



A major socio-economic survey of refugee households has begun in Egypt to help determine needs and inform programming

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

In Egypt, RRP partners continued the implementation of the socio-economic assessment, with interviews being carried out in Greater Cairo and preparations underway for the start of interviews in Alexandria and Damietta. Training was also carried out on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Livelihoods for 16 caseworkers from partner agencies implementing the graduation project. At the end of the third quarter of 2014, almost 550 individuals had been employed and 370 supported to start a business.

In Iraq, small business management trainings were provided to 206 Syrian refugees, while vocational training and business development training was provided to 405 beneficiaries during November. More than 4,000 people have now benefited from vocational training or skills development programmes this year, while 2,330 have participated in employment assistance, income generation activities or skills development programmes.

In Lebanon, there were more than 1,200 new beneficiaries of livelihood activities during the month: 830 who undertook vocational training opportunities and 410 who benefited from income generation and employment support activities. Just under 15,000 people in Lebanon have now received vocational and life-skills support during the year, while more than 5,600 have benefited from income generating opportunities or new employment.

Also in Lebanon, over 2,000 change agents have now been trained to play a positive role and mitigate tensions. This includes mainly youth, but also key community leaders and civil society representatives are involved. RRP partners are also working with journalists on the 6th edition of the peacebuilding news supplement promoting positive messages from media institutions.



SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

3,297,276

Refugee Population, end-November 2014

3,590,000

Refugee Population Planning figure, end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The current legislative and policy frameworks in the region provide limited employment opportunities for Syrian refugees. Relatively high unemployment among nationals pre-dates, and is exacerbated by, the economic impact of the crisis. The International Labour Organization cites a Middle East unemployment rate of 10 per cent in 2013, with a young adult unemployment rate of 26 per cent. Economies in the region are suffering from the trade losses and reduced household market participation for locally produced or traded goods. Many countries continue to bear scars from the global economic crisis and related access to capital, foreign investment and reduced domestic growth.

Refugees seek work in informal sectors which require manual, unskilled short term labour with sub-standard working conditions and reduced salaries, often accompanied by exploitation risks. The engagement of refugees in informal labour practices has created a perception among host communities that refugees are depriving nationals of work opportunities and depressing wages. Although this is not necessarily evidenced by employment statistics, the perception may drive poor community relations, distrust and disruption of social cohesion. Many refugees originate from rural areas of Syria and lack necessary skills for work in urban settings.

An analysis of livelihood is needed to more thoroughly examine factors beyond legal barriers, including the remoteness of locations where refugees reside, language skills, tools, capita and increasing intolerance towards Syrian refugees. Longer-term strategies necessitate a mixture of legal considerations to provide avenues to allow Syrians to work balanced with the employment of national cohorts. Such strategies may offer short and longer-term cash-for-work and large public works projects for poor nationals and poor Syrians.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 2014

8,357 individuals have participated in employment assistance, income generation activities or business development projects

37,240 individuals have participated in technical and vocational training, literacy initiatives and life-skills training

Planned Response, by end-2014

111,000

177,000

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 3.59 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. As at end-November 2014, there were 3.29 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal was 53% funded.

1,483,000 registered refugees are aged 18-59

