

2015 Achievements: Amounts and Beneficiaries

- 3,849 payments exceeded the planned target of 3,733 payments.
- 3,280 Syrian refugee families were assisted.
- 1,739,550,000 IQD (\$ 1,486,795): the total amount disbursed.

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) is becoming an increasingly important aspect of the humanitarian response for Syrian refugees living outside the camps in urban areas*. Where markets are functioning and accessible to beneficiaries, unconditional cash assistance provides the possibility of an appropriate, effective and efficient response to the needs of people affected by crisis.

Unconditional cash assistance puts the beneficiary at the center of the response and emphasizes crisis-affected individuals' ability to prioritize their own needs, upholding the dignity of the beneficiaries. Cash assistance has the additional benefit of supporting local market, jobs and incomes of local producers and suppliers. Although MPCA is mainly focusing on support to refugees in urban areas, but according to needs assessments, sporadic cash assistance distributions could also take place in refugee camps such as the case of 1,305 families (200 \$ each) who were assisted in Gawilan camp/Duhok by German Red Cross (GRC).

MPCA is available as a one-time payment or as multiple payments (up to 3 months), depending on the needs and vulnerability of the beneficiary.

Payment amounts are set based on the number of people in the household and a Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB). The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket reflects the multiple needs of people affected by crisis.

Payments are provided in Iraqi dinars and monthly amounts range from approximately 200 USD for a single person to 600 USD for families of 10 or more people.

Identification of beneficiaries:

Vulnerable and extremely vulnerable Syrian refugee households may be eligible for UNHCR cash assistance, based on set vulnerability criteria.

Identification and approval procedures are in place to identify and enroll beneficiaries with support from UNHCR partners on the ground (QANDIL in Erbil, Harikar in Duhok and CDO in Sulaymaniyah in KR-I; IRC in the Central and Southern regions of Iraq).

Data is being collected on potential beneficiaries' socio-economic vulnerabilities during the assessment period, all assessments of identified cases are submitted to a UNHCR cash panel who review and decide on the eligibility of cases.

Socio-economic vulnerability criteria

Social:

- Disability
- Serious medical condition
- Female Headed household (HH)/ SGBV
- Elderly
- Unaccompanied and separated children
- Chronic medical problems
- Household Income insufficient

Economy:

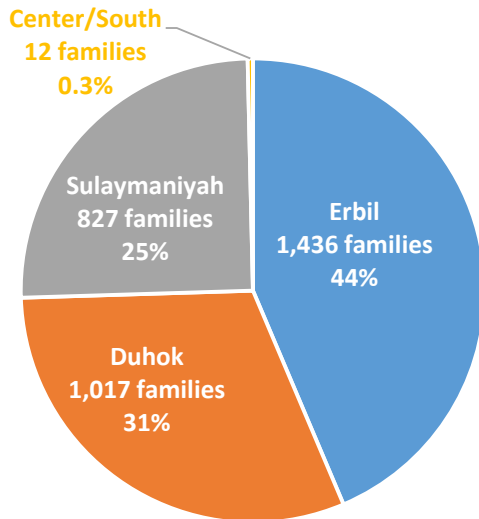
- Expenditures
- Food security and coping mechanisms
- Income
- Residence, and real estate acquisition
- Education of children

2015 Cash Assistance (2/2)

UNHCR protection and community services staff support and monitor the process through regular field visits, ensuring protection principles are upheld.

Syrian Refugee Beneficiaries of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance:

3,280 Syrian refugee families residing in KR-I outside the camps have received multi-purpose cash assistance in 2015, while 12 cases received it in south/center, as the number of Syrian refugees is limited there**.



The payments were distributed as the following:

1. One-off payment: 2,779 families
2. Multiple payment – 2 months: 433 families
3. Multiple payment – 3 months: 68 families

Payment Modalities: UNHCR partners organize the cash distributions in accessible and safe distribution areas and use the existing banking system to make disbursements through bank cheques. In exceptional cases partners distribute assistance in cash or through Hawala, for extremely vulnerable households residing in remote areas with no access to banks.

The cash assistance would have been mainly used for rent, health and food security.

* 62% of Syrian refugees in Iraq are living outside the camps.

** The geographical distribution of Syrian refugees as 97% residing in Kurdistan region of Iraq and 3% in Center & South governorates.



Cheque distribution, Chamchamal, Sulaymaniyah/ QANDIL