

2019-2020 Regional winterization programme progress report

October 2019

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria

This winter, UNHCR estimates that 3.8 million Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees (including refugees of other nationalities) are in need of winterization assistance in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. For many, this will be the ninth consecutive winter in displacement.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions received for its winterization programme which have facilitated early provision of assistance across the region, allowing vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees to be prepared for the harsh winter season.

Distribution of winterization assistance has already started in Syria and Iraq and as of 31 October, more than 364,000 Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees have been reached. In the rest of the countries, distributions will begin in November. The winterization programme covers the period from September 2019 to March 2020.



3.8 million vulnerable people assessed to be in need of winterization assistance

more than

3 million Syrians **764,300** Iraqis including refugees of other nationalities

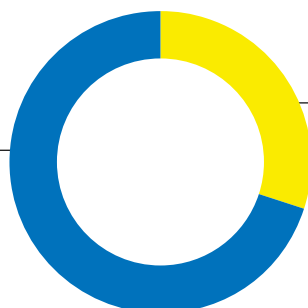


364,000 people reached with winterization assistance as of 31 October

Funding
USD 222 million
 requested

Funded

70%
 USD 155 million



Unfunded

30%
 USD 67 million

*The funding level varies from country to country



Recently displaced people in North-east Syria receive UNHCR core relief and winter items, distributed by local partners at the Tal Tamer communal shelter.
 © UNHCR / October 2019

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



Provision of core relief items specific to winter such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheets 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.



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

- 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.
- The provision of seasonal cash assistance does not overlap with the provision of core relief items and shelter assistance for winter.

SYRIA

SYRIANS

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED



Individuals

1.6 million targeted*
233,944 individuals reached

Type of Assistance

In-kind: 100 %

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



Individuals

22,730 targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

*Includes 1.5 million Syrian IDPs planned to be reached by UNHCR operations inside Syria and 100,000 IDPs through cross-border operation from Gaziantep (Turkey).

- UNHCR aims to reach 1.6 million Syrian IDPs, returnees and host communities (320,000 families) with winterization assistance through operations inside Syria (1.5 million IDPs) and via its cross-border operation from Gaziantep, Turkey (100,000 IDPs). Inside Syria, distribution of winterization assistance started in September and a total of 221,524 individuals have been assisted so far, including to the newly displaced in north-east Syria. Assistance is prioritized for vulnerable IDPs and returnees, newly displaced families, people living in hard-to-reach areas and in sub-standard shelters, spontaneous returnees, as well as people in newly accessible locations who have not been assisted in the past.
- In north-east Syria, as part of the inter-agency efforts, UNHCR has provided core relief and winter items to more than 127,500 newly displaced people in host communities, collective shelters and camps, including over 60,000 people in Al-Hol, Areesha, Roj and Mahmoudli camps. The winterization assistance consists standard core relief item kit which includes mattresses, plastic sheeting, sleeping mat, solar lamps, kitchen sets and jerry cans, and additional supplementary items for winter such as a winter clothing kit, jackets, and sleeping bags.
- Cross-border winterization assistance from Gaziantep started in October and 7,000 winterized non-food item (NFI) kits have been transhipped to north-west Syria of which 2,484 kits have been distributed to assist 12,420 people. UNHCR and its distribution partners are coordinating with the Shelter/NFI Cluster to prevent duplication and to target areas where the need is high. The NFI kit consists of high thermal blankets, foam mattresses, solar lamps, plastic tarpaulins, and certain hygiene/sanitary items.
- In addition, UNHCR Syria plans to support 22,730 registered refugees and asylum-seekers (7,298 families) in the country including from Iraq and other countries with a one-time cash transfer of USD 82 per person to cover additional expenses during winter, such as for fuel, electricity, blankets and clothing.

LEBANON

**PERSONS OF CONCERN
PLANNED TO BE ASSISTED**

SYRIANS



Individuals

860,620 million targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



Individuals

9,000 targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

- UNHCR intends to provide winterization assistance to 860,620 Syrian refugees (172,124 families) and 9,000 Iraqi refugees (3,000 families) living below the poverty line. 73% of the Syrian refugee families in Lebanon live below the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of USD 3.84/capita/day, and hence they are unable to meet survival needs such as food, health and shelter. As a consequence, protection risks and susceptibility to negative coping mechanisms increases and nearly nine out of ten households are indebted, clearly indicating that Syrian refugee families continue to lack enough resources to cover their essential needs. During winter, their situation is exacerbated by economic shocks associated with harsh weather conditions and the reduction of income generating opportunities. In addition, many families will face additional health risks due to inability to stay warm, flooding and already limited access to health care.
- Based on UNHCR's analysis of data from a series of household visits, a refugee family's winter expenditure increases somewhere between USD 75 and 150 per month. Due to overwhelming needs and limited resources available because of lack of funding, the package for the last two winter programmes was limited to USD 75 per month only, for all vulnerable populations assisted. Considering the deteriorating protection situation and dwindling financial resources of the refugee population, resources for the upcoming winterization programme will be allocated based on vulnerabilities. With a lump sum of USD 375 to those refugee families who are living below the MEB, UNHCR is planning to cover winter needs for a period of five months from November 2019 to March 2020.
- UNHCR will continue using the targeting system that is predicting socio-economic vulnerability of refugees in Lebanon for the implementation of the winter cash assistance programme. The Basic Assistance Working Group composed of UN agencies, NGOs and the Government have endorsed the approach, granting transparency and efficiency to meet needs of the most vulnerable. Implementation is through the LOUISE (Lebanon One Unified Inter-Operational System of e-Cards) multi-agency framework. The post distribution monitoring (PDM) will be conducted in early 2020 in line with the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, established for cash-based interventions. In light of the major economic crisis currently affecting Lebanon, UNHCR's winter campaign this year will reach more vulnerable Lebanese families than in previous years to ensure that they can stay warm during the winter season despite their rapidly deteriorating situation.

JORDAN

**PERSONS OF CONCERN
PLANNED TO BE ASSISTED**

SYRIANS



Individuals

310,873 targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



Individuals

45,850 targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

- UNHCR aims to reach 310,873 Syrians (69,069 families) in camps and urban areas with winterization assistance, starting in November. In Azraq and Zaatari camps, families will be supported with a one-time winter cash assistance through the common humanitarian cash distribution facilities and will receive cash for gas for heating. In urban areas, UNHCR plans to assist families with a one-time package that covers the cost of a heater, a gas cannister, gas refills for four months and blankets for each family member.
- Jordan's non-Syrian population group includes several different nationalities including: Iraqis, Yemenis, Somalis, Sudanese and others. UNHCR adheres to a one-refugee approach policy and remains one of the few agencies that continues to assist non-Syrian refugees in Jordan. It is unlikely another organisation will be in the position to assist those that UNHCR cannot support due to a lack of funding, leaving 61,250 vulnerable Iraqi refugees and refugees of other nationalities (17,500 families) without any means of assistance during the winter season. Payments will be made in the form of a one-off cash distribution through the Common Cash Facility. Iraqi and other non-Syrian refugees are in particular need of winter assistance as few can obtain work permits.
- Special attention will be given to female-headed households, the elderly, people with disabilities, children who are alone or otherwise at risk, people with medical needs as well as survivors of violence or torture. The inter-agency Winterization Task Force, co-chaired by UNHCR coordinates winter interventions in urban areas, ensuring uniform selection of beneficiaries, the establishment of standard assistance and avoidance of duplication of assistance. Partners of the winterization taskforce will undertake joint PDM and subsequent reporting at the end of the implementation period.

IRAQ

SYRIANS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

IRAQIS

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED



Individuals

174,500 targeted
34,244 individuals reached

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %



Individuals

666,000 targeted
89,480 individuals reached



Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

- UNHCR in Iraq aims to provide winterization assistance to around 666,000 IDPs (111,000 families), 157,700 Syrian refugees (38,300 families), and 16,800 refugees of other nationalities (4,200 families). During October, a total of 89,480 IDPs and returnees (14,913 families) benefited from winter cash assistance across the country (in all 18 governorates), of whom 4,330 were female head of households. Each household received IQD 240,000 (USD 200) which will be complemented with kerosene assistance foreseen to be distributed by the Iraqi government.
- For refugees, 84,000 eligible individuals (21,000 families) living in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas and 90,500 individuals (22,625 families) in the camps have been identified to receive winter cash assistance. As of 31 October, 8,620 families have cashed out their assistance of IQD 480,000 (USD 4,000) per family through EyePay system using iris authentication, while 123 people who do not have iris registration received their assistance through e-wallet. The remaining beneficiaries will receive cash assistance in November.
- For the Syrian new arrivals in Bardarash and Gawilan camps, UNHCR and partners continue to provide core relief items, including cooking stoves, kerosene heaters, kitchen items, high thermal blankets, mattresses, quilts and jerry cans. Winterization kits for tents are also being distributed in preparation for the winter. Provision of additional blankets is also ongoing – in total two per person. New arrivals in camps will also benefit from winter cash assistance using the same modality as for the existing Syrian population. Every family will receive USD 400 (480,000 IQD) and the distribution is expected to begin early December.

- Beneficiaries are identified based on vulnerability assessments conducted with partners and community representatives, with priority placed on socio-economic vulnerabilities and persons of concern living in the coldest geographical areas. UNHCR coordinates with relevant Cluster actors, particularly the Shelter and NFI clusters and the Cash Working Group. UNHCR also continues to coordinate with the Government of Iraq, to establish and maintain communication channels and manage reputational risks, access and delivery of assistance. UNHCR staff and partners will monitor cash distributions in the field to ensure accountability by confirming that intended beneficiaries receive correct amounts of cash assistance through spot checks during distribution site visits. The PDM will be conducted through mobile field teams, focus group discussions and telephone interviews through a random sampling method, alongside household visits. In addition, fully dedicated call centers have been set in place to receive queries and complaints related to winterization assistance. In October, due to the demonstrations and mass protests, telecommunication, banking and transportation systems were periodically blocked which affected the implementation for winter cash programme in certain locations.

EGYPT

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED TO BE ASSISTED	SYRIANS	IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES
	 Individuals 87,184 targeted	 Individuals 3,934 targeted
	Type of Assistance Cash: 100 %	Type of Assistance Cash: 100 %

- UNHCR Egypt plans to provide 87,184 Syrian refugees (29,244 families) and 3,934 Iraqi refugees (1,659 families) with one-off cash assistance of USD 36 per person, starting in November. In October, UNHCR continued to work closely with the relevant partners in Egypt including UN agencies, I/NGOs and other stakeholders to agree on the targeting modality and mechanisms to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Draft communication messages have also been developed with communicating with communities/public information focal points. The assistance will be distributed through UNHCR's financial service provider, the Egypt Post Office. As a new development this year, UNHCR in coordination with Egypt Post and IrisGuard, plans to roll-out iris-enabled cash delivery in selected post offices across the country. With this modality, a refugee who approaches an iris-enabled Post Office will have his/her iris scanned and verified against UNHCR biometric database through cloud-based services, ensuring that only the intended recipient accesses his/her entitlement.

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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