. Over 47,000 Syrian refugees returned during 2022. By the end of November compared to around 32,000 during the same time in 2021. Of those returning in 2022, 25,847 returns were between July and the end of November. The modest increase in returns comes despite a decrease in short-term return intentions observed during the first round of UNHCR's **intention and aspiration survey** conducted during January and February 2022. At that time only 7.7 per cent of Syrians interviewed intended to return within the next 12 months compared to 2.4 per cent the previous year. The largest decline in intention was noted in Iraq where a slight increase noted this year was mainly observed in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. In Lebanon, government facilitated returns organized by the General Security Office (GSO), which resumed in October for the first time in four years. Overall returns from Lebanon more than doubled in 2022 though remaining comparatively low. The overall number of UNHCR verified returns of Syrian refugees between January 2016 and November 2022 is over 250,700.

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The numbers reported are only those verified and reported to UNHCR and do not include the entire number of returns, which may be significantly higher.

The above data is reported by the General Security Office (GSO) supported by UNHCR's **intention and aspiration survey** conducted during January and February 2022. The survey was conducted between 16 October 2020 to 16 February 2022. The survey was conducted in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. The survey was conducted in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. The survey was conducted in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

**National Returns per Year**

Year	Number of returns
1	47,023
2	25,847
3	32,225
4	34,971
5	45,140
6	36,785
7	28,540
8	42,000

Legend: Blue = 2022, Red = 2021

Click to learn more

## Contributing to Dignified Lives

Refugees and vulnerable host populations face a range of challenges arising from displacement and socio-economic impacts of multiple crises. Assessments from 3RP countries demonstrate poverty rates among refugees and host communities are rising, with the most vulnerable struggling to access food, education and health services, housing, and employment opportunities. The 3RP partners will help mitigate challenges directly through assistance across sectors, as well as supporting the self-reliance of vulnerable populations.

Reducing food insecurity and providing for basic needs help minimize harmful coping strategies and foster social cohesion. The 3RP partners will maintain significant levels of multi-purpose cash assistance to give flexibility and choice for people to meet their basic needs, while continuing a wide range of tailored needs-based interventions such as cash transfers for nutritious school meals. These interventions will be integrated with longer-term efforts around financial inclusion through access to social safety nets and self-reliance. Recognizing that food security relies on the four dimensions of availability, access, utilization, and stability, 3RP partners will strengthen food production and food systems by supporting agricultural SMEs, food infrastructure, innovation to address climate change and water scarcity.

In addition, the 3RP partners will strive to sustain quality services including education, and healthcare and social welfare for Syrians and hosting communities by working closely with public institutions and other complementary service providers including international and national NGOs and the private sector. In particular, the 3RP response is committed to ensuring that there is no child left behind, and furthermore to improve their chances to access protection services and further education and vocational training. This will in turn improve their wellbeing and employability, income, and standard of living down the line. Sustained effort is required between 3RP partners, host countries, donors, and other supporters to ensure that the numbers of out-of-school children, child early marriages and other negative social and economic consequences and impacts can be addressed. Activities such as providing students with transportation and school feeding, building the skills and capacities of teachers and trainers, reducing child labour and school dropouts, and improving access to work for school-leavers should remain high on the agenda to prevent Syrian refugee children from becoming a lost generation.

Moreover, the 3RP partners will support refugees and vulnerable host community members to have access to a sustainable source of income which ensures stability and promotes dignity. To do so, the 3RP will continue expanding access to work documentation and decent work through evidence-based advocacy and policy engagement. It will also support demand-driven skills development (including digital skills) to increase the employment potential of vulnerable people as well as strengthening job placement services for those who have completed trainings. The 3RP will continue to strengthen its engagement with IFIs and the private sector as key stakeholders in the response.



Photo by WFP / Mohammad Batah

**School feeding programmes are the most common safety nets** that help to ensure vulnerable children have access to education, health, and nutrition. A daily school meal can mean not only better nutrition and health but also increased access to education and better learning and cognitive capacity, especially for girls. Evidence shows that school meals serve as platforms enabling more holistic pathways to income generating activities for local catering businesses led by women, increased demand for healthy diets, strengthened food systems by linking local agribusinesses and/or smallholder farmers to schools, and to encourage the delivery of other cost-effective health and nutrition interventions. Supporting government-led school feeding programmes or implementing them ourselves, or doing both, is ongoing in all the countries hosting Syrian refugees using different models such as the healthy kitchens providing hot or cold nutritious meals, the provision of fortified date bars/high energy biscuits and/or take-home rations.

### Enrollment into formal & non-formal education by countries

Figures as of Q3 2022

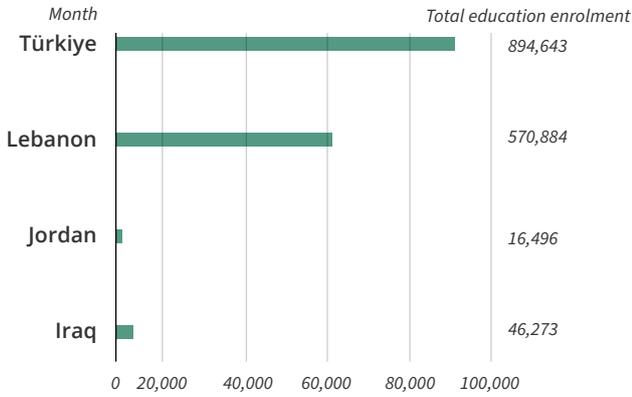


Photo by UNRWA / Lubna Hashem



#### Saja's Story

##### Jordan

Saja (57) and her daughter (24) left Syria in 2012 and headed to Jordan looking for security. After a long journey, they arrived with no hope only looking for a small shelter that can accommodate their tiredness.

The family became fully dependent on the services provided by UNRWA, especially after Saja got diagnosed with high blood pressure, so she started to get her periodic medicine from the nearest UNRWA health centre to her shelter.

Saja, like other Palestine refugees from Syria who fled to Jordan after the Syria crisis, started to fully depend on the cash assistance received by UNRWA through the generous contribution of EU Regional Trust Fund for the Syrian Crisis (MADAD Trust Fund).

"I only wish for a small place that is better than the one I live in right now" Saja says wishfully.



Photo by GOAL Türkiye / Bahar Yurdakul



#### Accessing Education

##### Türkiye

6-year-old Muhab and his family were forced to flee their home in Syria due to conflict. When they first came to Türkiye, Muhab was unable to enroll at the local school because the wrong age was written on his identity card.

This mistake needed to be corrected before he could access education. GOAL Türkiye provided the family with legal information, translation and a lawyer. Thanks to the support of the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and the bar associations in Mersin, Muhab finally got his new ID with the correct age. "It was a difficult process, but eventually my son received an ID with his real age on it. He enrolled to a kindergarten half-way into the school year, and next year he will start 1st grade," his father says.

Education is a right, not a privilege, and fundamental for every child. With the door open for Muhab, he is now one step closer to his dream of becoming a doctor. This positive step made Muhab's mother and father especially happy, as they are among the millions of Syrians who had to drop out of university due to the war.

## Enhancing Local and National Capacities

3RP partners remain committed to enhancing local and national capacities to ensure the sustainable and long-term impact of the refugee response. This includes strengthening the capacity of national institutions and systems to provide protection and essential social and economic services, fostering the conditions to enable solutions and increasing opportunities for affected communities to realize dignified lives. Enhancing local and national capacities is a core component of a resilience-based development response, as it strengthens the public institutions and municipalities while fostering inclusion and self-reliance for both refugees and hosting communities in development planning.

Public institutions are impacted by the economic conditions in their countries and their ability to support populations is compounded by increasing demands. Municipalities are at the forefront of the response in ensuring equitable access and provision of services for both refugees and host communities and they play a crucial role in maintaining social stability and cohesion at the community level. They are also engaged in local economic development and fostering partnerships with local private sector. However, some municipalities are providing additional services despite receiving little or no support from the central governments, given the prolonged economic hardships. While 3RP's support for municipalities focuses on protection, health, education, social cohesion and livelihoods, IFIs have also increased their support to improving infrastructure at local levels.<sup>64</sup>

The 3RP is committed to bolstering the sustainability of local and national capacities by aligning programmes with national plans and priorities, working in close coordination and partnership with institutions at all levels: local, regional and national. Meaningful and coordinated partnerships with national institutions ensure that the increasingly stressed systems are supported to meet the rising needs of refugees and host communities, including through technical and human capacities. The 3RP will continue to build new as well as strengthen existing national and local capacities to cope with and adapt to the growing demand on services in order to consolidate long-term outcomes and lasting impact. This is done through infrastructure development (e.g., schools, health facilities, waste management and water networks), the provision of equipment (e.g., solid waste trucks, and computers), or the capacity building of staff (e.g., municipal staff, social workers, and teachers). The 3RP will provide equipment and grants and will support business development services across the five countries by identifying clients, expanding market linkages, and utilizing digital solutions through investment in e-commerce, digital platforms, and other online livelihoods activities to increase access to income-generating opportunities, including with CSOs, the private sector and governments.

Civil society partners along with specialised UN agencies under the 3RP have been playing a key role in developing public institutions' capacity to develop, plan, and manage their response to refugee and host community needs.

The efforts of 3RP partners to strengthen and build the capacity of national systems are also key to enabling those systems to access and absorb larger amounts of funding, particularly through loans and blended support from IFIs. In some 3RP countries, a study<sup>65</sup> on tracking of funding flows and investments made to and through public institutions provided a solid basis for the 3RP to continue scaling up its efforts in support of public institutions. This will help increase coordination with other international stakeholders to ensure the most effective assistance to the 3RP countries in implementing an integrated refugee-resilience response to the Syria crisis.



Photo by UNDP



Türkiye

### Feasibility Study for Türkiye Compact

In an effort to support income-generation through linking refugees and vulnerable host community members to the job market and attempt to alleviate hardships for vulnerable populations, UNDP Türkiye conducted a feasibility study, titled “Stimulating Economic Growth and Employment of Refugees and Host Communities in Türkiye through International Preferential Trade.”. The study found that such trade agreements could provide a mutually beneficial solution for both refugees and Turkish citizens, while also contributing to the overall development and inclusive economic growth of Türkiye in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, see the [Policy Brief](#).



Stakeholder engagements sessions with a variety of users groups across age and gender

Photo by UN-Habitat Egypt



Egypt



Jordan

### Building consistency in urban planning worldwide

Many of the countries in which UN-Habitat works suffer from massive influx of migrants and refugees, which add to the already-shrinking infrastructure resources in host countries.

UN-Habitat’s Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts (UPIMC) programme aims to improve access to reliable services and socio-economic opportunities for all, including migrants and displaced populations in urban settlements.

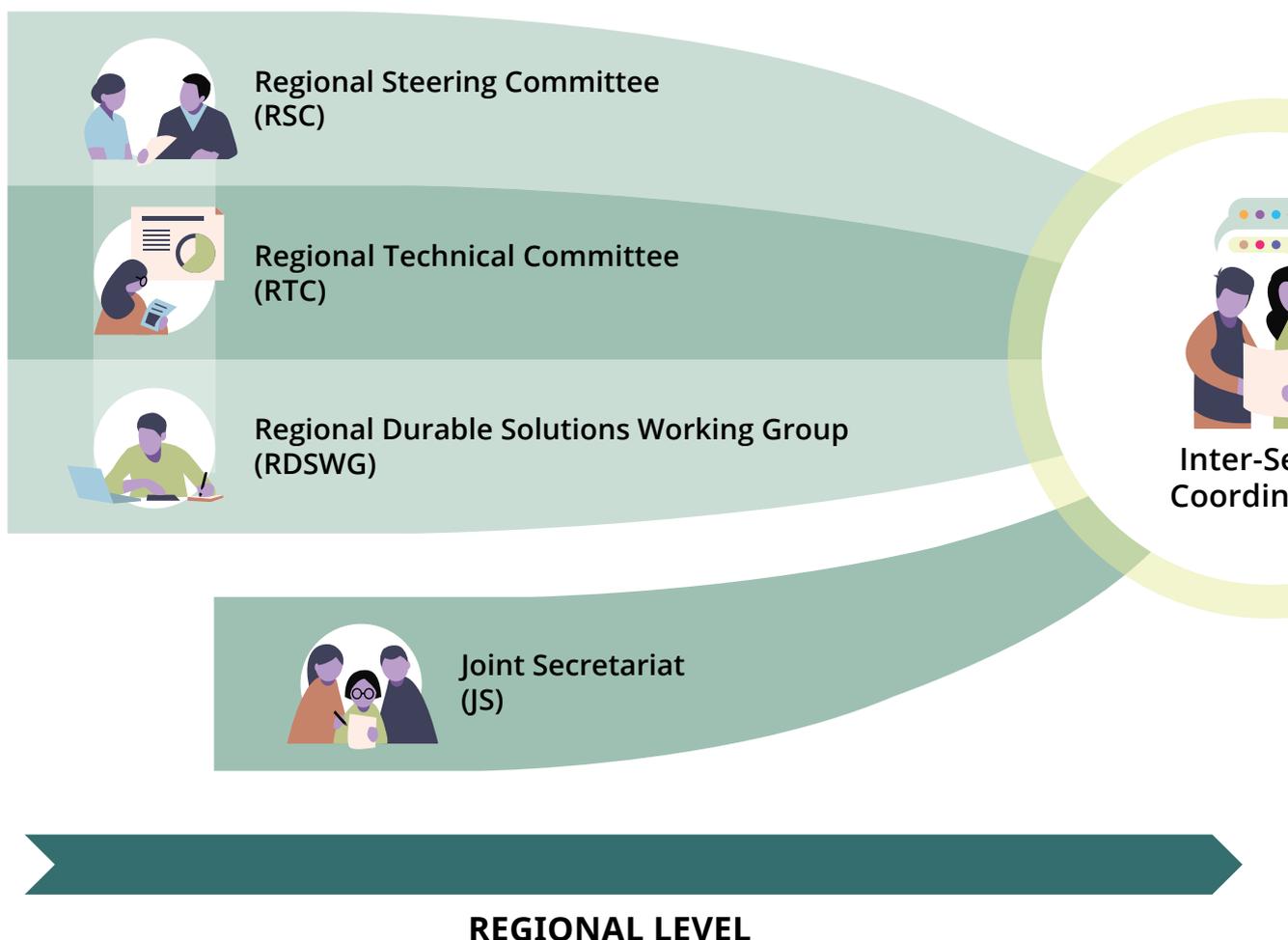
Funded by Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), UPIMC is implemented in Egypt and Jordan to support municipalities with a long-term approach that connect migration and neighbourhoods affected by displacement with improved access to public services.

The goal will be achieved through identification and design of bankable infrastructure investments. A participatory process is also leveraged to ensure that solutions developed remain sustainable in the long-term, and nurture ownership from the outset.

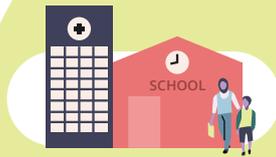
The programme has made steady progress, developing spatial profiles to identify and map challenges, provisions, and gaps in public infrastructure services in coordination with humanitarian interventions at the national, regional, and local levels.

# Partnership and Coordination

The 3RP is a strategic coordination, planning, advocacy, fundraising and programming platform to respond to the Syria crisis. The 3RP is a comprehensive regional plan with five nationally led response plans, which are developed through the respective coordination structures consisting of government, UN agencies and I/NGOs. The 3RP's comprehensive approach has brought together more than 270 humanitarian and development partners at the country and regional level, channelling in total USD 23 billion through the plan since its inception. The 3RP recognizes actors that operate beyond the 3RP structures but are involved in Syria crisis response such as International Financial Institutions and bi-lateral development partners who provide support to the host governments' efforts to ensure they can continue supporting refugees and affected host communities.



### One Regional Plan



Promoting Resilience for All



Leaving No-One Behind

### Country Chapters



Egypt  
(Country Chapter)



Iraq  
(Country Chapter)



Jordan  
(Jordan Response Plan)



Lebanon  
(Lebanon Crisis Response Plan)



Türkiye  
(Country Chapter)



COUNTRY LEVEL

# Country Overview on Needs



## Türkiye



Out of 93 per cent of respondents who attempted to access services in the past six months, **41 per cent could not access essential services** (an increase of 15 per cent compared to 2021).<sup>66</sup>



**25 per cent of households with school-aged children** mention that their children do not have access to education in Türkiye, citing financial barriers (42 per cent), child labour (17 per cent) and peer bullying (11 per cent) as top reasons.<sup>67</sup>



**90 per cent of households** are unable to fully cover monthly expenses and basic needs.<sup>68</sup>



## Egypt



As of mid-2022, **46 per cent of the Syrian population** is estimated to be living under the national poverty line.<sup>77</sup>



Of those in need of cash assistance, **50% do not access either UNHCR cash assistance or WFP cash-for-food due to limited funding.**<sup>78</sup>



## Lebanon



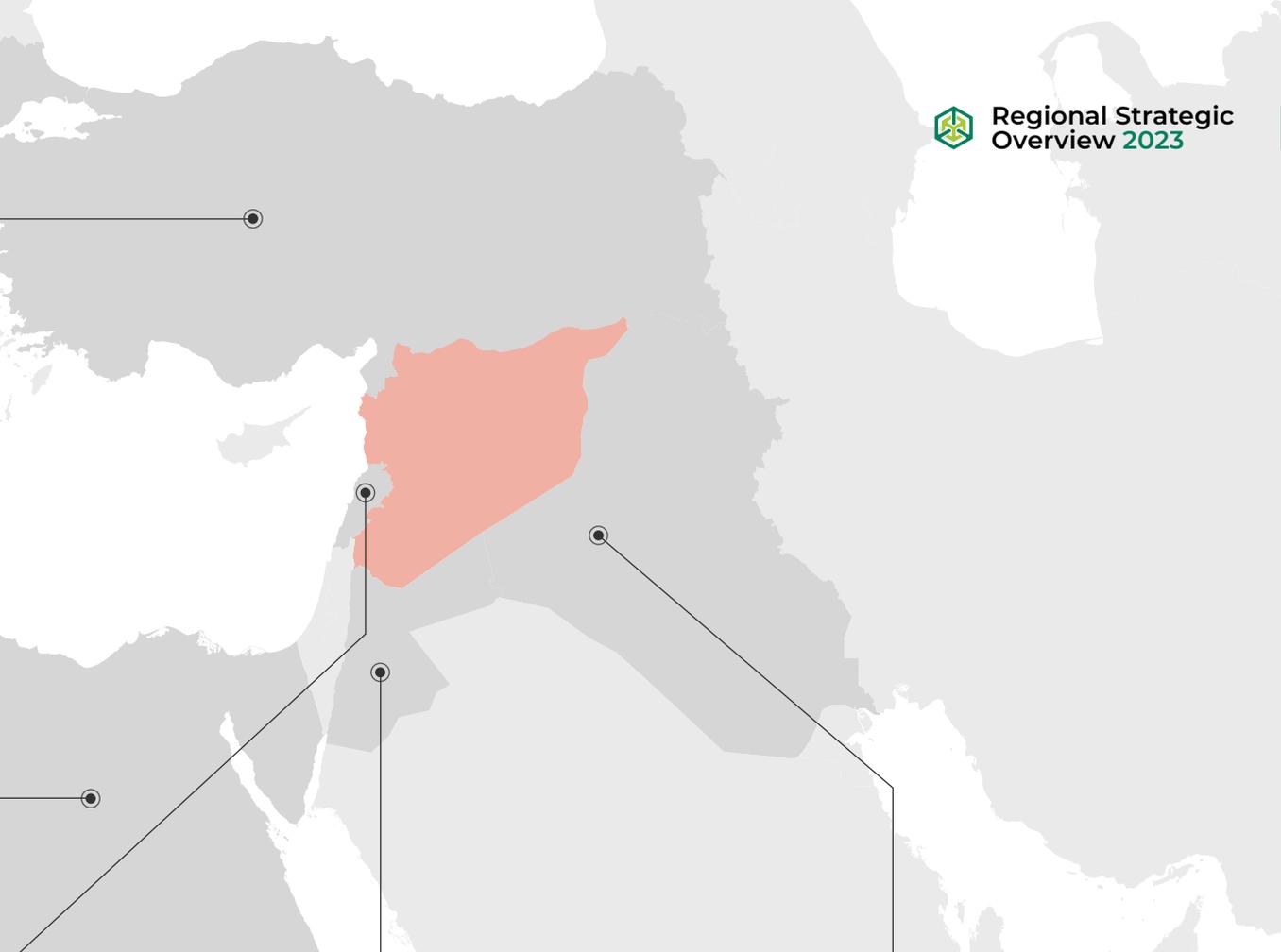
There is a **22 per cent** rate among Syrian refugees.



**46 per cent** (696,000) of Syrian refugees are in crisis or in an emergency food insecurity.<sup>70</sup>



Over half of Syrian refugees (**per cent**) continue to live below humanitarian standards in overcrowded shelters, in danger of collapse.<sup>71</sup>



Jordan



Youth



Women

child marriage cases.<sup>69</sup>

The unemployment rate is steadily increasing in Jordan, reaching **over 46 per cent among the youth** and an all-time high of almost **30 per cent among women**.<sup>72</sup>

Syrians are either in terms of



As of Q2 2022, only 27 per cent of Syrian and 13 per cent of non-Syrian refugees reported being employed. In addition, **refugees face limited opportunities with 92 per cent working as unskilled or seasonal workers**.<sup>73</sup>

ee families (58) e in conditions ndards including and/or shelters



**9 out of 10 refugee households reported being in debt** and almost one out of three households received the threat of eviction (Q2, 2022).<sup>74</sup>



Iraq



**86 per cent of in-camp refugees remain food insecure** or vulnerable to food insecurity following strong socio-economic shocks.<sup>75</sup>



**91 per cent of refugees** reported relying on employment as a primary source of income, mostly temporary work (93 per cent). Eighty-four per cent reported being in debt in 2021 in order to meet their basic needs.



**37 per cent of refugees are still residing across the nine protracted refugee camps**<sup>76</sup> that have been established by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) at the onset of the crisis. However, the camps are ill-equipped to meet the refugees basic needs, or to provide refugees with basic needs, and efforts are being made to provide services to in-camp refugees within the local communities that host them.



# Türkiye

Country Overview

Since 2014, Türkiye has been managing the world's largest population of persons under temporary and international protection. As of 27 October 2022, the number of Syrians under temporary protection was more than 3.65 million, almost half of whom are children and 46 per cent of whom are women and girls.<sup>79</sup> Close to 99 per cent of Syrians under temporary protection live in urban and rural areas, with less than 1 per cent residing in Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs).

In addition, Türkiye hosts approximately 320,000<sup>80</sup> international protection applicants and status holders from other countries. Significant numbers of Afghans, Iranians, Iraqis and Ukrainians are facing protection and assistance challenges that will require sustained attention and support in 2023. The 3RP response aims to support the Government in promoting protection and solutions that allow refugees to live in dignity and peace in line with national laws as well as the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

Türkiye's 2013 Law on Foreigners and International Protection, and the 2014 Temporary Protection Regulation, provide an inclusive legal framework granting foreigners including refugees access to rights and services. Amid a challenging socio-economic context, Türkiye has continued to provide Syrians under temporary protection, international protection applicants and status holders with access to services in national systems, such as health, education and social services and access to the labour market.

Despite the generally progressive nature of Türkiye's asylum policies and the important level of international funding in support of the refugee response, Syrians under temporary protection as well as international protection applicants and status holders are facing high levels of protection risks as well as economic insecurity, leaving them increasingly vulnerable. The rising cost of domestic food prices, lower incomes and increasing unemployment are having a significant impact on the most vulnerable households. As a result, a growing number of individuals and families have been forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms to cope with their difficult situation.

## In Need

**3,927,456**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 3,622,486 Syrians)

**3,607,620**  
Host community members

## Targeted

**3,927,456**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 3,622,486 Syrians)

**3,607,620**  
Host community members

## 2023 Financial Requirements

<b>Protection</b>	USD 376,009,191
<b>Education</b>	USD 142,831,060
<b>Health</b>	USD 23,210,572
<b>Basic Needs</b>	USD 132,036,089
<b>Economic Empowerment*</b>	USD 222,516,275
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 896,603,187</b>

\* The Economic Empowerment sector merges Food Security and Livelihoods.

Most refugee households continue to depend on social protection and humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs. Female-headed households are particularly affected while increasing needs for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic diseases, seasonal agricultural workers, and rural populations, as well as growing psychosocial needs across groups and particularly for adolescents and youth have been identified as severe.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 and cost of living challenges have affected communities across Türkiye, increasing the social distance between populations and contributing towards the growing anti-refugee sentiments being expressed on social media and elsewhere. The loss of livelihoods and growing competition over jobs, misinformation and language barriers at a time when many households are struggling with rising prices has further strained community relations. Public concerns about the scale and perceived burden of hosting refugees risk politicising refugee issues in Türkiye ahead of the 2023 elections, putting pressure on the Government to take a more restrictive approach. 3RP partners will continue supporting the Government of Türkiye to provide sustained, coordinated and targeted support across the response to promote social cohesion in line with Türkiye's National Harmonisation Strategy and Action Plan.

As the refugee situation becomes increasingly protracted and the country is still recovering from the impacts of COVID-19, there is an urgent need for increased and sustained international responsibility sharing, in line with the core principles of the GCR, to address the continued needs of Syrians under temporary protection, people under international protection, and the communities which host them, in addition to the national and local institutions that provide essential services to all.

The 3RP is based on the needs identified by sector partners through ongoing programmes, assessments and consultations with multiple national and local public and private stakeholders. 3RP partners continue to work in support of the Government's refugee response, and complement the significant support provided by stakeholders such as IFIs and other development partners through coordinated and targeted programmes.

Since its introduction in Türkiye in 2015, the 3RP has contributed to the mobilisation of approximately USD 5.5 billion to date.<sup>61</sup> This support has been directed largely towards national and local public systems and services that have been stretched because of the increase in demand in areas with high concentrations of Syrians under temporary protection. In terms of technical support and service delivery, 3RP partners work with several line ministries and public institutions to provide targeted protection and assistance alongside a complementary, resilience-based development approach complying with the principle of the Sustainable Development Goals of "leaving no one behind."



Photo by Takaful Al Sham (TAS)

### A Safe Space for Youth

*Ruya for Adolescents and Youth Empowerment by Takaful Al Sham (TAS) provides youth, like Meryam, a safe space, skills training, and mental-health support.*

*Meryam is 16 years old and from Aleppo, Syria. She and her family have been living in Türkiye for 7 years. For the past three years, Meryam has been regularly coming to the Ruya Center in Gaziantep.*

*"I spent a considerable amount of time at the Ruya Center, which was during the most critical years of my life; my transition from childhood to my youth. I felt like I was getting to know myself, and I felt very self-conscious moving between the years. Looking back, I wonder: how I was and how I am. I also learned what it means to be responsible for myself, my family, my friends, and my community. I feel like I am growing and I am watching myself grow and develop."*

## Strategic Objectives and Sectoral /Inter-sectoral Response

3RP partners continue to support the Government of Türkiye in meeting the most pressing protection and basic needs of people under temporary and international protection along with vulnerable host community members while engaging in medium and long-term solutions through education and economic empowerment.

### The 3RP in Türkiye has three main strategic objectives:

- ❗ **Contribute to the protection of Syrians under temporary protection and persons under international protection.**
- ❗ **Promote inclusion and access to services, including health, education, social services, as well as municipal services and local solutions.**
- ❗ **Promote harmonisation, self-reliance and solutions.**

In the **basic needs sector**, cash-based assistance will have to be sustained and strengthened in 2023 and beyond to support the most vulnerable persons. 3RP cash assistance will focus on vulnerable households that do not meet the Emergency Social Safety Net criteria and those who are living in TACs, as well as complementary emergency and one-off support to people in urgent need.

In terms of **protection** priorities, 3RP partners will continue working towards empowering people with specific needs to seek social services to address their needs, contributing to an increase in the inclusion of women, children, adolescents, people living with disabilities and the elderly as well as to protect and promote their rights. Ongoing efforts to combat child, early and forced marriage and child labour amongst persons under temporary and international protection require sustained support as well as an expansion of programming.

**Economic empowerment** will be provided to support safe and increased access to formal employment in close collaboration with public institutions and the private sector, with a particular focus on the specific barriers faced by women and youth. Workers will be provided with the necessary skills, knowledge, and support to help them transition from social protection into the formal labour market.

**Education** support remains a vital part of the 3RP response in Türkiye, with refugee children badly affected by the pandemic through the suspension of face-to-face education despite Government and partner efforts to support distance learning. As of January 2022,<sup>82</sup> 855,136 children under temporary and international protection are enrolled in Turkish schools while more than 400,000 remained out of school. Education partners will continue supporting the Ministry of National Education in providing access and retention into formal education and will further support all forms of learning, including non-formal and informal learning opportunities essential services to enable children to realize their right to quality education and learning. Education sector partners will also continue advocating for the promotion of refugee access to higher education.

Regarding the **health** response, Türkiye's inclusive legal framework allows Syrians under temporary protection, international protection applicants and status holders to access health care. However, unregistered people, as well as refugees living in rural areas and the most vulnerable such as the elderly and people with disabilities, face limited access to health care, requiring complementary support to overcome various barriers. Health sector partners support the Ministry of Health to provide primary health services alleviating the pressures placed on health infrastructure, while reducing language barriers and increasing human resource capacity to increase access to healthcare.



Photo by Relief International (RI)

### On the Road to Physical Recovery

*Dalal is a 60-year-old Syrian woman living in Türkiye. In 2020, Dalal had a stroke that completely changed her life. She was able to receive physical therapy services through a program by Relief International. Through her hard work and commitment, Dalal is now able to walk and talk without any support.*

### *Business Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs*

*UNDP boosts business opportunities for women entrepreneurs. "Our aim is to help enterprising women starting their own businesses to connect with the supply chains that are vital to reach big domestic and international markets," said UNDP Resident Representative Louisa Vinton. "Women's cooperatives and women-led firms have huge potential to improve the livelihoods and self-reliance of their members."*



Photo by UNDP Türkiye



### *SME Coaching*

*Anwar, a 30-year old Syrian Entrepreneur from Türkiye, managed to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*When he realised that he was lacking business skills, he applied for SPARK's training and mentorship programmes for young entrepreneurs. "I took business English courses with SPARK, alongside other business training", he says.*

*Anwar is now employing five people in his product design company.*

Photo by SPARK



# Lebanon

Country Overview

Lebanon continues to host the highest number of displaced people per capita in the world, showing strong commitment to displaced Syrians and vulnerable populations within its borders. The Government of Lebanon estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million Syrians who have fled the conflict in Syria, along with 180,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon, and 31,400 Palestine refugees from Syria, and other UNRWA eligible persons from Lebanon. These populations live across all governorates in Lebanon.

Since 2019, Lebanon has been facing an **unprecedented financial and economic crisis** that is likely to rank among the top ten most severe crisis globally, impacting all populations and communities across the country. Due to Lebanon's high reliance on imports for basic goods and commodities, the fluctuation and depreciation of the local currency has had a direct effect on prices. The **Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets** (SMEB) have served as main indicators to monitor the costs of living in Lebanon. The price of the SMEB increased by more than 600 per cent between June 2020 and September 2022. Additionally, it increased 50 per cent in 2022 alone. It has been observed by Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) partners that families relying on bottled water for domestic use, for example, had to pay 5 to 6 times more than in 2021, and a similar increase in the price of 'trucked water', on which refugees living in informal tented settlements (ITS) tend to rely. People's **income** generated through work has not been able to compensate for the tremendous rise in prices. A quarter of Lebanese employees were earning less than 20 per cent of the SMEB. Inflation<sup>83</sup> coupled with lack of income has pushed families deeper into poverty – unable to meet their basic survival needs and continues to contribute to coping mechanisms such as reduced food consumption, child labour, debt accrual and child marriage.<sup>84</sup> This is especially concerning for households that have specific needs and increased expenditures, namely, elderly and individuals with a disability who have higher medical needs and expenses than the average individual.

## In Need

**1,710,220**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 1,500,000 Syrians)

**3,864,296**  
Host community members

## Targeted

**1,699,720**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 1,489,500 Syrians)

**1,500,000**  
Host community members

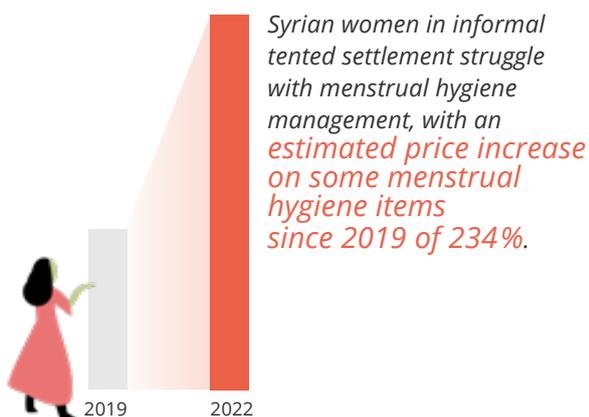
## 2023 Financial Requirements

Protection	USD 234,716,034
Food Security	USD 1,300,000,000
Education	USD 362,718,209
Health	USD 317,806,077
Nutrition	USD 45,000,000
Basic Needs	USD 495,652,725
Shelter	USD 115,178,894
WASH	USD 206,500,000
Livelihoods	USD 247,500,000
Energy	USD 99,238,750
Social Stability	USD 170,980,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 3,595,290,689</b>

In 2023, the **food insecurity** situation is expected to continue to deteriorate. IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis<sup>85</sup> conducted in September 2022 shows that people living in areas with highest levels of IPC Phase 3 and above classification for both Lebanese and Syrian refugees are at particular risk. In the Akkar governorate, more than 67 per cent of the population is expected to be in a 'crisis' food insecurity situation in the beginning of 2023, with the refugee population in this area expected to fall into an 'emergency level' of food insecurity even with anticipated humanitarian assistance.

The situation is placing increased pressure on **communities and local authorities**, with an impact on inter-communal and intra-communal tensions. In the latest UNDP/ARK perceptions survey,<sup>86</sup> Thirty-seven per cent of people described inter-communal tensions between Lebanese and Syrian communities as negative, compared to 21 per cent in July 2018 and the highest proportion since monitoring began. Thirty-nine per cent of Lebanese surveyed describe intra-communal relations between Lebanese communities as negative, compared to just 4 per cent in 2018. As well as political dividers, tension pressure points include perceptions around access to services, resources, environment and employment.

**Women and girls** reported an increased perception of insecurity in 2022.<sup>87</sup> The main forms of GBV reported in 2022 included physical assault and psychological and emotional abuse, with more than half of the cases featuring intimate partner violence. Female headed households often live in sub-standard shelter conditions, and GBV has increased, including child marriage. Syrian women in informal tented settlement struggle with menstrual hygiene management, with an estimated price increase on some menstrual hygiene items since 2019 of 234 per cent.



Protection monitoring continues to highlight that economic vulnerability is contributing to a low rate of **legal residency** among Syrian refugees (17 per cent in 2022), which in turn inhibits freedom of movement and access to justice. Respondents identify difficulty accessing work opportunities and limitations on social interactions as ongoing challenges associated with lack of residency. Over half of the PRS in Lebanon are thought to be without legal residency. An improvement in **birth registration** rates for Syrian refugees has been achieved in 2022: Registration at the Foreigner's Registry (the final step in the birth registration process) increased to 36 per cent, compared to 31 per cent in 2021, following the lifting of COVID-19 lockdowns and intensive efforts by protection partners. Only two per cent of Syrian births have no documentation, with families completing the first step of the birth registration process for nearly all births.

The multi-layered crises have also severely impacted access to **basic services** including health, education, energy, shelter and safe drinking water and sanitation services. At the local level, many **municipalities** are currently unable to deliver services under their mandate due to limited municipal funding, including solid waste management and to cover salaries or fees related to municipal staff (e.g., municipal police). The situation is expected to deteriorate further. Following a cholera outbreak in Syria, Lebanon reported its first case in October 2022 and World Health Organisation estimates that over 53,000 people could contract the disease by early next year. Lebanon is considered a high-risk country due to the deterioration in **water and sanitation** standards and limited access to hygiene among the most vulnerable populations, given dramatic gaps in institutional capacity to supply services as well as household purchasing power. The cholera outbreak presents an additional and urgent challenge to an infrastructure on the verge of almost total collapse. Without public water services, people are left with no choice but to buy water from private sources. Private generators have become the main suppliers of **electricity** in the country and the increasing global fuel prices led to a sharp increase in the cost of running and maintaining generators making them unaffordable for most residents of Lebanon.

With regard to **healthcare**, Lebanon has witnessed a substantial increase in demand for overstretched public healthcare from Lebanese no longer able to afford private care (including services subsidized under the LCRP), with further financial barriers such as the cost of transport inhibiting access. Medical providers face severe challenges with the import of medications and medical supplies, and in covering maintenance costs for all health facilities. Due to the economic and fuel crises, primary healthcare centres were forced to reduce their working hours, and hospitals cut down their bed capacity by 50 per cent. In addition to overstressing the public **education** system, the deteriorating economic situation and the COVID-19 pandemic have taken a heavy toll on learning. School closures, teachers' strikes, and spiralling fuel costs have contributed to disruption and an increased rate of drop-out, while some of the most vulnerable families have been forced to deprioritize education due to their struggles to make ends meet. **Shelter** needs across the country remain high, including in densely populated poor urban neighbourhoods. Ninety per cent of Syrian refugees and 31 per cent of Lebanese live in rented accommodation, and with a substantial increase in utility fees and rental prices, the ability of families to cover rental payments is increasingly strained, contributing to a heightened eviction threat.



Photo by UNHCR / Houssam Hariri

### Syrian refugees face bleak future as economic crisis takes its toll

Mohammad and his wife Asmaa fled Syria in 2013 to Lebanon's second largest city, Tripoli. With no work and struggling to cope with Lebanon's economic crisis, they are dependent on the meagre income earned by their 10-year-old daughter Arkan who sells packets of tissues at the roadside.

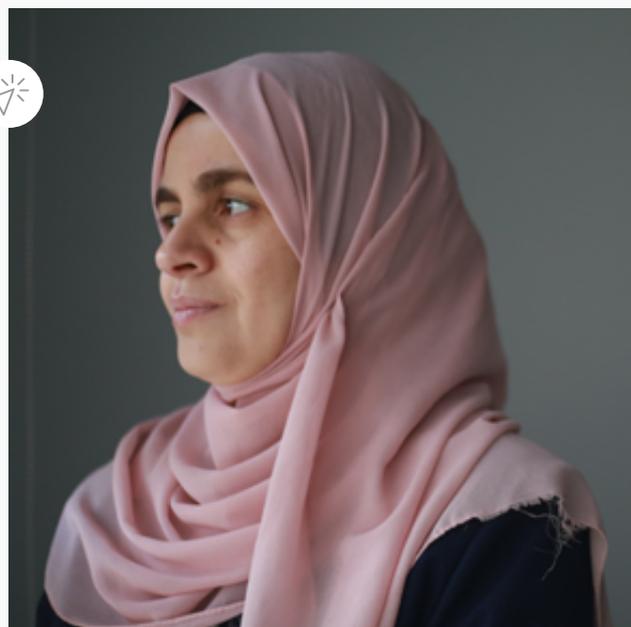


Photo by UNFPA / Nour Wahid

### Gender-based Violence (GBV) & Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

UNFPA supports access to quality and timely SRH/GBV services for vulnerable/refugee women and adolescent girls in the Bekaa area. AMEL Association has been providing these services since 2017 through its Primary Health Care team and outreach workers awareness sessions, in addition to midwifery services, subsidization of SRH services (consultations and pap smear tests) and distribution of dignity kits.



Photo by WFP / Giulio Origlia

### Food Insecurity

It's lunch time at Mona's. She now relies on humanitarian assistance from WFP to put food on the table.

Mona lives on the edge of Tripoli's Hay Al Tanak. Every sunrise carries a new challenge for her and the people she must feed. "When we were informed that our family is eligible for aid, we immediately felt happy," she recalls. "No one could believe how glad I was. I've been hoping to get the WFP food e-card for a very long time."

## Strategic Objectives and Sectoral/Inter-sectoral Response

Under the LCRP, the Government of Lebanon and its national and international partners seek to deliver integrated and mutually reinforcing humanitarian and stabilization interventions to address the impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon and provide support to the most vulnerable across the displaced and host community. The LCRP promotes the strategic priorities identified by the Government of Lebanon and partners, with interventions aligned to national policies and strategies, responding to evolving needs, and seeking

to complement and build on other international assistance in the country, including under the Lebanon Emergency Response Plan.

A two-year extension of the LCRP was agreed in 2022 on the basis of annual planning, in 2023 seeking to address the needs of 1.5 million displaced Syrians; 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese; 31,400 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS); and 180,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL).



### Strategic Objective 1 Ensure Protection of Vulnerable Populations

Recognizing that the imperative of protecting women, girls, boys and men lies at the heart of humanitarian action, the response aims to strengthen protection services and interventions for displaced persons from Syria and other vulnerable populations, empower individuals and mainstream protection, gender, GBV, conflict sensitivity and environment across all sectoral interventions. It promotes protection of, and access to, affected people in accordance with relevant principles and instruments of international refugee and human rights law.



### Strategic Objective 2 Provide Immediate Assistance to Vulnerable Populations

The response aims to address the immediate needs of the vulnerable populations (displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, PRS and PRL), prioritizing the most vulnerable through temporary solutions, with the aim to mitigate the rapid deterioration of social and economic conditions which exacerbate protection risks.



### Strategic Objective 3 Support Service Provision Through National Systems

The response aims to support national and local capacities to meet the increasingly overwhelming service-related needs and seeks to reinforce confidence in the equitable access to and quality of public services for vulnerable populations. It is recognised that the crisis in Syria continues to have a negative impact on the sustainable development of Lebanon and the pressures felt by the public system. LCRP partners recognise that the prevailing economic context is further hampering service availability, functionality, equitable delivery, and accessibility. The response aims to reinforce access to basic services through national systems and to establish or upgrade basic public service infrastructure, ensuring functioning service delivery in the most vulnerable communities affected by the crisis, including through the support of municipalities and the Ministry of Social Affairs' (MoSA) network of Social Development Centres as key gateways.



### Strategic Objective 4 Reinforce Lebanon's Economic, Social and Environmental Stability

The response aims to strengthen productive sectors in expanding economic and gender-equal livelihood opportunities, benefiting local development and the most vulnerable communities. It aims to invest in mitigating the environmental impact of the Syria crisis, ensuring that actions are taken to maintain long-term sustainability of the natural eco-system and avoid its further degradation. Furthermore, it will invest in national and local capacities to promote dialogue that mitigates tensions and conflicts at the municipal and local levels, with a particular focus on employment for adolescent girls and boys and women.

In 2023, the response will seek to build on achievements in previous years to implement the following programmatic steers across sectors:

- **Strengthening cash-based assistance** across sectors (including basic assistance, food security & agriculture, protection, livelihoods, social stability, education, shelter) to provide a lifeline to socio-economically vulnerable households and address specific vulnerabilities. The response will ensure a focus on harmonization of approaches across sectors, alignment with government-led schemes outside the LCRP and mitigation of tensions in a complex environment with fluctuating exchange rates and widespread perceptions of aid bias;
- Reinforce **equitable access to basic services and protection** in a context where crucial infrastructure and service provision (such as the functioning of water and wastewater systems, hospitals and schools) are at risk of collapse without both short-term support and the identification of more sustainable solutions;
- Seek to address crucial gaps in **municipal service** provision and mitigate rising tensions at the **local level**, strengthening emergency preparedness and response and seeking to alleviate growing pressure on partners;
- Meanwhile, **mainstreaming** protection, gender, environment and conflict sensitivity approaches throughout each of its ten sectors in order to ensure interventions that are sensitive to local contexts and in turn, minimize harm and contribute to maintaining stability.



Photos by UNDP

### Home Farming Activities

Through this all-inclusive intervention by the United Nations Development Programme, 691 vulnerable families from Ablah, Dahr el Ahmar, and Ras Baalbek have been provided with the needed tools and equipment for home farming, certified seeds, and seedlings. They have attended capacity building sessions on the best and most efficient use of available small plots of land in their backyards, crop selection, and basic farming techniques towards improving their self-sufficiency. The project aims to facilitate local production and reduce the cost of the food basket for a family by 40-50% by securing a considerable portion of the essential and healthy food items at the household level.





# Jordan

Country Overview

Jordan hosts 1.3 million refugees. Under the mandate of UNHCR, 673,238 are Syrian refugees, of which 80.5 per cent live within the host communities like all non-Syrian refugees. Some 19 per cent of the Syrian population has been identified as having a specific need, including serious medical conditions (10.1 per cent), specific legal or physical protection needs (4.4 per cent), and children at risk (3.7 per cent). Jordan is the second largest per capita refugee hosting country in the world, and whilst it is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention, it provides a favourable protection environment for refugees, safeguarding key fundamental human rights through national frameworks. Moreover, since the beginning of the refugee response, the country has allowed for refugee inclusion in critical areas, including education, health care, and most recently, a universal access to the national COVID-19 health response and vaccination programme.

However, more than eleven years since the start of the Syria crisis and amid overlapping socio-economic and public health crises across the region, the overall operational context for the response in Jordan is continuing to evolve, threatening gains made in recent years. The displacement of refugees from Syria is protracted, while national, regional, and global socio-economic dynamics provoke shocks that deepen the vulnerabilities of the population across Jordan. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the pre-existing challenges, including poor economic performance, food insecurity, water scarcity, and weak infrastructure. It has also significantly reduced access to livelihoods for refugees and host communities. Although some refugees found ways to generate income and become self-reliant, humanitarian needs continue to exist. The preliminary results of the 2021 Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF),<sup>88</sup> indicate the growing vulnerability faced by refugees and challenges in accessing health, shelter, food security and income amid rising debt levels, child labour, and gender inequality. Ninety-one per cent of refugee families are resorting to at least one harmful coping strategy and more than 50 per cent resort to reducing non-food expenses and selling productive assets. As food prices and electricity tariffs are expected to remain high, people living in poverty are expected to be highly impacted.

## In Need

**1,300,000**

Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 1,300,000 Syrians)

**520,000**

Host community members

## Targeted

**1,300,000**

Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 1,300,000 Syrians)

**520,000**

Host community members

## 2023 Financial Requirements

<b>Protection</b>	USD 134,095,320
<b>Food Security &amp; Basic Needs</b>	USD 476,585,722
<b>Education</b>	USD 63,388,020
<b>Health</b>	USD 79,127,320
<b>Shelter</b>	USD 43,022,679
<b>WASH</b>	USD 38,493,428
<b>Economic Empowerment*</b>	USD 50,470,301
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 885,182,791</b>

\* The Economic Empowerment sector is the former livelihoods sector.

Additionally, debt to cover essential needs is rising (increased by 25 per cent in comparison to 2018 data), mainly to pay rent (32 per cent) followed by buying food (26 per cent).

Child protection risks are also on the rise with 8.2 per cent of all refugee children in Jordan considered at risk (child abuse, violence, neglect, child marriage, and child labour). COVID-19 has further exacerbated the risks whereas as per VAF 2021, 3.3 per cent of refugee children (6-17 years old) are engaged in work activities, compared to 1.6 per cent in 2016. The risk of GBV is particularly high for refugee women and girls, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Higher rates of child marriage result in more children born to younger mothers, putting them at higher health risk and preventing them from education opportunities. Exposure to harassment in camps is also high mainly when using latrines, shopping, going to school, etc.

Water access continues to be a challenge for refugees, especially in the context of Jordan's water scarcity. Seventeen per cent of refugees are borrowing money to pay bills/expenses for water and electricity. In addition, shelter also remains an area of concern and with significant gaps in out-of-camp settings (over 50 per cent of households living in sub-standard or inadequate shelters commonly rent, with leaking roofs or insufficient ventilation), with eviction threats increased due to the loss of income-generating opportunities for refugees as a consequence of the economic downturn in Jordan due to COVID-19 (around 20 per cent of refugees received threats of eviction in 2021). With the generosity of the Government of Jordan, refugees are accessing education; however, the quality is still poor and limited due to poor infrastructure and limited human resources. The 2021 VAF data indicated a 26 per cent drop in school-aged children going to school due to financial constraints or family obligations, while only around 9 per cent of university-aged refugees enrolled in university.

Despite the positive steps by the Government to provide free work permits to Syrian refugees and the change in the legal framework of Syrian-owned home-based businesses, the unemployment rate continues to increase disproportionately impacting women and youth, and those working in the informal sector and/or in very poor conditions. Challenges remain high especially for women (only 6 per cent all work permits issued to refugees), due to social attitudes, lack of or limited access to childcare and type of jobs among others.

With challenges in the region and the country persisting, there is a risk that conditions will continue to rapidly deteriorate unless closer linkages and stronger complementarity between development and humanitarian actors are forged. Although some similar initiatives are envisioned to increase refugees' overall self-reliance, some groups of refugees with vulnerabilities requiring continued support and assistance will remain.

As for the Syrian refugee response, it continues to be framed by the government-led Jordan Response Plan (JRP), offering strategic coordination, planning, and advocacy, highlighting both refugee and host community needs, and helping to promote equitable burden sharing.



Photo by WFP / Mohammad Batah

### *Sustainable Agriculture Practices*

*WFP is promoting sustainable agriculture practices and strengthening local capacities in Jordan to combat climate change.*

## Strategic Objectives

In this evolving context, the inter-sector coordination architecture will support the shift toward an integrated humanitarian-development response moving forward. The coordination architecture will ensure that protection and resilience dimensions remain at the core of the strategic directions while aligning with the JRP. The inter-sector architecture will tailor its structure and implementation mechanisms to the change in dynamics across different actors in Jordan and allow them to renew their contribution to a coherent and effective crisis response. A refreshed situational analysis charting the increased vulnerability of the community at large will set the priorities for the inter-sector strategy moving forward and will be developed through a process inclusive of development donors and the private sector. The JRP will remain a core framework to inform the priorities of the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) and sectors; however, the ISWG will promote efficiency across the response, ensuring that a protection and solutions strategy informs sectoral planning and enhancing nexus-oriented coordination with line ministries.

The key strategic objectives in 2023 will be advancing humanitarian-development coherence ensuring that humanitarian-development programming will become more prominent in order to integrate the needs of all vulnerable populations in the national recovery plans.

- ! Ensure that protection principles are reinforced throughout the response and maintain key elements for a sustained favourable protection environment.
- ! Strengthen the resilience component around the response framework and enhance coherence between humanitarian and development actions.
- ! Align with Jordan's development goals (Jordan Economic Vision).
- ! Reinforce communities' self-reliance and contribute to building the capacity of national institutions and local services delivery both benefitting vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian communities at large.
- ! Build on the efforts made by the Government to ensure refugee inclusion in national systems, including healthcare and education, working with various partners to develop a model to transition the population to economic opportunities.
- ! Strengthen data analysis to support evidence-based planning, targeting, enhanced implementation mechanisms and advocacy.



Photo / Story by IOM Jordan / Fedza Lukovac / Shereen Mohamed

### *Promoting Economic Empowerment and Resilience among Refugee Populations*

*Bara'ah (34) reflects on her experience participating in the mentorship and training activities of the economic empowerment and resilience project funded by the Government of Kuwait and delivered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM): "I feel empowered more than ever. This training and the mentorship programme have taught me the skills that I need to manage my small business effectively" explained Bara'ah, a Syrian refugee from Homs.*

### *Going back to school to find new opportunities*

*After fleeing Syria to Jordan, Omar dropped out of school to make money for his family.*

*With Relief International's support, Omar finished high school and taking part in vocational training program that led him to a new career.*



Photo by Relief International



Layla harvesting okra into a bucket.

Photo by UNHCR / Roland Schönbauer

### *How a Syrian housewife created farming jobs*

*When Layla Mahmoud Malkawi fled to Jordan, she knew nothing about agriculture. Today, she grows tons of vegetables together with Jordanian workers every year.*

*"It is heart-warming to see refugees who get the opportunity to thrive in a new environment and contribute to the local economy", says UNHCR's Head of Irbid Field Office, Subin Cho. "I am impressed by the power with which Layla has restarted her life. Now she is a respected farmer whose initiative helps several families in the area to find an income."*



Click to read  
the full story



# Iraq

Country Overview

Iraq's context is characterised by protracted humanitarian and development needs, as well as a complex and volatile political and security environment. Despite the substantive expansion of the government's fiscal space due to increases in oil revenues and the completion of reparation payments to Kuwait, the socio-economic situation remains fragile. The past three years have been relatively stable, particularly in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) where most refugees reside, creating space to focus on completing comprehensive solutions, while monitoring and addressing immediate humanitarian and protection needs. In parallel, the international community/donors and development partners are working towards transitioning to a response with the Government of Iraq (GoI) and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in the lead, building on existing social protection schemes and social services.

As of 31 October 2022, 260,069 Syrian refugees reside in Iraq, of which 95 per cent reside in the KRI. Iraq also hosts 28,725 refugees from Türkiye, Iran and the State of Palestine, among other countries. Despite the lack of a comprehensive refugee legal framework in line with international standards, refugees enjoy a favourable protection environment, particularly in the KRI. The KRG issued a decree to grant humanitarian residency to all Syrians who entered the KRI irregularly and who are registered with UNHCR. Accordingly, they de facto enjoy the right to be admitted and remain on the territory, as well as access to health care, education, and work. This favourable environment and the political will shown by the KRG has allowed 3RP partners to shift, where feasible, humanitarian interventions to programmes that strengthen the resilience of affected communities and that support public authorities to enhance and expand social and protection services, benefiting refugees and host communities, including IDP, alike.

## In Need

**317,400**

Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 277,000 Syrians)

**416,488**

Host community members

## Targeted

**317,400**

Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 277,000 Syrians)

**416,488**

Host community members

## 2023 Financial Requirements

<b>Protection</b>	USD 77,653,433
<b>Food Security</b>	USD 11,212,157
<b>Education</b>	USD 15,397,129
<b>Health</b>	USD 21,103,954
<b>Basic Needs</b>	USD 72,863,682
<b>Shelter</b>	USD 10,625,228
<b>Livelihoods</b>	USD 2,457,434
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 211,313,017</b>

Most Syrian refugees (64 per cent) reside outside of camps and share the public space and services with host and/or other displaced communities, covering their own costs and contributing to the local economy. On the other hand, 36 per cent resides across the nine refugee camps established by the KRG at the onset of the crisis. All camps are managed by the KRG and provided with water and electricity free of charge. Humanitarian and development partners have shifted away from parallel humanitarian systems towards including these camps into the service delivery of the surrounding municipalities, providing services for refugees on par with host communities.

Since the onset of the Syria crisis, the KRG Ministry of Education (MoE) has administered a parallel refugee education system, offering a KRG curriculum in Arabic through Syrian refugee teachers. As these teachers are outside the KRG civil servant corps, their capacity building and financial incentives have historically been supported by education humanitarian partners, with administration and infrastructure maintained parallel to existing schools. As of the academic year 2022/2023, the Refugee Education Integration Policy (REIP) is being implemented. This is a landmark decision by the KRG to integrate refugee children – and qualified refugee teachers – from grade 1 to 4 in the national system. It presents a shift from a parallel education system and integration in the national education systems, through a range of activities, including school construction and rehabilitation and training for teachers.

Camp-based primary health services have traditionally been provided by the Directorate of Health (DoH) with the support of humanitarian partners, while public health services at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels are available and accessible to all refugees living in urban areas. In line with the strategy to provide services through national systems, throughout 2022 and 2023, camp based PHCC are gradually being integrated within the health services in urban areas. Capacity building and material support remains needed to support national health services.

Despite these positive steps, protection concerns persist in relation to barriers to access Iraqi territory from Syria due to border restrictions, risks of arrest, detention and deportation for asylum-seekers lacking documentation, and restrictions on freedom of movement, specifically between the KRI and Federal Iraq. Similarly, access to the Iraqi territory for asylum remains extremely limited, especially for nationalities other than Syrians or ethnicity other than Kurdish.

Furthermore, the lack of a comprehensive legal framework on asylum and refugees' rights presents further barriers on their access to financial inclusion and social protection services, and may have an impact on their access to decent employment. Overall findings from the MSNA and Participatory Assessments conducted in 2021, confirmed that economic vulnerabilities are the root cause of harmful coping mechanisms. This includes a high reliance on debt and is seen as a driver behind GBV and Child Protection concerns, including child marriage and child labour. In 2021, 90 per cent of refugee households reported lack of access to sustainable income generation opportunities as the main protection concern.

There is a lack of decent and stable income-generation opportunities due to the unfavourable economic environment, where the private sector consists of only 40 per cent of the economy and is mostly informal. Refugees are not allowed to work in the public sector; therefore, refugees have to work in the informal sector and with unregistered businesses. Loss of income during the COVID-19 pandemic, a devaluation of the Iraqi Dinar in 2021 and the impact of the war in Ukraine further deteriorated the socio-economic situation of Iraqi and refugees alike.

Further analysis is required to see whether refugees have been uniquely impacted in 2022, however the 2021 MSNA showed a higher rate of refugees (93 per cent) reporting loss of income as a result of COVID-19 compared with host communities (58 per cent), due to a reduction of daily labour opportunities. Similarly, findings showed higher use of harmful coping mechanisms among refugees (90 per cent) than host communities (44 per cent). This includes buying food on credit and reducing non-food expenditures.

Refugees are more likely to be employed in temporary work (93 per cent) compared with host communities (50 per cent), also considering their lack of access to public sector employment which is the main employment opportunity for host communities. Given that temporary labour pays less and is less secure than regular employment, this disparity explains refugees' higher reliance on debt (84 per cent) compared with host communities (58 per cent), and lower average household income (IQD 425,000) compared to host communities (IQD 714,000).

The MSNA identified a considerable deterioration of food security among the refugee population, which is slightly higher among in-camp refugees. Of the in-camp refugees only 14 per cent scored as food secure in 2021 compared with 36 per cent in 2020. This indicates that 77 per cent of in-camp refugees are vulnerable to food insecurity and nine per cent are assessed as food insecure.

In 2021, almost all Syrian refugee households nationwide reported having access to adequate and functional handwashing facilities (100 per cent), sufficient amounts of soap and disinfectant (97 per cent), and appropriate menstrual hygiene items (96 per cent). Water scarcity and quality issues remain a concern together with the poor status of water and waste management infrastructures across the country. While all WASH services inside camps have been handed over to local municipalities in 2022, government-led WASH working groups will be established in 2023 in Federal Iraq and KRI to mainly monitor the impact of water scarcity on both IDPs, refugees and host communities, including in camp settings.

These transitions are not without challenges. The foreseen decrease in funding remains a risk and might jeopardize the capacity of humanitarian partners to successfully transition to national ownership, which is called for given the few remaining areas where refugee inclusion is yet to be achieved. For instance, some partners had to withdraw their interventions especially from Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah Governorate due to funding crisis. Iraq is facing substantial challenges to shift from recovery to long-term sustainable development despite having the necessary fiscal space, existing social and social protection services and skills and competencies within the public institutions. Weak institutional capacity and rule of law, political instability, over-dependence on the civil service as the main employability scheme, poor private sector diversification and risks posed by climate change remain of concern. These risks should be mitigated by responsible disengagement, through continued support from donor countries, development actors, the private sector and international financial institutions to the KRG/Gol and 3RP partners. This will allow 3RP partners to maintain and enhance the protection space while building on existing capacity building initiatives and advance the socio-economic inclusion of refugees.



Photo by People in Need (PIN)

### How Education And Psychological Support Are Helping Students In Northern Iraq

*In light of this and to support all the efforts to improve the state of education in Iraq, People in Need (PIN), as a part of the consortium funded by the UNICEF fund Education Cannot Wait (ECW), and in partnership with Save the Children, INTERSOS and RWANGA; started remedial and catch up classes in four schools in northern Iraq including recreational and PSS activities.*

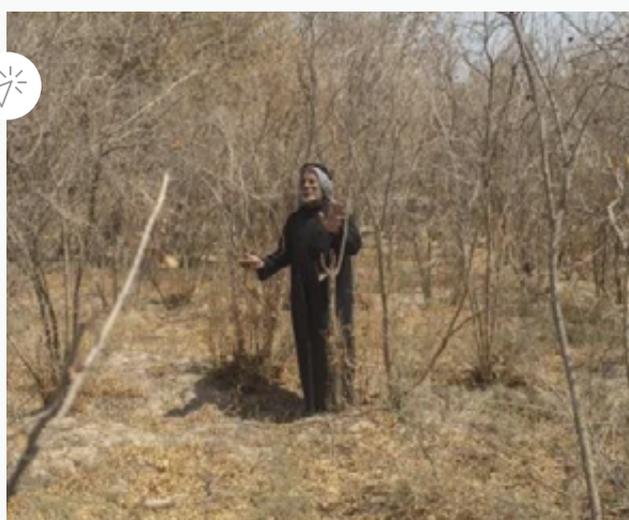


Photo by Save the Children

### Agriculture and Climate Change

*With the reduction of rainfall and soaring temperature, agricultural production is dropping, and farmers' ability to cope is hindered. Affected farmers are exhausted and feel that they are left alone in the face of crisis. Many farmers leave their lands and look for better opportunities away from their land and the urban areas.*

## Strategic Objectives and Sectoral/Inter-sectoral Response

In Iraq, a gradual transition from an emergency humanitarian response to a longer-term solutions approach has been taking place, with a focus on the inclusion of refugees into national systems providing public services on par with the host community. The KRG has been exemplary in including refugees in public services, in line with the objectives of the GCR. As has been reflected in the 3RP plans over the last few years, partners have already shifted, where feasible, humanitarian interventions to programmes that strengthen the resilience of affected communities and that support authorities to enhance and expand their service delivery.

For 2023 and 2024, the Iraq 3RP Chapter will include critical remaining humanitarian and protection activities, while focusing on further advancing, if not completing, the inclusion agenda through advocacy and capacity building activities. Building on earlier mentioned achievements, the Chapter will mainly focus on the transitional plans to further advance national ownership and inclusion of refugees in national plans and coordination structures. This is in line with the UN's country strategy and based on consultations that took place with regional and national stakeholders, including 3RP partners throughout 2022 as well as the overall vision of the GCR.

The Iraq Country Chapter objectives and activities are strategically aligned with and contributing to the KRG Vision 2030, SDGs and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). This alignment will support further engagement and advocacy in 2023 with national and development actors to advance refugees' inclusion in their planning, programming, relevant coordination fora and monitoring and evaluation mechanism. This will include advocacy in the run up to the next Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to showcase the achievements of the KRG and, where relevant, Government of Iraq, on refugee inclusion and formulate pledges to further strengthen this.

Remaining protection activities include sustained advocacy both at the KRG and Government of Iraq level on maintaining the asylum and protection space in Iraq, as well as ensuring access to territory given the current border closure with Northeast Syria in particular. Ongoing capacity-building for authorities on legal and policy reforms will continue, including for the revision of the 1971 Political Refugee Law to make it compliant with international standards. Additionally, community-based initiatives to strengthen refugees' resilience will be complemented by specialised GBV and CP services, and legal assistance. In order to strengthen prevention and response to GBV and child violence, abuse and neglect, 3RP partners will continue to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women's (DCVAW).

Support to the Ministry of Education to implement the Refugee Education Integration Policy (REIP) will be a priority, and advocacy will continue to expand the REIP to include grades 5-12. In line with the health integration strategy developed by UNHCR and partners in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, partners will continue to provide capacity building and material support to national health services. This will include mental health and psychosocial support services. The integration of the remaining camp based Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) with public health services in urban areas will continue. Furthermore, area-based interventions will continue to support the gradual integration of refugee camps into urban settlements, providing services to refugees on par with the host community.

In the absence of a fully functioning public social protection system in KRI, basic needs and food assistance will continue to be provided to the most vulnerable individuals. Ongoing advocacy and capacity building initiatives will continue to include refugees in government-led social protection and employability services to facilitate the graduation of refugees from dependency on humanitarian assistance. This will build on the MoLSA KRG Social Safety Net Pilot in Duhok which will include internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and host communities as an important precedent for refugee inclusion in social protection schemes.



# Egypt

Country Overview

As of November 2022, 288,586 refugees and asylum-seekers from 60 different nationalities were registered with UNHCR in Egypt, including 145,157 Syrian refugees making up 50 per cent of the total population, followed by Sudanese, South Sudanese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, and other nationalities. In 2022, UNHCR registered 43,375 refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt including 15,879 Syrian refugees.

Despite the increased challenges and the continued recent arrival of Syrian refugees, Egypt has been one of the least funded countries at international donor conferences in response to the Syria crisis. Nevertheless, the exceptional hospitality and resourcefulness of the Government of Egypt (GoE) and the host community, alongside assistance made possible by donor contributions and implemented by humanitarian and development partners under the 3RP, have succeeded in attracting considerable support to refugees and asylum-seekers across all sectors.

Despite the generous efforts of the GoE to include refugees and asylum-seekers in national health and education systems, refugees struggle to meet their basic needs due to barriers in economic and financial inclusion and rising living costs. This is mainly attributed to practices that restrict refugees' opportunities to provide for themselves. The Ukraine situation has further negatively impacted refugees and asylum-seekers in terms of increased food and fuel costs. The latter has affected refugees and asylum-seekers in particular in light of the mobility required for them to engage in work and to renew their residency documents every six months.

UNHCR 2022 data shows that an estimated 66 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers live below the national poverty line in Egypt. Of those in need of cash assistance, 50 per cent do not access either UNHCR cash assistance or WFP cash-for-food due to limited funding. Moreover, for those who do receive UNHCR's multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and WFP cash, this assistance covers less than 65 per cent of their needs, based on the survival minimum expenditure basket.

## In Need

**159,199**

Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 159,199 Syrians)

**41,560**

Host community members

## Targeted

**159,199**

Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (includes 159,199 Syrians)

**41,560**

Host community members

## 2023 Financial Requirements

**Protection** USD 36,308,716

**Food Security** USD 26,000,000

**Education** USD 22,010,930

**Health & Nutrition** USD 15,161,672

**Livelihoods & Basic Needs** USD 55,143,324

**TOTAL** USD 154,624,641

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when accessibility to services and resources were limited, the GoE demonstrated its commitment to the principle of “Leave no one behind” in practical terms through initiatives that included facilitating access to vaccines for refugees and asylum-seekers on par with Egyptians, and the flexibility provided to refugee students to access education for those with expired residency. The emergence of new global challenges - including those related to Ukraine and the global economy - highlight the importance of reaffirming commitments more widely in support of Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers and their host country through the 3RP. Most Syrians in Egypt - some 90 per cent - have ruled out return home as an option any time soon for reasons ranging from security to the absence of livelihood opportunities in Syria. The protracted nature of the Syria crisis a decade on therefore emphasizes the need to continue to support linkages between humanitarian and developmental support in areas including education, health, and economic inclusion.



Story by UNHCR / Radwa Sharaf

Photo by Maryam

### *The journey of a Syrian refugee and an aspiring pharmacist*

*“University is more than just a higher-level educational institution, it is a place to meet new cultures and a way to learn how to depend on yourself,” said Maryam acknowledging how she has changed since she joined university. “I have seen a whole new world when I started university; I have met different people and I learned the importance of accepting others.”*



Photo by WFP Egypt

### *The importance of food assistance*

*“Besides the importance of the food assistance we receive from WFP, we enjoy how they raise the awareness of parents on proper nutrition for children. We enjoy learning how to choose the best food items for our child. We wish to give her the best life we possibly could,” – Fedaa’ Zahir and Khaled Daghestany, a Syrian couple who arrived in Egypt with their little girl in 2013 and have been using WFP’s food vouchers to meet their basic nutrition needs.*

## Strategic Objectives and Sectoral/Inter-sectoral Response

In 2023, 3RP partners will continue to advocate that the **protection space for Syrian refugees is maintained and enhanced**, by extending support to access protection and legal stay. Partners will continue to support refugees and asylum-seekers in meeting their basic needs and in accessing protection, education, health services, housing, food, and access to livelihood opportunities. 3RP partners realize that there is a need for a multilevel intervention to address the increased challenges adversely impacting the protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers. Achievements in mainstreaming refugees and asylum-seekers into national education and health services are expected to continue.

3RP partners have agreed to prioritize **GBV and child protection activities** to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. Partners furthermore aim to scale up financial assistance in light of Egypt's challenging economic situation, especially for unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs). As 3RP partners work towards a one-refugee approach, provision of financial assistance cannot be achieved without securing funding for all vulnerable refugee households, including UASCs of all nationalities. It is worth noting that psychosocial support and housing needs have exacerbated during COVID-19 and will likely increase in 2023 and beyond, given the socio-economic situation and global inflation.

Concurrently, 3RP partners will continue to prioritize **communication-with-communities** activities using various platforms and communication means. This will contribute to strengthening the accountability framework to the affected populations. Response to persons living with disability and other groups with specific needs will continue using an age, gender, and diversity-sensitive approach.

Protection partners will continue pursuing **durable solutions and complementary pathways** in 2023, especially through advocacy for refugee resettlement.

Supporting refugees and asylum-seekers to enable their **access to public education** remains a key strategic priority. While Syrian, Sudanese, Iraqi and Yemeni refugee students have access to the public education system on par with Egyptians, 3RP education partners will continue to enable access to refugee students from all nationalities to primary and secondary education through the provision of education grants and continued support to the Ministry of Education.

Refugees and asylum-seekers will continue to access **primary health care services** through public health facilities and complementary care through NGO partners to fill gaps in non-communicable diseases and reproductive health services. Health partners will continue to support national efforts to improve the quality of services to refugees and asylum-seekers, and host populations, in areas with a high density of refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, 3RP health partners will deliver specific health care assistance, as well as secondary and referral care for life-saving treatments. Health partners will also continue monitoring health trends in refugee and asylum-seeker communities and advocate for continued access to essential life-saving and regular health services. The latter deserves particular attention considering the ongoing implementation of a national universal health insurance scheme that will fundamentally change health care delivery in Egypt. To identify a modality for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in this new system is of paramount importance to secure their access to health care in the long term.

In 2023, 3RP partners in Egypt will continue to provide **cash assistance** as a protection tool. Cash-based interventions (CBI) reduce harmful coping mechanisms such as taking children out of school, child marriage, child labour, begging and other survival mechanisms, in addition to supporting refugees to pay rent, utilities, school fees, and other essential needs. The CBI programme in Egypt continues to expand the use of biometrics to verify the identity and to avoid the duplication of those receiving assistance. With this system, refugees can collect cash assistance directly through selected Egypt Post offices using IRIS-scan technology. The CBI programme allows refugees to spend money in local markets in support of the local economy, resulting in protection and social cohesion dividends through strengthened relationships between refugee and host community populations. Throughout 2023, the food security partners will extend **unconditional food assistance** to 150,000 refugees in addition to monthly food assistance to the most vulnerable, including pregnant and lactating women and their infants under two years of age. Once resources are available, partners will scale up current operations to target the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. Additionally, various livelihood activities including food assistance for training will be implemented to support long term integration and social cohesion among refugees and host communities. This is more necessary than ever before to increase resilience to shocks and build a stronger safety net for vulnerable population during times of crisis.

# Evaluation

## 1. Background

In November 2020, the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) agreed to initiate a regional level independent evaluation of the 3RP in recognition of the evolving context since its inception in 2015 and the need to ensure that the 3RP is fit for purpose against the backdrop of a series of compounding challenges facing the region. The evaluation began in July 2021, conducted by independent consulting service TANGO with support from the 3RP Joint Secretariat (JS) and a dedicated Regional Technical Committee (RTC) Taskforce.

## Scope

While the scope of the evaluation was limited to regional dimensions and did not cover 3RP country response plans and coordination processes in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq or Egypt, it did assess the 3RP regional level support for country-level responses.

## Overarching Objectives

- Assess what has worked well and what could be improved in terms of the regional 3RP mechanism.
- Assess and generate recommendations on ways in which the regional 3RP mechanism can further evolve to respond to the changing context across the region.

## Evaluation Questions

- How has the 3RP provided effective strategic leadership, vision, and coordination for the Syria regional refugee crisis response?
- How has the 3RP supported the operational response at the country level while promoting regional coherence?
- Has the 3RP provided an effective platform to conduct advocacy, policy, and resource mobilization at the global and regional levels?

## Information Sources

- Review of over 200 documents such as 3RP strategic, monitoring and reporting documents, internal and external evaluations and reviews, policies and sources of contextual information.
- Participation of around 70 people in key informant interviews, focus group discussions and inception interviews, including representatives from UN agencies, 3RP country coordinators, national and international NGOs, and major 3RP funding partners.

## 3RP Evaluation Report



Access  
report



## 2. Key Conclusions and Findings

The evaluation report was released in June 2022, providing a strong overall validation of the 3RP model as well as some useful recommendations for further strengthening. The top-line conclusions and findings against the three Evaluation Questions are outlined below:

### Strategic leadership, vision, and coordination

#### Conclusion:

The 3RP has effectively carried out its knowledge management, fundraising and RDSWG functions, but its full potential to support and guide strategic decision-making for the region's response to the Syria crisis is not yet realized.

#### Summary of Findings:

The evaluation overall found that the 3RP functions align with current international standards, Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) and the Agenda 2030/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and leading practice in humanitarian and development response. In particular, the 3RP has a highly effective information and knowledge management function, though this could be built on further to provide more analytical and contextually relevant outputs.

In terms of the conceptual framework of the 3RP, the evaluation questioned whether the distinction between refugee and resilience components is still relevant. It noted that progress from the regional level is being made instead towards incorporating resilience thinking across all its scope of work.

The evaluation noted that the 3RP is a useful convener and platform for regional coordination but should continue to adapt to reflect national priorities. In this respect, more support could be dedicated to national planning and coordination processes.

On coordination support, the JS is generally acknowledged favourably in supporting and coordinating the various functions at the regional level. However, the evaluation noted that a clarification of the RTC's role and function within the 3RP coordination architecture was necessary. The use of partner-driven, time-bound task forces to achieve technical outputs was also recommended.

### Supporting the operational response

#### Conclusion:

The 3RP successfully disseminated standards and tools to strengthen planning and coordination for a more coherent response at the regional level. 3RP support to country-level planning and coordination is being prioritized but needs to be further increased and strengthened.

#### Summary of Findings:

The evaluation found that while the 3RP regional functions remain prominent, it is continuing to evolve its support to national planning processes in line with the growing emphasis of context-specific national planning under a coherent regional framework. Notwithstanding, the regional 3RP could do more to fully meet stakeholder expectations for country-level planning and coordination support.

The evaluation noted that the 3RP could engage more with UN Country Teams.

Progress was noted towards mainstreaming gender equity and women's empowerment across the 3RP and within country chapters, but the evaluation recommended additional investment.

## Advocacy, policy, and resource mobilization

### Conclusion:

The 3RP is a successful advocate and fundraiser for the Syria response. Addressing the risks and opportunities highlighted in this evaluation through a re-envisioned 3RP will strengthen its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency going forward.

### Summary of Findings:

The evaluation found that the 3RP has been a successful advocate for the regional Syria response, specifically in terms of resource mobilization. 3RP's advocacy at the Brussels Conference has translated into successful funds pledged by the international community toward the crisis response. There is a broad consensus that this reliability is one of the driving reasons why the 3RP attracts and retains a broad membership across sectors. Overall, both resource mobilization and fundraising are viewed as a key success of the 3RP mechanism.

On advocacy, the evaluation noted that the lack of a formal advocacy strategy may affect the ability of the 3RP to promote the coherence of advocacy efforts across the region. The development of an advocacy roadmap that covers all domains and scope of work in detail was recommended.

### 3. Recommendations & Responses

The 3RP leadership has welcomed the evaluation and is committed to carrying forward its recommendations to reinvigorate and refresh the 3RP response model. UNHCR and UNDP appreciate the information provided in the report and the momentum it has garnered among partners in the region to further advance the 3RP response.

A workshop of inter-sector coordinators from across the 3RP response countries and the regional level that took place in September 2022 dedicated a full day to examine the evaluation results and implications. Drawing on these discussions, the formal management response to the evaluation was developed by the 3RP leadership and released in November 2022.

The management response outlines the actions to be taken, many of which have already begun, in collaboration with 3RP partners across the region in response to the recommendations of the evaluation. The management response, along with the 3RP annual workplan, in which the agreed activities in response to the evaluation are being embedded, also serve as an adaptive management plan to track progress on the issues raised in the evaluation. Updates on these issues will be regularly discussed as standing items on the RTC and RSC meeting agendas.

### Refining the Conceptual Framework and Operating Model

The evaluation recommended the development of two documents to help clarify and explain the conceptual framework and the operating model of the 3RP. Work on these two documents is being carried forward by a newly established 3RP Taskforce drawn from the regional and country level partners. It is expected that the Conceptual Framework document will describe in plain language the 3RP's strategic directions, its scope of work and activities, and its position on and use of concepts such as the HDPN and resilience, as well as 3RP alignment to other global standards and frameworks. The Operating Model document will provide a transparent overview of the 3RP coordination structure, including the membership and roles and responsibilities of the RSC, RTC and other parts of the structure, how they interlink with each other, how and where 3RP partners can engage, and what the expectations are of those partners. These two documents are expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2023.

### Options for enhanced Regional Leadership and Country Support

The 3RP leadership agrees with the evaluation's observation about inclusive agenda-setting and the continued importance of national leadership and capacities being at the centre of the response. The 3RP has promoted this from the regional level by making Enhanced National and Local Capacities as one of its four regional strategic directions, and the evaluation's recommendation to further nest the regional 3RP within national needs and priorities is therefore welcome.

To re-assess the regional engagement with the country focal points and better understand possible roles and emerging needs and priorities for future 3RP support, consultations with the country focal points are taking place through bilateral calls, a Regional Planning Workshop, and planned country missions by the regional JS. Based on the feedback provided, an Options Paper outlining roles, products and emerging needs and priorities for future 3RP regional support will be drafted and finalized in consultation with the country focal points and the RTC. The Options Paper is expected to be completed in Q1 2023.

## An Advocacy Roadmap

With advocacy activities having over the past years been undertaken for the most part on a-needs basis, the 3RP leadership agrees with the evaluation's recommendation that an Advocacy Roadmap be created to plan activities and track progress more predictably against the 3RP's advocacy objectives. As first steps toward the roadmap, an Advocacy Taskforce is being activated under the RTC, including regional and national partners. The Taskforce will identify advocacy change pathways and undertake a needs, gaps and opportunities assessment. These steps would feed into creating an Advocacy Roadmap which would complement national efforts but lend a regional perspective and identify areas where regional support would assist. The efforts of the Advocacy Working group will be closely coordinated with the 3RP Regional Communications Working Group to ensure alignment of advocacy messaging with the broader communications efforts. The Advocacy Roadmap is expected to be finalized in Q2 2023.

## Supporting the Operational Response on specific issues and themes

The evaluation's finding that the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group (RDSWG) has maintained a critical focus on durable solutions in a highly politicized and complex context is also very much a welcome one. The evaluation further noted that the RDSWG could provide lessons for effective coordination on other priority issues and should be explored as a model that could be extended to other priority areas of thematic work.

As part of the consultation process on regional support to country operations, priority areas where the RDSWG Workstream model (time and task bound, based on specific TOR and deliverables, composed of technical experts) could be applied to produce key outputs. The coordination structures should build a link with country level needs and partners where possible, to avoid redundancy and additional burden for country level coordination structures. The JS has taken these recommendations on board and already set up two taskforces to advance some of the recommendations flagged by TANGO. One on the development of the two documents (Conceptual Framework and Operating Model) and the other for developing an advocacy roadmap. It is important to note that not all issues/engagements will necessitate the activation of a formal working group, with other models also available such as formal/informal information sharing and repositories, regional workshops and skill-sharing sessions, and best-practice case study development and dissemination.

# Durable Solutions

## Background

The 3RP continues to be framed to the extent possible from a solutions perspective. While countries lead efforts related to durable solutions, the Regional Technical Committee (RTC) established a dedicated Regional Durable Solutions Working Group (RDSWG) to facilitate regional coordination in 2017. Meanwhile, support to durable solutions has been a regional Strategic Direction of the 3RP since 2018, defining the issue as a regional priority. Eight years into the 3RP, and almost thirteen years since the onset of the crisis, durable solutions continue to be out of reach for the vast majority of refugees. Each country now outlines a durable solutions strategy based on the specific context and informed by refugees' wishes and intention. These strategies are underpinned by UNHCR's 2018 Comprehensive Protection and Solution Strategy as well as the 3RP's regional Strategic Direction on supporting durable solutions.

The 3RP's approach to durable solutions for Syrian refugees is guided by international protection and humanitarian standards and centered on refugee intentions and concerns. The outcomes and objectives of solutions-related interventions are therefore:

- Refugees have access to information on durable solutions so that they can make informed decisions on their future.
- Refugees continue to access safe and secure asylum space, and host countries continue to be supported by the international community.
- Refugees have increased access to and opportunities for economic and social inclusion in host countries.
- Refugees have access to and opportunities for resettlement and other third-country solutions.
- Refugees can voluntarily return to their countries of origin in safety and dignity at the time of their own choosing, based on their free, informed and voluntary decision.

The below section reflects on progress related to some of these key components in the current contexts in host countries and within Syria.

## Voluntary Repatriation

### Background and Context

Returns continued to take place at a steady but modest rate, with a gradual increase in return of Syrian refugees from neighbouring countries observed during the second half of 2022. Over 50,900 Syrian refugees returned during 2022 compared to around 35,600 in 2021. Of those returning in 2022, 25,847 returns were between July and the end of November. The slight increase noted this year was mainly

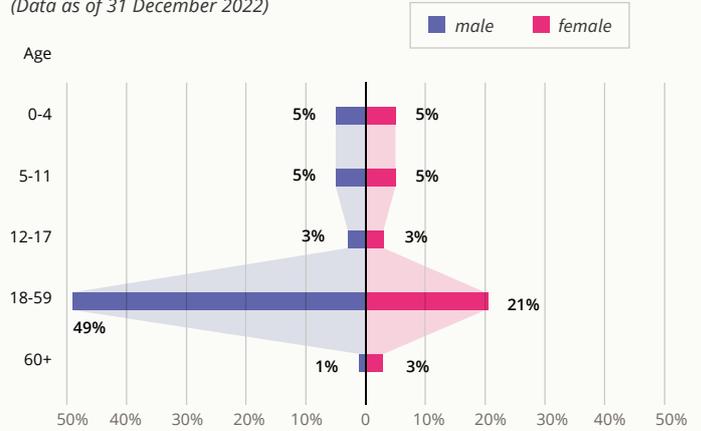
observed in Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye. In Lebanon, government-facilitated returns organized by the General Security Office (GSO), which resumed in October for the first time in over two years. Overall returns from Lebanon more than doubled in 2022 though remaining comparatively low. The overall number of UNHCR verified returns of Syrian refugees between January 2016 and December 2022 is over 354,000.

The modest increase in returns comes despite a decrease in short-term return intention observed during the last round of UNHCR's [intention and perception survey](#), conducted during January and February 2022. At that time only 1.7 per cent of Syrians interviewed intended to return within the next 12 months compared to 2.4 per cent the previous year. The largest decline in intention was noted in Iraq where it

decreased from 5 per cent to 0.4 within the one-year period, likely due to difficult living conditions in areas of origin in north-east Syria. However, almost one third indicated they hope to return within the next five years and 59 per cent one day. Across the region, as in previous years, safety and security, livelihood opportunities, basic services and access to shelter inside Syria remain the primary barriers to return. Living conditions continue to be increasingly challenging for Syrian refugees during recent year and 90 per cent of Syrian refugees surveyed are for example not being able to meet their basic needs in host countries, yet this has not translated into higher intention for returns and does not seem to be a significant driver for return given the continued low level of intention to return in the short-term.

### Return by Age and Gender

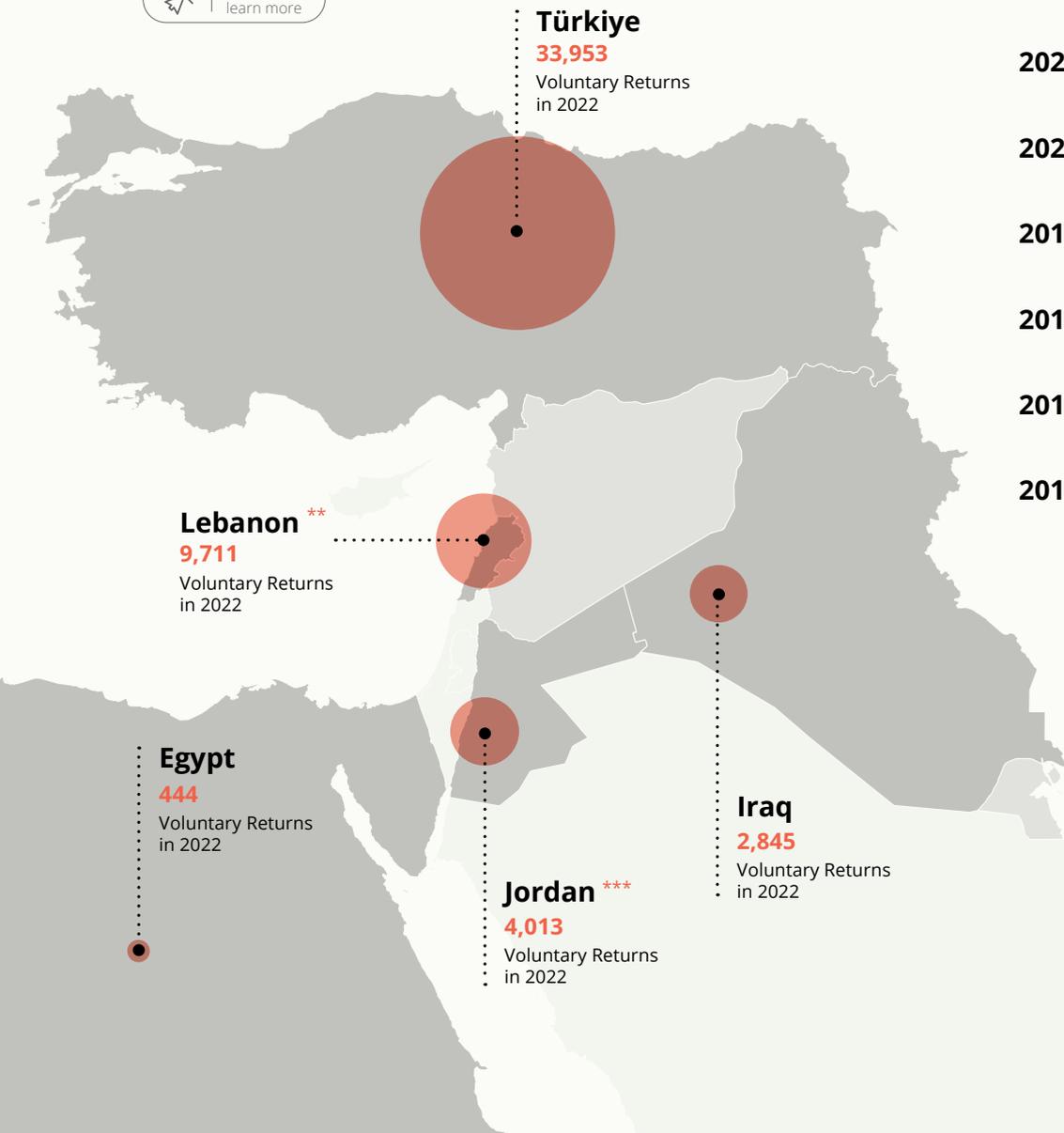
(Data as of 31 December 2022)



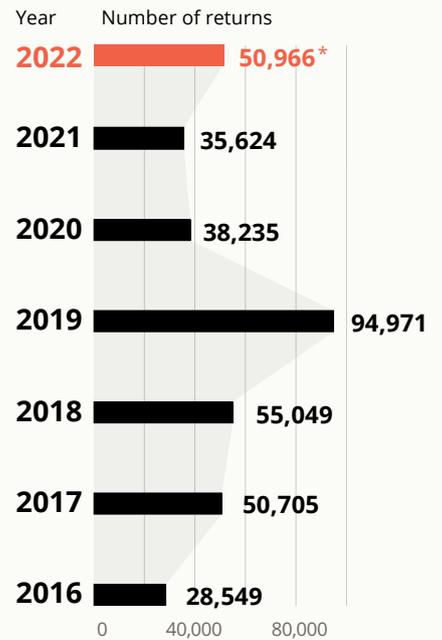
### Voluntary Refugee Returns in 2022 as verified by UNHCR

(Data as of 31 December 2022)

Click to learn more



### Regional Returns per Year



\* The numbers reported are only those verified or monitored by UNHCR and do not reflect the entire number of returns, which may be significantly higher.

\*\* The General Directorate of the General Security of Lebanon (GSO) reported that an additional 103 individuals who were not known to UNHCR returned as part of the GSO-facilitated return movements.

\*\*\* Since the re-opening of the border on 15 October 2018, the methodology for returns data was adapted. The return data after 15 October 2018 remains tentative and is undergoing validation and re-adjustments.

size: ~ 200 returns

## Voluntary Return as a Durable Solution under the 3RP

Support for voluntary return is underpinned by the right of Syrian refugees to return to their country of origin at a time of their own choosing in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner. Refugees' intention and decision-making will remain the main guidepost for planning and support, together with UNHCR's 2018 Comprehensive Protection and Solution Strategy. While 3RP partners are neither promoting nor facilitating refugee return, support which includes ensuring refugees have access to reliable information for their decision-making and referrals to legal counselling and other protection services to reduce risks remain important. During counselling, refugees are provided with information about the situation in Syria and access to services to help ensure they can make the safest and most sustainable choice for themselves and their families. Returns without this type of support could expose refugee returnees to additional protection risks and further displacement. 3RP partners also have a direct presence at some of the border crossings (for example in Jordan), supporting families with administrative processes and monitoring their

safe passage. UNHCR continues to strengthen this type of support in coordination with host governments and continues to monitor returns to assess the voluntariness of the decision. At the same time, UNHCR stresses the continued need for protection space and access to legal work and services for the many refugees unable or unwilling to return. Without this, the risk is increased of creating push factors for refugees to return to Syria prematurely, possibly resulting in further displacement or onward movement beyond the region.

The Regional Operational Framework developed by the 3RP's RDSWG was first released in 2019 and is currently in the process of being updated. It guides UNHCR and 3RP partners on how to enhance support and address the needs of refugees who take a free and informed decision to return in line with current positions and approaches. The document builds on the CPSS and will continue to guide return-related planning and preparedness efforts for the coming years.

## Social and Economic Inclusion and Local Opportunities

### Background and Context

As many Syrian refugees are likely to remain displaced in host countries in the medium-term in protracted displacement, expanding local opportunities and solutions remains a key need across the refugee population. Advancing the inclusion of refugees has been a core principle of the 3RP since its inception in 2015, cutting across the 3RP's four strategic directions. Its importance is emphasized through the Global Compact on Refugees (2018), the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) (2019) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Social and economic inclusion of refugees includes, for example, legal frameworks that afford refugees their basic rights to health, education, and social services on par with nationals and in accordance with international refugee law; access to labour markets, financial services and economic opportunities for all; providing refugees equal access to social protection systems and anti-poverty initiatives; and adopting common approaches to assisting host country nationals and refugees in need.

While inclusion in the context of the 3RP has traditionally centred on refugees, it is now acknowledged as a cross-cutting issue that should be pursued for all displacement affected communities, including vulnerable host community members, in line with the GCR, GRF and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Social Economic Inclusion under the 3RP: Access to Services

Ensuring the inclusion of refugees into national systems requires supporting host governments to provide services and assistance to both refugees and host communities in an equitable manner, including through more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing. This can be legally challenging and resource intensive, but when achieved, it can improve refugees and host communities' quality of life and sense of stability and promotes greater social cohesion. Refugees' needs include a supportive legal and administrative framework that protects rights and provides a range of socio-economic opportunities to build self-reliance in the short term, while enhancing the prospect of achieving durable solutions in the future. While the scale and scope of such opportunities are different in each of the 3RP countries progress towards socio-economic inclusion has been made in some areas, while modest results are seen in other areas. Egypt and Iraq, for example, have made great strides towards including Syrian refugees in education and health services.

In Egypt, following the inflow starting in 2011, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education granted Syrian refugees full access to public education on an equal footing to Egyptians (Ministerial Decree 284/2014). Access was extended to all stages of education, including vocational and technical schools, as well as higher education academies and institutions. Similarly, the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) allowed Syrian refugees to access MoHP health services on an equal footing to national citizens.



*The KRI has been hosting more than 71,000 school-age Syrian refugee children since the onset of the crisis. The KRI Ministry of Education (MoE) initially set-up and managed a parallel refugee education system, with a KRI curriculum and learning materials, taught in Arabic by Syrian refugee teachers. The Education Sector co-led by UNICEF, Save the Children and UNHCR advocated for the integration of refugee children into the KRG public education system. As a result, the Refugee Education Integration Policy was devised through a collaborative engagement of all education partners. The MoE and the KRI Council of Ministers endorsed it in November 2021. The policy highlights the importance of integrating refugee children into the public education system to advance refugee protection and rights as well as the Sustainable Development Goal 4, which recognizes that education is one of the most important ways to build self-reliance and resilience for refugee and host community children and youth; foster social cohesion between refugee and host communities; and, mitigate child protection risks*

In Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Ministry of Interior, with the support of UNHCR, is developing the first Administrative Instructions on access to Humanitarian Residency which aim to harmonize and codify the procedures for issuing Humanitarian Residency Permits to asylum-seekers and refugees across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), thus strengthening the protection environment. The COVID-19 crisis, despite its devastating impact on the lives of many, did also show the continued commitment of host governments to provide for those under their protection. Syrian refugees in the KRI have free access to health services equal to national citizens, are included in the Iraq National Deployment and

Vaccination Plan for COVID-19, and have free access to public COVID-19 services. Municipalities hosting refugee camps are being supported with infrastructure and capacity building investments with the aim of enhancing public service delivery, benefiting refugees and host communities alike, and gradually integrating camp services. In 2021, the KRG Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs included refugees in a Social Safety Net pilot in Duhok, supported by the World Bank, and providing cash transfers to vulnerable households. This presents an important precedent for the inclusion of refugees in national social protection schemes.

## Access to livelihood and financial inclusion

Inclusion also means removing barriers to refugees achieving stability and self-reliance, including by securing the right to work. Access to economic opportunities enhances refugee resilience and self-reliance, while also allowing them to contribute to the economy and host communities in a measurable way. For access to formal work and other aspects of life, access to financial services is vital.

*In Jordan, UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP are working to increase economic opportunities and broader access to financial services for refugees through engagement and collaboration with the Government, development actors, private sector partners, and donors. In a context where no durable solutions are available, cash assistance programme targeting a welfare population has shown to contribute to refugees' self-reliance in the short and long term. In close coordination with other partners,*

*programmes to foster financial inclusion for refugees in both camps and out of camps have rolled out. Thus far, more than 33,000 households have access to mobile wallets through which over 24,000 receive monthly cash payments. Moreover, provision of food assistance to over 15,000 families through mobile wallets has assisted over 76,000 Syrian refugees in communities. By mid-2023, it is planned to reach 440,000 Syrians living in communities and camps, through 91,000 mobile wallets. In addition to becoming customers of national financial services, beneficiaries can use their own mobile money account to receive assistance from several humanitarian and social protection agencies. Mobile wallets will be available to both cash and non-cash recipients: a potential game changer which opens up possibilities for saving resources, accessing credit, and contributing to behavioural changes which could make a singular contribution to refugees' self-reliance.*

## Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Syrians remain the largest refugee population globally in need of resettlement in 2022, with an estimated 777,800 Syrian refugees projected to be in need of resettlement in 2023 – an increase of over 24 per cent compared to 2022. With resettlement activities in recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, by the end of 2022, the number of Syrians referred for resettlement from 3RP countries was 36,639, compared to 25,351 and 17,929 during the same period in 2021 and 2020 respectively. This reflects the resumption of submissions to increased quota opportunities in the region, which will be needed in years to come. While this increase is commensurate with increased protection needs for Syrians in the region, submissions represent just 3.3 per cent against the overall resettlement needs of Syrian Refugees. Given the changing protection space, it is vital that the international community continue to support and stay the course with Syrian resettlement, and ensure ongoing, reliable, and ample resettlement quotas in the years to come.

It was in the aftermath of the Syria emergency in which an approach to 'safe and legal pathways' under the complementary pathways umbrella emerged as essential and gained traction in MENA. The need of complementary pathways opportunities to third countries remain critical to ensure protection and solutions as the needs of Syrian refugees continue to outstrip the available resettlement places. Since then, a variety of pathway programmes to

third countries, ranging from employment and education opportunities to family reunification, have been carried out in MENA to facilitate access to refugees.

Complementary Pathways remain a collaboration with different states, partners and other stakeholders - partnership engagement and the creation of coordination structures are therefore key to expand complementary pathways in the region. In this regard, the MENA Contact Group for Complementary Pathways (MCGCP), created in 2020, has been instrumental, with over 100 representatives from Member States, NGOs, academia, refugee-led organisations and UNHCR operations. The MCGCP has launched a regional digital platform in 2022 with the aim of providing a live forum for its members to further develop partnership engagement and knowledge-sharing on complementary pathways.

The 3RP will continue to support refugees through ongoing third country solutions. In particular, UNHCR's Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy will direct a focus on 1) safeguarding the resilience of resettlement programmes; 2) strengthening complementary pathways; and 3) contribute to advocacy efforts in receiving communities. Meanwhile, MCGCP will disseminate information on opportunities, advocate for complementary pathways programmes, and share best practices among partners.

# Donors

We thank our donors for their generous support for 3RP activities.



**The work of 3RP partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of donors.**

As well as member states, 3RP Partners are grateful to governments, private donors, humanitarian funds, foundations, charities, and other organizations for their contributions. 3RP Partners would also like to acknowledge the huge contribution of host countries who have supported the response in many ways including by making their services available to refugee populations.

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- <sup>3</sup> UN Women data: Regional study on Gendered realities in displacement: the status of Syrian Refugee Women in Displacement in Jordan Lebanon and Iraq, 2022 to be published ([forthcoming](#)).
- <sup>4</sup> This includes contributory or non-contributory cash benefits (excluding healthcare and sickness benefits).
- <sup>5</sup> World Social Protection Report 2020–22: Regional companion report for the Middle East and North Africa region [https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS\\_830406/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_830406/lang--en/index.htm)
- <sup>6</sup> Arab states include Gulf Cooperation Council countries.
- <sup>7</sup> [2022 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon \(VASyR\)](#).
- <sup>8</sup> WFP (2022). Food Security Outcome Monitoring Q2-2022, Communities’ Factsheet
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- <sup>11</sup> [Persisting Vulnerabilities: Findings from the Emergency Social Safety Net Post-Distribution Monitoring Survey \(Round 13\) in Türkiye - Türkiye | ReliefWeb](#)
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- <sup>28</sup> Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye.
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- <sup>43</sup> The Refugee Assistance Information System.
- <sup>44</sup> UNDP (2014). Towards a Resilience-based Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis.
- <sup>45</sup> UNHCR (2022). Area-Based Programming for Protection and Solutions (A2PS).
- <sup>46</sup> WFP (2022). WFP Jordan Internal Research: Stakeholder perspectives on social cohesion in Jordan, Dr Luke S Bearup (Unpublished paper).
- <sup>47</sup> ILO (2021). Fraught but Fruitful: Risks, Opportunities, and Shifting Gender Roles in Syrian Refugee Women's Pursuit of Livelihoods in Lebanon with Additional Observations from Jordan and Iraq.
- <sup>48</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>49</sup> Sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and sex characteristics.
- <sup>50</sup> World Bank Blog (2021). MENA must take bold action against Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- <sup>51</sup> VASyR 2022.
- <sup>52</sup> World Bank (2021). Regional Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence – in the Middle East and North Africa.
- <sup>53</sup> UNFPA. Lebanon Scorecard on Gender-based violence.
- <sup>54</sup> UN Women data: Regional study on Gendered realities in displacement: the status of Syrian Refugee Women in Displacement in Jordan Lebanon and Iraq (*forthcoming*).
- <sup>55</sup> Undocumented at birth entails receiving neither a birth certificate nor a medical birth notification.
- <sup>56</sup> Türkiye IAPNA Round 6: 69 per cent of participants observed increased stress in their community (63 per cent in Round 5), whereas 80 per cent indicated they experience increased levels of stress themselves. Most individuals who report experiencing stress share that they worry about their future, are anxious or feel overwhelmed, stressed and exhausted. Reasons for increased stress at the individual level include uncertainty about their future in Türkiye (53 per cent), concerns about the future of their children/family (13 per cent), and not being able to meet expenses (9 per cent).
- <sup>57</sup> <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/10/violence-suicide-creep-lebanese-population-flounders>; <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2022/06/14/Rise-in-suicides-highlights-mental-health-crisis-in-Jordan>.
- <sup>58</sup> <https://www.dovepress.com/the-association-of-conflict-related-trauma-with-markers-of-mental-health-peer-reviewed-fulltext-article-IJWH#cit0007>.
- <sup>59</sup> Return Perception and Intention Survey.
- <sup>60</sup> The timeframe of within five years.
- <sup>61</sup> The estimated needs for resettlement are primarily based on the data available in UNHCR registration tool and government registration records where applicable.
- <sup>62</sup> UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2023.
- <sup>63</sup> IOM, UNHCR and UNRWA (2022). Latest tragedy at sea off Syria must prompt action.
- <sup>64</sup> 3RP (2022). Mapping of International Financial Institutions involved in the Syria Crisis Response.
- <sup>65</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>66</sup> Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment (Round 6).
- <sup>67</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>68</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>69</sup> VASyR 2022.
- <sup>70</sup> IPC 2022.
- <sup>71</sup> VASyR 2022.
- <sup>72</sup> WFP (2022). WFP Jordan Country Brief.
- <sup>73</sup> Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) 2022.
- <sup>74</sup> Quarterly assessment results.
- <sup>75</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/syrian-refugees-iraq-will-lose-access-basic-foods-without-urgent-funds-enarku>
- <sup>76</sup> UNHCR and WFP (2022). Joint Note on Food Assistance 2022.
- <sup>77</sup> UNHCR (2022) internal data.
- <sup>78</sup> UNHCR (2022) internal data.
- <sup>79</sup> Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management, Temporary Protection, 27 October 2022, <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27>.
- <sup>80</sup> UNHCR (2022). Mid-Year Trends 2022.
- <sup>81</sup> As of the third quarter of 2022.
- <sup>82</sup> Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Education.

<sup>83</sup> Year-on-year inflation rate 158 per cent October 2022 (<http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/PDFs/CPI/2022/10-CPI-OCTOBER2022.pdf>).

<sup>84</sup> 2022 VASyR shows that 90 percent of displaced Syrian families needed assistance to meet their basic survival needs.

<sup>85</sup> More details on the IPC: <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/ipc-overview-and-classification-system/en/>

<sup>86</sup> UNDP. [ARK Regular Perception Surveys on Social Tensions throughout Lebanon.](#)

<sup>87</sup> Lebanon GBV monitoring system.

<sup>88</sup> [2021/2022: VAF Preliminary Results Out-of-Camp.](#)

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