



At just 6 per cent, the Livelihoods & Social Cohesion Sector is critically underfunded across the region

CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERFUNDING:

The consequences of underfunding the Livelihoods and Social Cohesion Sector can compound already existing vulnerabilities of individuals and communities, and the capacities of institutions to respond. The large Syrian refugee population entails increased competition for housing, employment, land, access to resources and services.

In the case of Jordan, Syrians compete with some of the poorest Jordanians for low-paid casual jobs in the informal employment sector that accounts for approximately 44 per cent of employment in the country. Syrian refugees, as well as Jordanian host communities, perceive the competition over employment and income-earning opportunities to be a source of social tension. Limited funding is preventing partners in the Livelihoods Sector from replicating and expanding successful initiatives in host communities.

Due to serious underfunding, livelihoods programs in Lebanon cannot be taken to scale, with only one per cent of the target population reached by the response. For instance, there are only two livelihoods partners implementing small-scale programming in Tripoli city, where 57 per cent of the residents are deprived.

In Iraq, the underfunding of livelihoods interventions in 2015 risk imposing an additional burden on state-building and public finance in the adverse economic environment. It could also increase the risks of significant deterioration in the relationship between hosts and displaced people.

Another source of tensions across the region stems from competition and pressure on public services. Social cohesion/stability interventions within the 3RP aim to alleviate this source of tensions by complementing interventions of other sectors targeting public services. If the municipalities and service providers do not receive additional funding to strengthen and expand services in areas such as waste management capacity, the situation will become even worse, including threatening public health.

Social Cohesion & Livelihoods Sector Funding Status:



Syrian women displaying their food under livelihood projects, Cairo, Egypt. UNHCR

Sector Response Summary:



369,452 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
20,761 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,980,623 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 1.062 billion received in 2015



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

In Iraq, surveys measuring the skills sets of residents living in refugee camps in the Erbil Governorate were conducted. These results will be combined with an assessment on local labour markets and the business environment in camps before the end of July. The objective of these combined assessments is to build on the model of sustainable camps by providing detailed information on skills and capacities already existing among camp populations, on local labour market opportunities and the markets for goods and services within the camps. There is a movement of refugee populations from non-camp settings into camps, partially explained by the living costs for refugees outside of camps as well as by the lack of livelihoods opportunities available for low to medium skilled workers. While continued humanitarian relief is needed for the most vulnerable refugees, the need for enhancing beneficiaries' self-reliance should be adequately addressed by providing Syrian refugees and the host community members with income generation activities and training to increase their employability.

In Turkey, a skills mapping exercise to assess the occupational skills of the Syrians under temporary protection in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa was conducted. The target groups of the field survey are (i) Syrians under temporary protection outside of camps and (ii) related NGOs, public institutions, businessmen associations and chambers in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa. The survey was composed of (i) face-to-face interviews of a total of 4,000 respondents (1,992 Males and 2,008 Females) from 1,000 households and (ii) 24 in-depth interviews with the target groups (6 in Şanlıurfa and 6 in Gaziantep). The exercise has been finalized and reached up to 4,000 individuals both in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa Provinces. Its focus is on industrial and service sector and results of the exercise will feed into the pipeline projects which aims at enhancing vocational and occupational skills of the Syrians under temporary protection and their integration into the local labour markets.

In Egypt, an exhibition of handicrafts and food was held in late May at El Mosta'abal Club, organized by Syrian women from Damietta. The women had the opportunity to market their products and expand their customer circles at the exhibitions. Earlier in the month, exhibitions were also held in Kafr Abdu and at the Royal Hall in Bitash where participants of the graduation approach displayed their products comprising Syrian food and accessories as well as linen products.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MAY 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2015

9,139 individuals assisted to access wage employment opportunities



141 community support projects implemented



11,622 people trained or provided with marketable skills and services



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Targets are based on full funding of the 3RP and an expected 4.27 million refugees by end-2015. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 31 May 2015.