

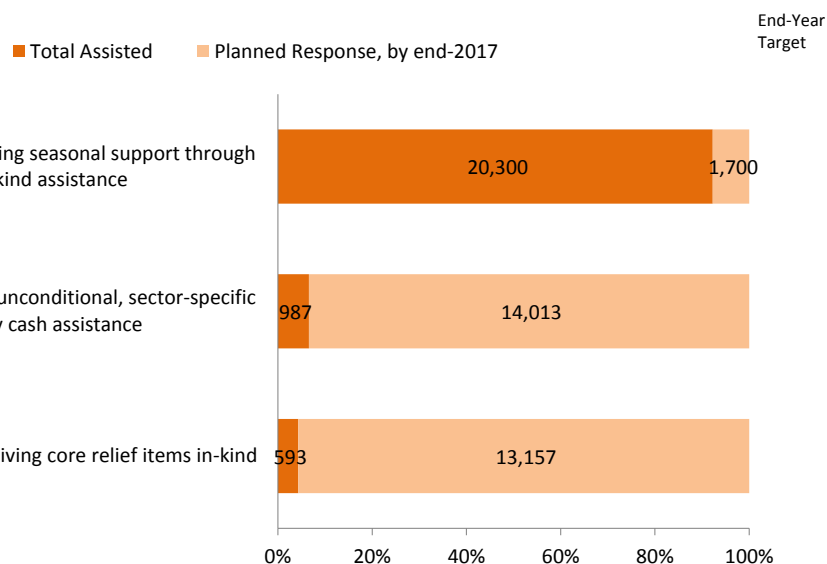


MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

In Erbil, with the lingering cold weather, a remaining balance of 7,920 liters of kerosene from the winterization program was distributed to the most vulnerable families, those who did not receive their share in the previous rounds, and camp support authorities. Refugees in the coldest areas in Sulaymaniyah had sufficient access to winterization. YAO, UNHCR's partner agency, distributed core-relief items and kerosene (100 liters per household) to more than 2,000 refugee families.

For multi-purpose cash assistance, some of no-show cases were attributed to expired refugee certificates. Qandil, UNHCR partner in Erbil, is working on an analysis to address the issue of no-show cases and follow-up actions.

IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: MARCH 2017*



*Planned response based on full funding of 3RP for an expected direct beneficiary population of 235,000 Syrian refugees and 1 million members of impacted local communities by end-2017. By 31 March 2017, 236,772 Syrian refugees (77,485 households) live in Iraq. 38% = 89,947 live in 9 camps and 62% = 146,825 in non-camp/urban areas. 97% = 228,567 live in Kurdistan Region-Iraq (KR-I): in Erbil Duhok and Sulaymaniyah and 3% = 8,205 Live in other locations in Iraq.

Leading Agency: UNHCR, Bola HAN, hanb@unhcr.org; Co-leading agency: ACTED.



Guarding jerrycans with kerosene in Basirma camp, Erbil Governorate. Oleg ZHDANOV.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

In the first quarter of 2017, the rate of fire incidents in camps increased compared to the same period in 2016. Possible mitigation measures include: 1) establishing fire prevention plans, 2) training the refugees on fire safety, 3) organizing awareness sessions, and 4) replacing damaged fire extinguishers in all camps in Dohuk.

Lack of livelihoods opportunities remains one of the gaps in urban areas in Erbil governorate. Refugees struggle to pay rent, for food, transportation and medication fees. Economic difficulties are pushing refugees to explore the option of moving to camps as a more attractive alternative. Over 800 households are registered in the waiting list to receive plots in the camps in Erbil Governorate.

UNHCR will closely work with ACTED in Sulaymaniyah Governorate to disseminate information about cash assistance, as many refugees are unaware of its scope and criteria.