



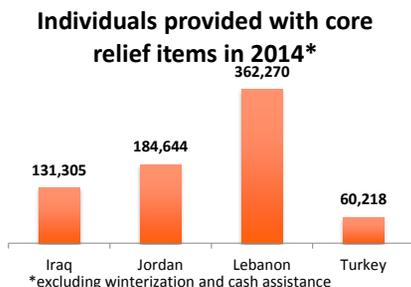
Almost 200,000 people benefited from cash assistance to meet their basic needs during August

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS:

In Egypt, partners are working together to assist vulnerable Syrian refugees in meeting their basic needs through the provision of monthly cash grants. In August, 30,598 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted, representing 22 per cent of the registered Syrian refugee population in Egypt. In Lebanon, agencies distributed a total of around USD 1.3 million as cash assistance for multiple purposes to 7,691 of the most socio-economically vulnerable families during August. In Turkey, a total of 1,535 households (8,762 persons) have benefitted from cash-voucher assistance during August. The project was initially planned until September, but the possibility of extending until the end of the year is being assessed. In Jordan, almost 120,000 people benefited from cash assistance during August.

In-kind distributions also continue. In Lebanon agencies distributed newcomer NFI kits to 23,800 persons (4,760 families), while in Iraq, some 3,396 newly arrived persons were provided with core relief items to meet their basic needs. In addition, some 9,212 people received replacement CRIs. In Turkey, emergency non-food items were distributed to over 2,800 people during August. In Jordan, more than 1,000 people received basic household items during the month. Post distribution monitoring published in August shows that refugees in Zaatari camp are satisfied with the quality and quantity of in-kind assistance, however they would prefer more control over their resources and to purchase goods from the market and shops.

Preparation for the coming winter was well underway across the region during August. For example, in Jordan, the Cash and Non-Food Item Working Groups coordinated to finalize the outline of the winterization plan for November to March. The standard package has been modified based on lessons learnt from last year, and a targeting system will be developed to provide winterization assistance to those most in need. In Iraq, a quick survey on remaining winterization items for households in refugee camps is to be finalized prior to the winter assistance.



Provision of NFIs to Syrians in Hatay province - IOM/2014

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

2,986,008

Refugee Population, end-August 2014

3,590,000

Refugee Population

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Sector Working Groups estimate that up to 90 per cent of newly-arriving Syrian refugees have no or very few personal belongings. Syrians report that the biggest challenges for material assistance were food, rent and basic items (blankets, clothes, kitchen utensils, plastic buckets/jerry cans).

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 tends to lead to increased use of negative coping strategies as the crisis continues. In Egypt, 11 per cent of families reported borrowing as their main source of income, while in Jordan up to 87 per cent of registered Syrian families living outside of camps are in debt. In Lebanon, an average of 70 per cent of Syrian families are in debt and the amount of debt is generally higher for large households or those who have been in Lebanon longer.

Though large-scale dataset analysis has not yet been completed for all refugee countries, there are indications that the most vulnerable families include those whose household expenditures exceed the identified average minimum expenditure basket and those families with large family size, large number of children or who live in crowded conditions. These among other indicators help to identify the most vulnerable.

Planning has already started for winterization programmes. Winter will add additional concerns for families including the need for heating fuel, warm clothes, reinforced winterized shelters and additional blankets. Winterized living conditions are in particular needed in the refugee camps in Iraq, including insulated foundations for tents with adequate drainage to prevent flooding.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

