

Over 100 Community Support Projects have now been implemented across the region to build social cohesion and provide services

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

In Turkey, the draft Temporary Protection regulation includes an article on access to the labour market by Syrian refugees. This article will be instrumental in ensuring access to employment and self-reliance by refugees affected by a crisis which has now entered its fifth year. The draft regulation, which determines the principles and procedures for integration of Syrians into the national labour market, has been submitted to the Council of Ministers and is expected to be issued at some time after national elections in June. Also in Turkey, language and vocational activities continue to be supported, with 6,750 Syrians participating in these courses since the start of the year.

Many refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) already have access to the labour market, and 3RP partners provide assistance to help facilitate job opportunities. This includes through business development services which include elements of vocational training and in-kind packages to help with the establishment of small businesses under approved business plans. One hundred refugees in Gawilan camp completed their course this month. Across the KRI, almost 900 individuals were trained or assisted with the development of skills during the month, while almost 80 accessed wage employment opportunities.

In Lebanon, livelihoods activities remain important but have slowed this month, with 176 beneficiaries of rapid income generation activities (compared to 766 in March) and 327 beneficiaries of market-based skills trainings (compared to 547 in March). This is due to some major programmes of partners closing down to funding shortfalls, and to the difficulty of others to bring their programmes to scale and the unclear legal framework for refugees to access work.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

A critical dimension of building resilience is to expand livelihoods and employment opportunities for vulnerable men, women and, especially youth, in compliance with national laws and regulations. In all five countries, livelihoods support under the 3RP is a key way to slow and reverse depletion of individual, family and community assets. To ensure access to sustainable employment, it is vital to equip refugees and vulnerable local populations with the skills that the markets demand. Livelihoods initiatives give refugees the means to cope with hardship, to increase their skills and abilities, and to prosper, as well as improving their prospects in a future return to Syria. In turn, the skills of refugees can help to grow and diversify local economies.

Social cohesion interventions in the region include the development of conflict mitigation mechanisms, with stakeholders helping to conduct participatory conflict analysis to identify sources of tension, along with training on conflict resolution skills such as negotiation, problem solving and mediation.

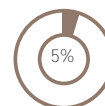


Syrian refugees at a vocational training centre in Harran camp, Sanliurfa, Turkey. S.Unal/UNHCR

Sector Response Summary:



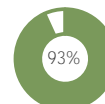
369,452 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
17,215 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,978,825 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 881.73 million received in 2015



NEW REPORT LOOKS AT POSITIVE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROJECTS ON SOCIAL COHESION IN LEBANON

In Lebanon, progress to build the capacity of key institutions on social stability has been relatively slow, with only 3 additional municipalities benefitting from capacity support to cope with the increase pressure at the local level. However 14 new projects relieving the main source of tensions in the most vulnerable cadastres were completed, with a notable increase in the size of the recently completed projects, which doubled the total amount already invested by partners so far this year (USD 2.375 million in total).

In this respect, the publication of a DFID report looking at the impact of such basic services/community support projects is of particular interest to the work of the sector. The report points out that such projects have an impact in increasing the positivity of citizens in regard to services, as well as in reducing the sense of conflict, increasing the sense of cooperation, and enhancing perceptions of the capability and trustworthiness of the municipality.

Yet, this impact varies by project and location, with smaller projects such as sport fields generating a relatively comparable change of perception than bigger ones (sewage networks, water supply). The impact study also shows that relieving resource pressures on water, sewage or public infrastructures reduces the tendency of host communities to 'blame' the refugees. The report also particularly emphasizes the importance of broad consultation process and community awareness activities to maximize the impact of such projects on social stability.

This reinforces the approach chosen by the sector, which sees these projects as the final outcome of a community mobilization process. This year, the sector has already engaged 1,573 community members in such processes at the local level, in 96 locations.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - APRIL 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2015

8,630 individuals assisted to access wage employment opportunities



103 community support projects implemented



8,585 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 30 April 2015.