

# REGIONAL: RRP6 MONTHLY UPDATE - FEBRUARY

## BASIC NEEDS



In 2014, more than 600,000 people have been assisted with seasonal relief items (cash or in-kind) to help them through the winter months

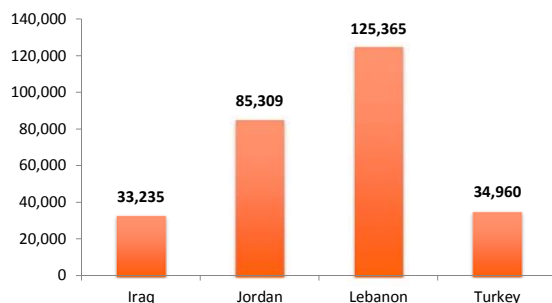
### FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

Distribution of assistance to help refugees and others through the **winter** continued during February, with some 85,000 people in Jordan and 53,000 in Iraq having received winterized non-food items since the start of the year. In Turkey, more than 69,000 items of clothing and 7,200 blankets were distributed as part of the winterization measures during February. Assistance for the winter months is also provided through cash assistance which has reached almost 140,000 people in Jordan and 344,000 people in Lebanon this year.

Strategies to move toward more extensive use of **cash-based programming** continued across the region, with the Cash Working Group Operational Strategy drafted in Jordan to focus on the development of common monitoring and evaluation tools, coordination of needs assessments, common vulnerability criteria, joint advocacy messages and good practices in the targeting of assistance for Jordanians. More than USD 77 million has been injected into the economies of the region through the monetization of assistance, including food, since the start of the year.

**Basic household items** have been provided in kind to more than 278,000 people during 2014. Commonly distributed items include mattresses, pillows and blankets, carpets, heaters, gas cylinders and fuel, kitchen sets, stoves and jerry cans, plastic sheeting, and clothing. In Iraq, the Working Group has reached out to organizations not participating in the coordinated effort in a order to improve efficiency and avoid duplication, while in Jordan the harmonization of non-food item packages being distributed by different actors is underway, with information collection and minimum standards being developed.

Individuals provided with core relief items in 2014



### REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE REGION:

2,508,402

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Expected Refugee Population by end-2014

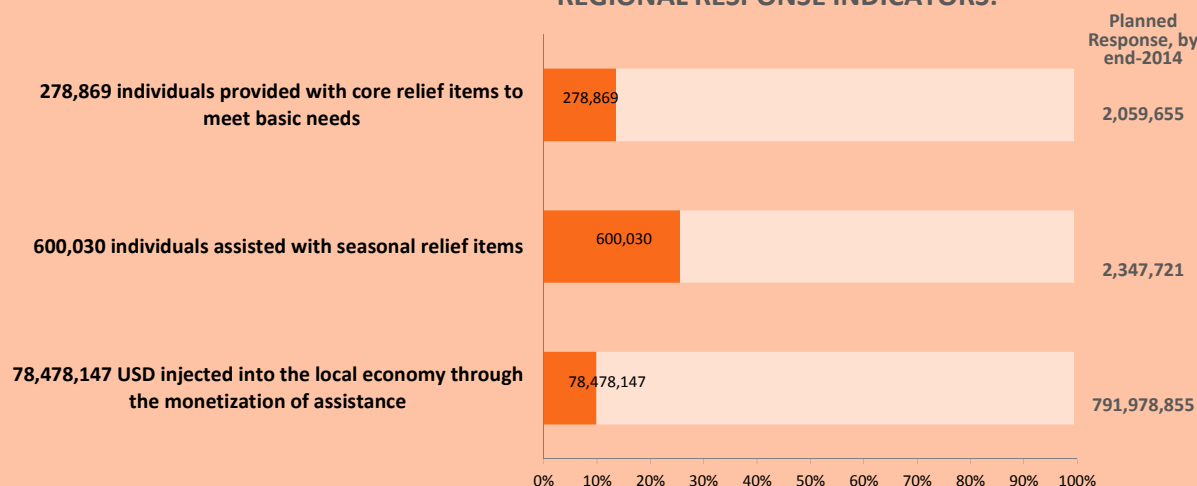
### NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Refugees often arrive in neighbouring countries with little else than their family members, some clothes and limited personal belongings. The distribution of basic household items such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and cooking stoves to refugees is therefore essential. Refugees in the region also struggle to meet their basic needs and gain access to essential services including for health and education. As the situation is prolonged, it is estimated that 780,000 households will need additional support to cover basic needs.

Recent assessments of refugees living in host communities have found that the income versus expenditure gap caused by limited livelihood opportunities, rising rent and service prices induces increased use of negative coping strategies as the crisis continues. These negative coping strategies, particularly eating less diverse quality foods, taking on debt and sending adolescent boys to work, are becoming more and more prevalent as households spend their savings and sell their remaining assets.

Winter in many parts of the region is harsh, and refugee response partners coordinate the implementation of far-reaching winterization programmes to address the needs of the most vulnerable amongst those who have fled their homes due to the continuing conflict in Syria. Priority is given to those living in sub-standard shelters and in areas with severe climatic conditions, as well as the most vulnerable who may have the most difficulties to cover their accommodation, utility and heating or fuel costs.

### REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. There are currently 2.5 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 14% funded.