

2018-2019 Regional Winterization Programme Progress Report

January 2019 / Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt

With the generous contributions received so far, UNHCR will provide winterization assistance to **3.5 million vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt**. The winterization programme covers the period from **September 2018 to March 2019**.

As of **31 January 2019**, **3.16 million Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees have been reached** with winterization assistance, mainly in the form of winter cash payments, shelter materials and winter specific core relief items (CRIs).

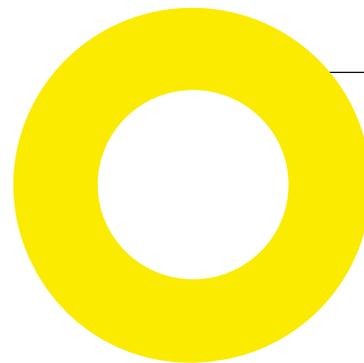
In January, UNHCR, through the inter-agency coordination structure, provided **emergency winterization assistance** to thousands of people affected by the **winter storms in Lebanon**. UNHCR also continued to provide assistance to families affected by **floods in northern Syria**.

3.5 million Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees assessed to be in need of winterization assistance.

3.16 million (90%) people reached with winter assistance as of 31 January 2019. This includes 2.4 million Syrians and over 700,000 Iraqis.

70% of the winter assistance delivered in the form of cash directly to IDPs and refugees.

FUNDING
USD 180 million
requested



Funded
100%
USD 180 million



Lebanon, January – The second day of storm Norma: Barelias informal settlement camp was flooded and families struggled to stay warm while others had to leave their tents and stay with neighbors or relatives. Mohamed, a young refugee from Deir ez-Zor carries blankets after a UNHCR distribution. © UNHCR/Bar Elias

UNHCR's winterization strategy focuses on three broad areas of intervention:



Provision of seasonal cash assistance for vulnerable families to meet their additional needs during the winter months.



Provision of core relief items specific to winter such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, heaters and gas cylinders, and winter clothes.



Winterization of shelter including shelter weather-proofing and repairs, and improvements to drainage systems and other infrastructure in camps and informal settlements.

The winterization programme is implemented through UNHCR's own staff, government agencies, partners, and community outreach volunteers in coordination with the broader inter-agency response platforms.

Country Updates

SYRIA

Persons of concern planned vs reached

Type of assistance

Syrians*



Out of **1.35 million** targeted so far **918,957** were reached

in-kind
100%

Iraqis**



Out of **22,958** targeted so far **22,958** were reached

cash
100%

* Includes 1.25 million Syrian IDPs planned to be reached by UNHCR operations inside Syria and 100,000 IDPs through cross-border operation from Turkey

** The figures for Iraqis include refugees of other nationalities

- As of 31 January, UNHCR Syria provided 843,957 IDPs (168,791 families) with winterization items such as high thermal blankets, solar lamp, extra plastic sheeting, and winter clothes kits in 13 governorates. Supplementary winter items including sleeping bags and winter jackets were also provided to Syrians living in sub-standard shelters.
- Assistance was prioritized for newly displaced vulnerable families (including people displaced multiple times), people living in hard-to-reach areas and in sub-standard shelters, spontaneous and self-organized returnees, as well as people in newly accessible locations who have not been assisted in the past. In response to the large-scale displacement and ongoing hostilities in Hajin, Deir-ez-Zor governorate, in north-east Syria, UNHCR is providing winterization assistance to IDPs who are arriving to Al-Hol camp (Al-Hassakeh governorate).
- UNHCR also continued distribution of seasonal cash assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers from Iraq and other countries, reaching 22,958 individuals (7,200 families) as of end-January.
- At the end of December 2018 and beginning of January, heavy rain and floods affected IDPs living in sites in northern Syria. During the winter period, in total 15,000 households (75,000 individuals) have been assisted, by UNHCR through its partners, with winterized core relief item (CRI) kits in northern Syria, through cross-border operations from Gaziantip (Turkey). Around one-third of the beneficiaries were those affected by the floods. All UNHCR assistance for the flood response has been coordinated with with the UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI) Clusters.

LEBANON

Persons of concern planned vs reached		Type of assistance
Syrians 	Out of 892,594 targeted so far 892,594 were reached	cash 100 %
Iraqis 	Out of 9,540 targeted so far 9,540 were reached	cash 100 %

- In early January, two severe storms hit Lebanon and brought heavy snow, low temperatures, torrential rain and strong winds that flooded settlements and damaged shelters. The extreme weather conditions affected 678 sites and over 47,000 people. Also, tragically, four refugees, including three children, perished as a result of the storms.
- Under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs, over 60 actors through the inter-agency coordination structure responded to the disaster and provided emergency shelter assistance and CRIs. As a result of joint efforts from all agencies involved, close to 100 per cent of immediate needs were covered.
- Of the 47,189 people that were affected in the four regions (North, Bekaa, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, South), 42,130 were deemed to be in need of emergency assistance and received CRIs, blankets, mattresses and winter clothes. In addition, 3,802 families received weather-proofing shelter kits. UNHCR provided some 20,000 blankets, 14,000 mattresses and 4,000 plastic sheets, and 2,000 weather-proofing kits for some 17,000 refugee families. UNHCR also distributed 2,888 shelter kits, which assisted more than 16,000 people.
- As the storms were ongoing, 12 sites were pumped free of water and desludging took place in 71 sites that could be accessed by machinery. In total, 163 drainage kits were distributed, and have proven to be effective in digging water channels, cleaning trenches and ensuring better upkeep of previous site improvements. In sites where water pumping was not feasible or successful, evacuation and relocation were identified as the most appropriate solutions. Most refugees in this situation were able to find their own solutions by moving in temporarily with friends or relatives, and in some cases with local families from the surrounding community.

JORDAN

Persons of concern planned vs reached		Type of assistance
Syrians 	Out of 337,334 targeted so far 337,334 were reached	cash 99 % in-kind 1 %
Iraqis** 	Out of 23,519 targeted so far 23,483 were reached	cash 100 %

**The figures for Iraqis include refugees of other nationalities

- UNHCR Jordan began its one-time winterization cash uploads in October 2018 in order to allow for time to stagger payments throughout the months of November and December. In urban areas, 227,513 Syrian refugees (53,424 families) have received a one-off cash assistance (per family) from October to December 2018 through the multi-agency Common Cash Facility system. UNHCR

focused its winterization efforts on its existing beneficiaries, families who are on the waiting list for cash assistance, and those highly vulnerable families not receiving regular monthly assistance. Early identification of winter funds allowed UNHCR to spread winter funding to a larger portion of the population this year. UNHCR and its partners have developed a common post-distribution monitoring survey to report on outcomes from the winterization exercise.

- Distribution of winter assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Zaatari and Azraq camps began in October. UNHCR has reached 109,821 individuals (about 24,052 families) with cash for gas to cover the cost of gas refills and cash for winterization to address shelter maintenance. Distribution of heaters and high thermal blankets in both camps reached 48,900 individuals.
- For the Iraqis and refugees of other nationalities, a one-off cash assistance at household level has been provided to 23,483 individuals from October to December 2018 through the Common Cash Facility system.

IRAQ

Persons of concern planned vs reached		Type of assistance
Syrians 	Out of 228,000 targeted so far 220,830 were reached	
Iraqis 	Out of 656,100 targeted so far 654,192 were reached	

- In Iraq, UNHCR's winter assistance programme seeks to provide some 656,100 IDPs (109,350 families), including returnees, and 228,000 Syrian refugees (45,600 families) with critical support in the form of cash and winter appropriate CRIs. Cash assistance consists of a one-off grant of USD 200 for IDP families living in and out of camps. Syrian refugee families living in the camps and urban areas receive a one-off grant of USD 400. The distribution of core relief items was streamlined for this winter period on the basis of feedback from the beneficiaries of last year's winterization and now only includes high thermal blankets, heating stoves, plastic sheeting and kerosene jerry cans.
- Beginning in November, distribution of CRIs reached a total of 378,434 persons including 309,054 IDPs and 69,380 refugees. Registration by financial service providers of individuals identified to receive winter cash assistance continued throughout the month. By the end of January, 30,290 refugee families (151,450 individuals) and 57,523 IDP and returnee families (345,138 individuals) have received their winter cash grants.¹
- Cash grants are delivered through a mobile wallet, which is created by the financial service providers when registering identified refugees and IDPs. Individuals are then able to cash out the grants through certified mobile money agents. In addition to hotlines that have been set up to allow beneficiaries to seek assistance or report any complaints or problems faced in receiving their grants, key messages on the overall programme are delivered by designated cash assistance focal points. Given the scale of assistance, registration for cash assistance and the disbursement of payments are still ongoing.

¹ UNHCR continues to reconcile and reconfirm the implementation figures provided by the partners and as such final figures may vary.

EGYPT

Persons of concern planned vs reached		Type of assistance
Syrians 	Out of 94,400 targeted so far 82,957 were reached	cash 100%
Iraqis 	Out of 1,200 targeted so far 459 were reached	cash 100%

- As of 31 January, a total 82,957 Syrian refugees (29,642 families) and 459 Iraqi refugees (233 families) had collected their cash assistance for winter of USD 34 per person. The collection rate was 90 per cent for Syrians and 38 per cent for Iraqis. The assistance was paid through over 4,200 branches of the Post Office spread across Egypt. The collection period has been extended until 15 February. Main distribution areas are those with high concentration of refugees, namely Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta.
- A post-distribution monitoring exercise started on 24 January and data collection is ongoing with a sample of winter assistance beneficiaries. This is expected to end by 28 February, following which analysis will be carried out and the final report is expected to be ready by end of March.

UNHCR Regional Winterization campaign

As part of its annual winterization campaign, UNHCR launched an influencer-led campaign on 31 December 2018 [#تحدي_السنة_الجديدة](#) / [#WinterChallenge](#). The campaign started with a simple donation challenge mobilizing celebrities and public figures to donate and nominate others to do the same. More than 50 celebrities, social media influencers, media and public figures, including the President of Iraq Mr. Barham Salih, took up the challenge and donated to support refugee families in the region. As a follow up to the online challenge, some celebrities showed their interest to continue their advocacy work through a field visit to those families who were affected by storm Norma in Lebanon. The online challenge and the field visits were covered by a variety of local, regional, and international media outlets. The involvement of celebrities and online endorsement of influential figures along with substantial media coverage, helped the campaign to raise some **USD 102,000** in donations.



Donors:

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the winterization programme for the Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees with unearmarked and earmarked funds as well as those who have contributed directly to the operations.

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