



More than USD 180 million injected into local economies through monetization of assistance, including food assistance, in 2014

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

Basic household items remain a major need for Syrian refugee families in the region. In Turkey, almost 400 families were provided with blankets, mattresses, pillows, carpets and diapers during the month, and a total of more than 4,500 families have been supported this year. In Iraq, the distribution of non-food items to newly arrived individuals (5,000) and those needing replacement items (10,500) continued during April.

Planning and coordination continues to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of distributions. In Iraq, major assessments of camp and non-camp refugee needs are underway, while planning for the sharing of beneficiary lists among different agencies and the introduction of a shared refugee assistance database continues. Discussions among partners regarding specific assistance for summer, such as the distribution of fans, have begun in Iraq and Jordan. In Jordan, guidelines on in-kind donations for refugees in urban and rural areas are being developed to help facilitate coordination and ensure minimum standards and process are followed.

Several operations in the region are currently planning or implementing the **monetization of in-kind assistance**. In Jordan's Zaatari camp, a pilot programme is under discussion that would provide vouchers for the purchase of gas cylinders and hygiene kits. In Turkey, new partnership agreements have been signed for the distribution of NFI vouchers to vulnerable families living in urban areas, with the aim of reaching 5,250 such families each month.

Regular or urgent **cash assistance** is also provided in a number of countries, and has benefited more than 200,000 people in Jordan and almost 50,000 people in Egypt so far this year. In Jordan, a task force has been formed to explore the possibility of developing common tools for use by cash actors during outreach and assessment activities.



Provision of non-food items in Kumli village, Hatay Province, Turkey. IOM, 2014.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Refugees often arrive in neighboring 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. While this winter's assistance programmes are completed, early planning and attention to lessons learned is essential for the next winter.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

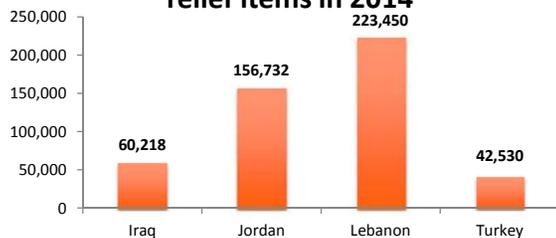
2,736,816

Current Refugee Population

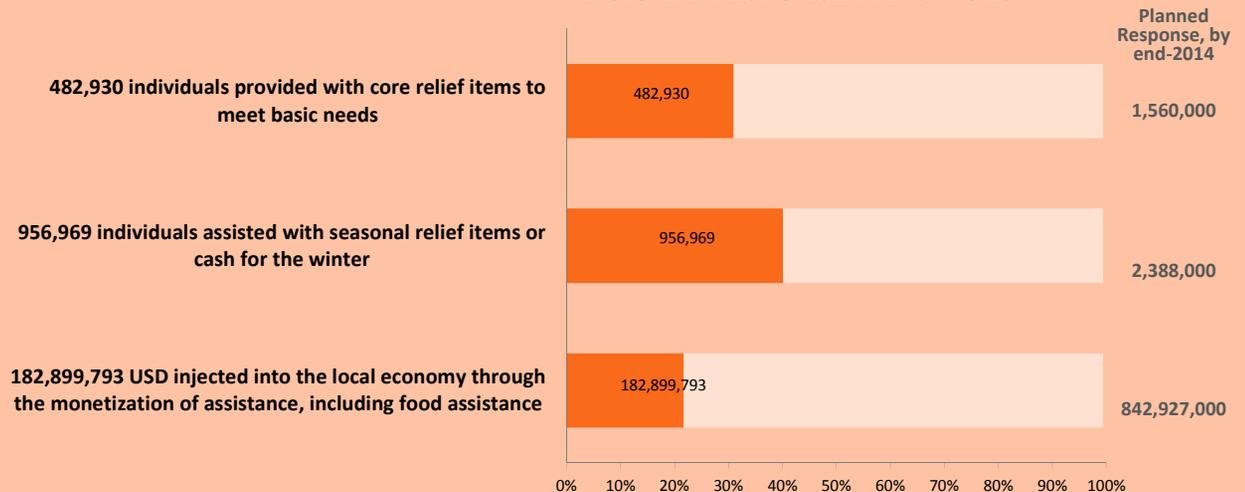
4,100,000

Refugee Population Planning Figure, end-2014

Individuals provided with core relief items in 2014



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 2.7 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 27% funded.