

Jordan Operational Update

October 2017

3,914 patients were received at the UN clinic in Rukban, providing assistance to those stranded at the north eastern border.

Winter assistance began for nearly **330,000** refugees, providing cash and basic items to prepare for the cold weather.

Kitchen extensions for **1,620** shelters in Azraq were finalized, improving living conditions in the camp.

735,922

Refugees in Jordan as of end of October 2017

81%

Refugees living outside camps in urban areas

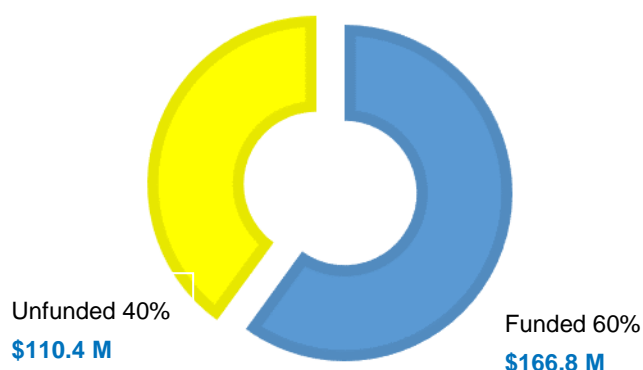
34,636

Work permits for refugees issued in 2017 to the end of October 2017. 9,659 of the total permits are from the camps of Zaatari and Azraq.

FUNDING (AS OF 1 NOVEMBER 2017)

USD 277.2 M

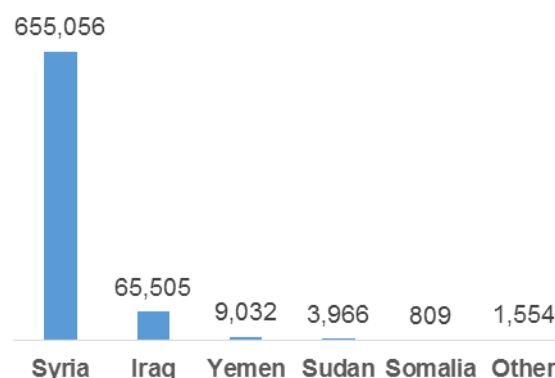
requested for the Jordan situation



©UNHCR/M. Hawari – Winter assistance distribution in Azraq

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

Following the seventh round of talks in Astana on 30 and 31 October, Russia, Turkey and Iran have pledged to bring the Syrian Government and armed opposition groups together for a 'Congress of National Dialogue' to help push peace efforts toward a more lasting political settlement. A statement on the Russian foreign ministry website listed 33 Syrian organizations invited to the Congress in the Russian city of Sochi on 18 November. The most important task of the Congress is reportedly to launch constitutional reform. According to media sources, the Syrian opposition have rejected the Congress and insisted any peace talks be held under UN auspices in Geneva. The Syrian National Coalition also opposed the Congress, calling it an attempt to circumvent "the international desire for a political transition" and the UN-facilitated Geneva peace talks.

In a briefing to the United Nations Security Council via videoconference from Amman on 30 October, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock provided an update on humanitarian developments in Syria and noted that the impact of the Syria crisis continues to be profound. Mr. Lowcock noted that more than 13 million people inside Syria still need humanitarian assistance, of whom 6.3 million are exceptionally vulnerable and in acute need because of displacement, hostilities, and limited access to basic goods and services. Specifically on the population stranded in the north eastern border areas, Lowcock noted *"A long-term durable solution to the plight of these people has to be found. Meanwhile immediate access to enable life-saving assistance for the civilian population is critical. Clearly the best approach is to find a solution from within Syria. We are straining every sinew to do that. Whatever happens, it is our collective duty to avoid yet another humanitarian catastrophe in Syria."*



PROTECTION

- Between October 2017 and March 2018, UNHCR plans to assist about 330,000 refugees in urban areas and the camps of Zaatari and Azraq with winter assistance. Decisions on which refugees to target are coordinated through the inter-agency Winterization Taskforce, focusing on the most vulnerable including the elderly, people with disabilities and those with specific medical needs. 76% of the winter assistance will be delivered in the form of cash, utilizing the Common Cash Facility (CCF), for Syrians and other nationalities. Three quarters of those targeted for cash assistance are in urban areas; a cash distribution will take place in mid-November, targeting 138,000 Syrian refugees and over 21,000 refugees from other nationalities. Winter items will also be distributed for refugees living in camps. In October, distributions began to some 115,200 Syrian families in Azraq and Zaatari camps of cash assistance for gas and shelter maintenance, as well as heaters, high thermal blankets, plastic sheets and insulation aids specifically for Azraq camp. Maintenance work in Azraq and Zaatari camp of caravan shelters and surrounding infrastructure will begin in early December.
- 32,800 families (154,058 persons) received regular cash assistance for October 2017, of which 30,000 families were Syrians. The second quarter post distribution and waiting list monitoring reports were published in October, covering cash assistance to [Syrians](#), cash assistance to [other nationalities](#), and monitoring of [Syrians on the waiting list](#).

- UNHCR provides ongoing urgent one-off cash assistance on an individual basis for extremely vulnerable refugees whose circumstances have changed and are facing additional challenges. During October 2017, 34 people/families were supported with one-off cash of approximately 150 Jordanian Dinars – 15 Syrian, 8 Sudanese, 5 Iraqis and 6 other nationalities.

**SHELTER AND NFIS**

- Azraq camp is currently extending shelters in Village 2 and Village 5 to include a separate kitchen. The extensions will improve living conditions in the shelters and in particular provide a safer environment for children by. The first stage of the project, prefabricating the materials needed for the extensions was carried out over the summer period. The building of the extensions for Village 2 was completed at the end of October, covering 1,620 shelters to the benefit of 1,390 families, as families over size six receive an additional shelter. The shelters planned for Village 5 will be completed by the end of the year, bringing the total extended shelters to over 5,500.

**HEALTH**

- 3,915 patients were received at the UN clinic in Rukban in October, just over 1,000 more patients than received in September, indicating both increase in access and the challenging health situation by the border. Acute health conditions accounted for 85% of the total consultations, with 115 secondary and tertiary referrals; 39% of the referrals were for obstetrics and gynaecology. The proportion of watery Diarrhoea consultations decreased during October. This can be attributed to seasonal variation as prevalence of diarrhoea declines in autumn. During October, eye infections were one of the top five acute health conditions. Poor hygiene and harsh weather conditions are considered aggravating factors; skin infections consultations also doubled in October compared to September figures. Finally, an increase in the proportion of urinary tract infections was noticed. Chronic health conditions, particularly asthma and hypertension showed an incline in the proportion of consultations. Trends in chronic health conditions varied due to clinic accessibility challenges. As a result, a marked decrease in accessibility of diabetes patients was noticed. Management of chronic diseases requires regular periodic visits to monitor diseases and evaluate therapeutic outcomes which necessitates enhanced accessibility of those morbid diseases to the health care facility.

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE**

- The Zaatari Camp Job Fair was held on 4 October in partnership between Zaatari Office of Employment (ZOE), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNHCR and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) at the NRC Youth Centre in District 9 of the camp. The job fair attracted 47 employers in different sectors with over 1,000 job opportunities advertised. Some 1,060 refugees (15% female and 85% male) registered as job seekers during the event; UNHCR, ILO and NRC are following up with companies and refugee job seekers to ensure refugees get access to and retain jobs, with several follow up events organised.

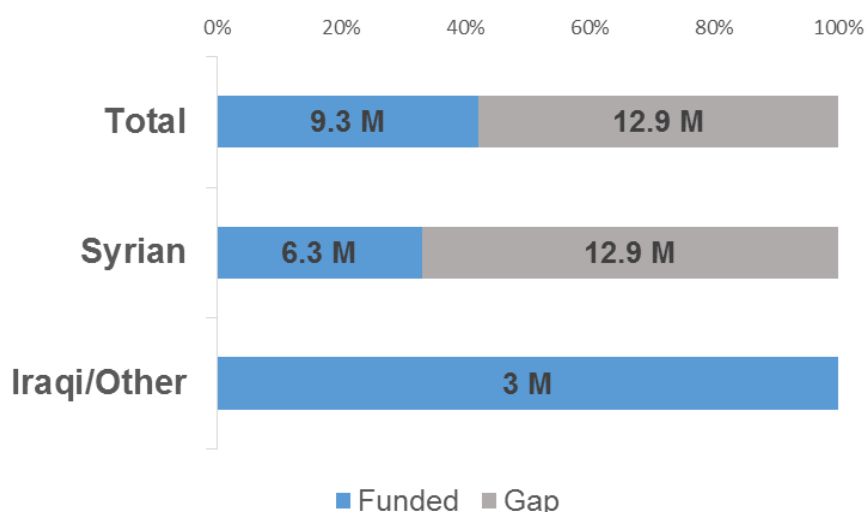
- The number of work permits registered at the ZOE continued to increase sharply in October, reflecting increased access to formal employment and awareness among refugees in Zaatari camp. By the end of October 2017, the ZOE had cumulatively recorded some 5,000 active work permit holders (93% male, 7% female), representing 16% of the working age population; the majority of the permits (91%) are for the agricultural sector, reflective of both the previous skills of refugees and preponderance of agricultural work in the environs of Zaatari. Of the 5,000 with active permits, over 1,900 were recorded in October alone. The work permit now allows entry and exit from the camp. In October there were over 12,000 recorded check-in and check-outs of refugees with work permits, double the amount in September. Two work permits awareness sessions also took place in Azraq camp to cover refugees in Villages 2, 3 and 6 with over 500 participants. The imminent opening of an employment office in Azraq will also increase awareness and improve access to job opportunities.
- The Ministry of Labour announced that agricultural work permits would be issued by five additional directorates to speed up the process, which has become challenging due to the increased work load from camps where the majority of permits are for the agricultural sector. Agricultural work permits can now be issued by seven Governorate-level directorates.

Financial Information

Winter response

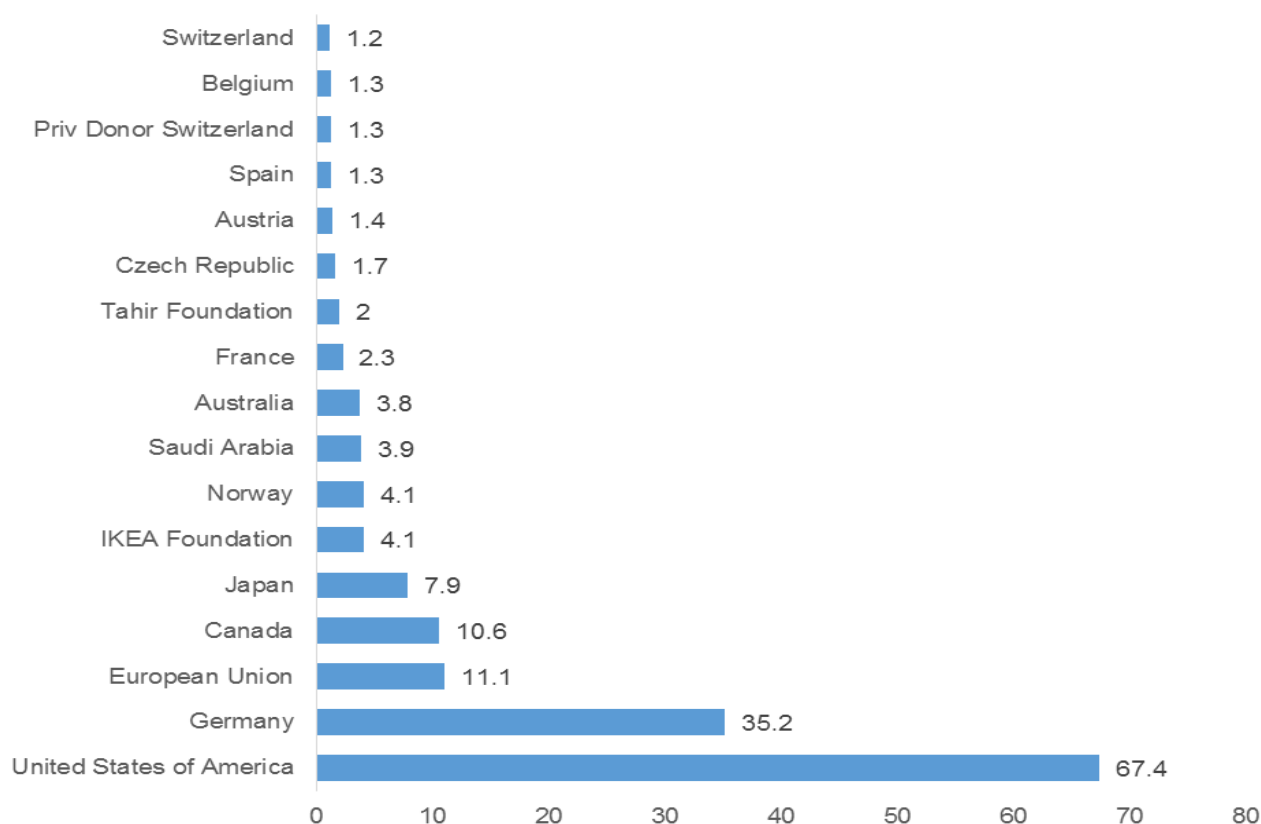
UNHCR has so far received under half of the \$22.1 million it needs to cover all winter assistance. The response for the non-Syrian population has been covered, amounting to 13.5% of the total response, in addition to 33% of funds needed to respond to Syrian refugees.

This leaves a funding gap of 58% of overall winter assistance needs, or \$12.9 million. Further funds are urgently needed to ensure that the most vulnerable are supported over the winter months to meet their basic needs



Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 166.8 million** as of end of October 2017, covering **60%** of overall needs for refugees in Jordan. The Syrian refugee response is **64%** funded, while response for other refugee populations remains only **12%** funded. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (in million USD) over \$1 million



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

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