



1,973 refugees are accessing livelihood opportunities as of May

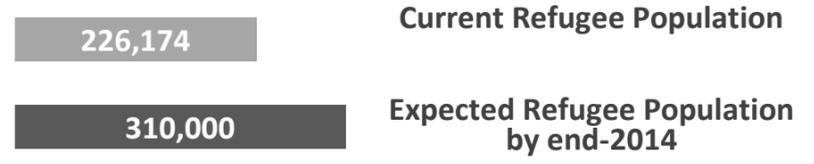
MAY HIGHLIGHTS:

DRC Livelihood Team continued to register and select beneficiaries for its job placement programme. DRC concentrated its efforts in locations that have high concentration of Syrian refugees such as Kasnazan and Bnaslawa in Erbil. DRC approach is to target both Syrian refugees and vulnerable households from the host communities in order to mitigate potential tension around job opportunities. In parallel to selecting beneficiaries, DRC continued to establish contact with business owners willing to employ beneficiaries from the programme into job placement.

In Qushtapa Camp, DRC concluded its first phase of grants distribution on May 13th. After completing 3 days of small business development trainings, beneficiaries were requested to submit a business plan. After evaluation and selection of the business plans, DRC distributed 50% of the grant to selected beneficiaries as a first installment towards setting up a small business. The grants distributed were both in kind and in cash contribution.



REFUGEE POPULATION IN IRAQ :



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

An ability to secure sufficient income is one of the key needs, with assessments showing that Syrian refugees in Iraq are not financially self-reliant, and struggle to find sustainable livelihood opportunities. Up to 86 per cent of Syrian refugees say they have insufficient household income, 15 per cent report lacking food security, and up to 27 per cent saying they are unable to access sufficient food for their families through the local market.

Although the Government and host communities in KR and Anbar extend their generosity in hosting Syrian refugees, the rising numbers in 2013 is negatively impacting services and economies in local communities. While Government policy allows registered refugees to work, difficulties in finding employment outside of the informal sector (where 80 per cent of refugee households reporting having someone employed) are a reality, as is competition within and between the host and refugee populations in the community.

For refugees living outside of camps (more than 60 per cent of the population), financial difficulties are exacerbated by competition for rental housing potentially driving up costs and leading to overcrowding and occupancy of substandard accommodation like unfinished buildings, tents and crowded apartments.

These difficulties in sustaining livelihoods mean that interventions that strengthen labor markets and increase vocational training opportunities, to the benefit of both refugee and host communities, should be a priority. An Age and Gender Diversity approach to these interventions is required to overcome some of the barriers, including cultural ones that might particularly restrict women's access to livelihood and self-reliance activities.

