



More than 168,000 households have been reached with various forms of cash assistance so far this year

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

In Jordan, there has been a significant increase in cash programming this month, 78 per cent higher than in January 2015. The number of active cash partners increased from five to nine. Including winterization partners, 14 partners have distributed cash in the first quarter.

More than 28,100 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted in Egypt in March, representing 18 per cent of the registered population. The monthly cash assistance programme injected more than USD 707,000 into the local economy in March with the value ranging from USD 57 to USD 185 per month, based on vulnerability and household size.

In Lebanon, 11,740 households have been visited and targeted and 36 per cent were eligible for basic needs assistance during March. Winter assistance was completed this month with final distributions of winter clothing and cash-for-winter.

During the first quarter of 2015, 17,060 households in Turkey received non-food items and 6,019 households were supported with a one time or regular financial support. As the winterization activities were finalized, preparations are underway for the start of cash and voucher assistance in April which will target 1,000 households in Hatay and Iskenderun and 25,000 individuals in Gaziantep.

In Iraq, 692 households received CRIs and 6,625 households received seasonal support through cash or in-kind assistance and winterization items during the month. This included the completion of winter assistance in Duhok Governorate with 4,193 winter kits distributed.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of the projected 80,000 monthly new refugee arrivals to neighbouring countries in 2015 will arrive with few personal possessions and in need of domestic items to meet their needs, including blankets, water jerry cans and kitchen sets. The 3RP provides a response for basic needs which is predominantly humanitarian, with packages of basic domestic items for new arrivals, and replacement items for refugees who are accommodated in camps for long periods of time.

For the most vulnerable families, agencies have increasingly adopted unconditional, multi-purpose cash assistance programmes through the region, allowing beneficiaries to spend the assistance on goods and services they feel they need most, giving them the dignity of choice while positively impacting on local economies.

Weather in the Middle East includes low winter temperatures, near or below freezing (especially at higher elevations), and heat during the summer often reaching in excess of 40 degrees Celsius. These extremes require warm clothes, energy for heating, and reinforced shelters during the winter, while in summer refugees need basic materials to create shade and protection from disease vectors, especially for children and the elderly.



Domiz Refugee Camp, Duhok. UNHCR/R. Rasheed

Sector Response Summary:



1,904,095 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
646,735 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,966,702 currently registered or awaiting registration



Basic Needs Sector Funding Status:



USD 771 million required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 52 million received in 2015



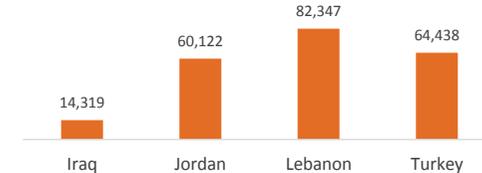
MORE THAN 220,000 HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED TO GET THROUGH THE WINTER THIS YEAR

The winter months in the Middle East are extremely harsh. This year, two severe storms in January and February exposed millions of refugees to freezing temperatures, heavy snow, rainfall and high winds. Partners responded with warm clothing distribution, energy for heating, reinforced shelters and cash-for-winter to enable refugees to purchase essential items. The majority of these winterization activities came to a conclusion this month.

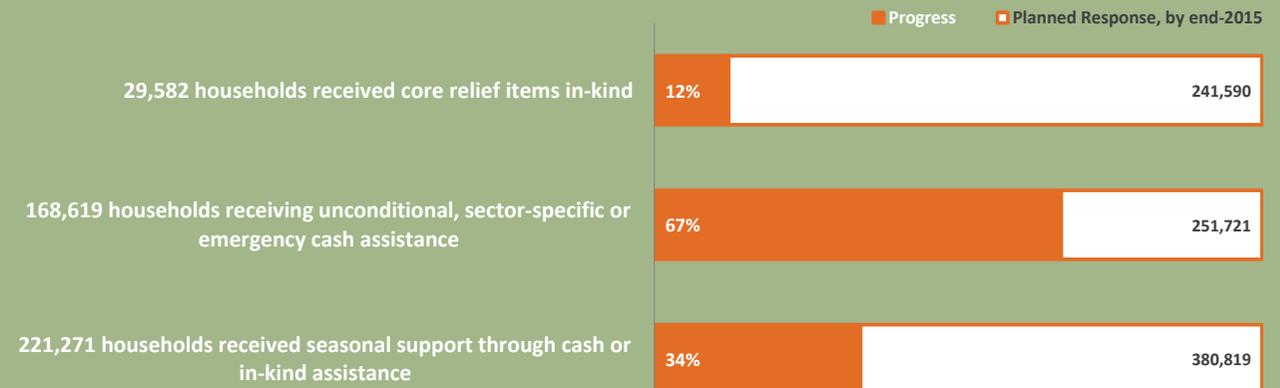
In Turkey, 64,483 households received winterization supplies and more than 382,000 individuals in Lebanon received cash or fuel voucher assistance. More than 12,500 Syrian families received winter cash assistance in Egypt and 14,319 Syrian households in Iraq were supported with cash or in-kind distributions, including kerosene for heating and materials to reinforce shelters. In Jordan, 100,000 refugees living in camps and more than 162,000 individuals in urban settings were assisted with tailored winter support.

As winter plans end, 3RP partners are reviewing activities and documenting lessons learned in order to strengthen the response for next winter. Early funding for winter is essential to enable partners to have the certainty to plan programmes and to ensure cash and material assistance are available for distribution before or as the cold weather begins, including contingencies in the event of large storms.

Households receiving winterization assistance during 2015



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MARCH 2015



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. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 31 March 2015.