

2020-2021 Regional Winterization Programme Progress Report #1

September-October 2020

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 is the tenth 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 as of 31 October, around **199,200 Syrians** have been reached. In the rest of the countries, assistance is expected to begin in November. The winterization programme covers the period from September 2020 to March 2021.



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

including

3.2 million Syrians



463,250 Iraqis including refugees of other nationalities¹



Over 199,200 people reached with winterization assistance as of 31 October (5%)



Total funding requirements: USD 211.3 million



Distribution of core relief and winter items to the families who were severely affected by the recent fires in Frayka village, in rural Hama Governorate. Photo by UNHCR/ Rama Alkhoukou

¹ This includes refugees of other nationalities in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria covered under the Iraq situation (planning figures have been slightly revised from the September 2020 UNHCR Regional Winterization Assistance Plan). In Iraq and Egypt, UNHCR estimates that an additional 127,200 vulnerable refugees of other nationalities are in need of winterization assistance. They are included within the overall planning figure of 3.8 million.

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, and winter clothes.



Winterization of shelter including shelter weather-proofing and repairs, 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.
- The provision of seasonal cash assistance does not overlap with the provision of core relief items and shelter assistance for winter.

SYRIA

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 October)

SYRIANS

 **Individuals**

1.4 million individuals targeted*
199,208 individuals reached

Type of Assistance

In-kind: 100%

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

 **Individuals**

15,195 individuals targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

* Includes 1.35 million Syrian IDPs planned to be reached by UNHCR operations inside Syria and 50,000 IDPs through cross-border operation from Gaziantep (Turkey).

- UNHCR's winterization campaign in Syria commenced on 1 September 2020. This winter, UNHCR Syria plans to reach 1.35 million vulnerable persons including IDPs, returnees as well as host community members across the country (around 270,000 families). These include recently displaced families and those displaced multiple times, as well as people living in hard-to-reach areas and in sub-standard shelters, spontaneous returnees, and people in newly accessible locations who have not yet received assistance. Between September and end-October 2020, UNHCR Syria distributed 640,484 winter seasonal items to 199,208 individuals (44,704 families) while ensuring COVID-19 preventive measures. The distributed items included high thermal blankets, plastic sheeting, sleeping bags, winter jackets and winter clothing kits. Distributions took place in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates.
- UNHCR is providing winterization assistance in the form of unconditional multi-purpose cash grants to all urban refugees registered with UNHCR in Syria. The aim of the winterization grant is to help families meet increased needs during the winter months. In coordination with the Cash Working Group (CWG), the transfer value was fixed at SYP 426,000 (USD 340.8) per family based on costs for in-kind assistance for winter and on the cost for heating fuel to cover four months (November 2020 to February 2021). UNHCR Syria plans to reach 15,195 refugees (5,065 families) with multi-purpose cash grants this winter.
- As part of the UN cross-border operation from Turkey, UNHCR this winter plans to reach 50,000 individuals (10,000 families) in north-west Syria with core relief item kits this winter. The UNHCR Cross-Border operation will start its winterization programme from 1 November 2020 and will complete it by the end of the year. In line with the guidance of the Shelter/Non-Food Item Cluster, the winter kit comprises of five high thermal blankets, four foam mattresses, two plastic tarpaulins, one carpet and one hygiene parcel.

LEBANON

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 October)

SYRIANS

 **Individuals**

1.1 million individuals targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

 **Individuals**

7,843 individuals targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

- UNHCR is the only agency planning large-scale winter assistance for refugees in Lebanon. The Office intends to provide winterization assistance to up to 1.1 million Syrian refugees (over 270,000 families) and 7,843 refugees (3,268 families) of other nationalities. In September and October 2020, UNHCR undertook preparatory steps for its winter programme. The focus was on targeting, card validation and distribution, as well as communication with communities. Out of 69,000 cards to be distributed, almost 4,000 cards were distributed as of end-October. Due to the large number of households who will be receiving the winter cash assistance over a relatively short implementation period (two months), it was decided to use remote validation through a two-way SMS scheme. In addition, for the first time, online validation was introduced through a dedicated web portal. Out of some 97,000 recipients already in possession of cards, 65,605 households underwent validation using these two modalities.
- UNHCR Lebanon is closely working with Basic Assistance Working Group (BAWG) members and coordinating with other partners who are planning to implement winter programmes. UNHCR presented its plans for implementing the winter cash assistance to the BAWG in September. General information on the winter assistance programme was also shared through the BAWG, Outreach Volunteers, and other Communications with Communities channels.



When a snowstorm hit Aarsal, Lebanon, in February 2020, the door to 67-year-old Shakiba's makeshift shelter was blocked by heavy snowfall. Shakiba received assistance from UNHCR last winter.
 Photo by UNHCR/ Houssam Hariri

JORDAN

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 October)

SYRIANS

 **Individuals**

340,000 individuals targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

 **Individuals**

45,000 individuals targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

- UNHCR and Winterization Task Force members aim to reach 340,000 Syrians refugees (over 79,000 families) in Jordan with winter assistance in the form of cash assistance. This includes around 120,000 individuals (24,000 families) in the refugee camps of Azraq and Zaatari and around 220,000 individuals (55,000 families) in urban areas. For the forthcoming winter, assistance is also needed for 45,000 vulnerable Iraqi refugees and refugees of other nationalities (15,000 households). However, as of end-October 2020, UNHCR Jordan did not receive winter related funding and, as a result, no winterization cash assistance was provided to refugees during the months of September and October.
- Planning for winterization assistance has been ongoing since August 2020 through the Winterization Task Force. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis that has resulted in continued limited livelihoods opportunities for refugees and high levels of debt, the eligibility criteria has been expanded this year to include additional Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) scores like debt per capita, the WFP Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) score, and VAF enumerator judgement along with VAF welfare scores.

IRAQ

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 October)

SYRIANS

 **Individuals**

174,625 individuals targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

IRAQIS REFUGEES

 **Individuals**

391,182 individuals targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

 **Individuals**

36,005 individuals targeted

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

- UNHCR Iraq has adjusted its winter planning in line with needs to assist 391,182 Iraqi IDPs (65,197 families), 174,625 Syrian refugees (52,440 families) as well as 36,005 refugees of other nationalities (7,201 families) with winterization assistance. All assistance will be cash-based, allowing families to decide for themselves how to spend the money on their most urgent needs during the difficult winter months. During September and October, the focus has been on identifying the beneficiary groups and the eligibility criteria, as well as reprioritising resources within the operation in order to ensure the largest coverage possible. Cash assistance will be distributed starting mid-November 2020 through a phased approach, taking into consideration issues concerning access to populations of concern, liquidity, and adjustments in the entitlements of the beneficiaries.

- Out of the total 174,625 Syrian refugees (52,440 families) who will benefit from the winter cash assistance, around 100,700 refugees (30,241 families) out of camp will receive IQD 480,000 per family (USD 400). Given current constraints on resources and pending a reprioritization within the operation, refugees living in camps will initially receive a reduced winter package of IQD 240,000 per family (USD 200) targeting some 73,900 refugees (22,199 families). The identification of eligible beneficiaries was conducted during October, and implementation will be conducted through a phased approach prioritizing the camps with the highest percentage of food insecure population in November. Winter cash assistance will be provided through EyePay (for those who have iris registration) or mobile e-wallets (for those who do not have iris registration).
- For IDPs and IDP returnees, eligibility for winter cash assistance is based on the socio-economic scores from the Comprehensive Household Assessment that was completed between July 2019 and February 2020. A total of 265,488 IDPs (44,248 families) in camps and 125,694 (20,949 families) urban IDPs and returnees will be targeted for winterization assistance. Both camp and urban IDPs/returnees will receive a total of IQD 240,000 (USD 200) per family. At the end of October, the Government of Iraq initiated camp closures in the country which will make this winter assistance all the more necessary for those currently in camps, who will likely find themselves newly returned to their areas of origin with little to no support in the course of the autumn and winter seasons.

EGYPT

SYRIANS

IRAQIS REFUGEES

REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

Individuals

85,500 individuals targeted



Individuals

4,033 individuals targeted



Individuals

91,200 individuals targeted

(as of 31 October)

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

- UNHCR Egypt plans to provide 85,500 Syrian refugees (28,600 families), 4,033 Iraqi refugees (2,132 families), and 91,200 refugees of other nationalities (48,000 families), primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa, with one-off winter cash assistance. However, as of end-October, lack of confirmed funding has posed challenges to UNHCR's objective of supporting all identified and eligible beneficiaries and meeting their basic needs during the winter months. In the meantime, UNHCR is coordinating the implementation of cash assistance interventions with other UN agencies and NGOs through the Basic Needs and Cash Working Group (CBWG). Post Distribution Monitoring exercises for winter assistance will be conducted by a third party in February 2021, based on an overall Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. In addition to the standard methodologies of household interviews, community-based discussions will also be held. Meanwhile, UNHCR's info-line and partner will be accepting calls related to winter cash assistance issues.



*Distribution of core relief and winter items to returnee families in Al-Sabeel neighborhood in Homs governorate.
Photo by UNHCR/ GOPA*

Donors:

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

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