

2022-2023 Regional Winterization Programme Progress Report

October - December 2022

Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt*

As the winter season set across the Middle East and North Africa, UNHCR continued to assist refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to cope with their winter needs. However due to limited funding, less than **1.9 million** vulnerable Syrians, Iraqis and refugees of other nationalities were reached as of 31 December 2022, comprising only **54%** of the overall targeted individuals — a significant reduction from UNHCR’s winterization response in 2021-2022. Despite reallocation of resources and generous contributions to the winterization programme, only **41%** of the **\$250 million** required has been funded.



\$250 million total financial requirements for winter 2022-2023

3.4 million individuals in need of winter assistance



Including

3,018,274 Syrians

395,211 Iraqis and refugees of other nationalities



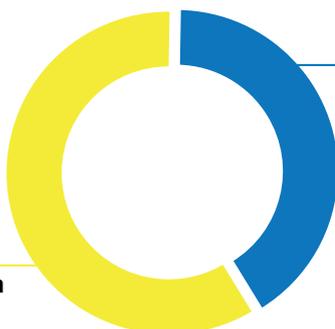
1.854 million individuals reached (**54%**) including **1,805,298** Syrians and **49,113** Iraqis and refugees of other nationalities.



1.36 million supported with cash assistance



497,636 supported with core relief items (CRIs)



Funded:
\$102.4 million
(41%)

Gap:
\$147.6 million
(59%)

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, sleeping bags and winter clothes.



Shelter weather-proofing and repairs, improvements to drainage systems and other infrastructure in camps and informal settlements in preparation for winter.

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



Um Houseen, 69, receives winterization items from UNHCR, including blankets and winter clothing. Photo by ©UNHCR/ E.Kabbas

* (Note: Egypt did not deliver winter assistance in 2022-23 due to unavailability of resources)

SYRIA

TARGETED INDIVIDUALS PLANNED VS. REACHED

(as of 31 December)

SYRIANS

 **Individuals**

912,500 individuals targeted*
459,179 individuals reached (50%)**

Type of Assistance

In-kind

IRAQIS

 **Individuals**

14,122 individuals targeted
17,057 individuals reached (121%)***

Type of Assistance

Cash

- * This includes 842,500 people to be reached with assistance from inside Syria and around 75,000 people in north-west Syria reached through the cross-border operation from Türkiye
- ** This includes 406,551 people reached from Syria and 52,628 reached through the cross-border operation from Türkiye.
- *** UNHCR had planned to reach 7,182 families (an estimated 14,122 individuals). The number of people reached reflects the actual number of individuals who received assistance. 6,055 families (17,057 individuals) were reached hence exceeding the planned target.

- In Syria, UNHCR's winter programme started in November 2022 and by end-December, UNHCR had provided winter assistance to 423,608 individuals including 163,340 internally displaced people (IDPs), 243,211 returnees, 12,827 refugees and 4,230 asylum-seekers. UNHCR provided core relief items¹ to a total of 406,551 Syrian IDPs and returnees (89,200 families), across all the 14 Governorates. The assistance delivered is essential for vulnerable people to withstand the harsh weather conditions during winter as temperatures can drop to zero degrees Celsius in many areas of the country.

- Fuel shortages in Syria continue to impact UNHCR and partners. Moreover, the security situation in parts of north-east Syria including in Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh Governorate) led to the temporary suspension of UNHCR and partners' activities in late 2022, which delayed distributions of winter CRIs in the camp. Based on the available resources, UNHCR Syria is prioritizing winter CRI support to the most vulnerable populations residing in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Idleb, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus Governorates, as well as those residing in camps. Despite these challenges, UNHCR delivered winter CRI kits to 406,551 individuals (168,500 families), 48% of the targeted population in north-east Syria by end-December 2022. With the available funding, UNHCR plans to reach a total of 565,965 Syrians (113,193 families) with winter core relief items, which represents 67% of the planned target.



Distribution of winter core relief item assistance in Shammas neighbourhood, Homs city, Syria. Photo: ©UNHCR/S.Sawas

- UNHCR is also responding to the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria through cash assistance. As of end-December, 17,057 individuals received the first tranche of the winter cash grant. The amount of the grant varied depending on family size, with an average of SYP 543,000 (\$181) per family. The total amount of cash assistance disbursed so far is around \$1.2 million.
- The UNHCR cross-border operation from Türkiye, following the completion of the procurement and delivery of the kits which began in November 2022, distributed 10,000 winter CRI kits to 52,628 individuals by December 2022. Distributions were carried out by UNHCR and partners in the two Governorates in north-west Syria (NWS), with the allocation of 5,050 winter CRI kits² in Aleppo and 4,950 in Idleb Governorates. The locations for distribution were selected and determined in coordination with Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI) cluster. UNHCR's Cross-Border Operation also provided 1,400 stoves in various IDP sites in NWS to 7,126 individuals to protect against harsh winter conditions.

¹ The winter kit for a family of five consists of winter clothing kits, adult winter jackets, blankets, sleeping bags and plastic sheeting.

² The contents of the winterization kit were also revised as per the guidance of SNFI cluster, consisting of four foam mattresses, five high thermal blankets, two plastic tarpaulins, one carpet and one hygiene parcel.

LEBANON

SYRIANS


Individuals

1.4 M individuals targeted
868,720 individuals reached (62%)

Type of Assistance

Cash and in-kind

IRAQIS


Individuals

10,365 individuals targeted
6,938 individuals reached (67%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

TARGETED INDIVIDUALS PLANNED VS. REACHED

(as of 31 December)

- UNHCR's winter cash assistance is being provided to refugees for up to five months to mitigate the impact of the socio-economic crisis and harsh winter conditions on vulnerable refugee families in Lebanon. UNHCR targeted vulnerable refugees eligible to receive winterization assistance in early November 2022 and began disbursement of winter cash assistance to eligible Syrian refugees during the same month. Refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities started receiving winter cash assistance as of December 2022.
- The disbursement of winter cash assistance is done in several tranches from November 2022 - February 2023, and to avoid delays, UNHCR has been working simultaneously on the validation of beneficiaries, card and pin distribution, and loading of winter cash assistance to ATM cards.
- By the end of December, a total of 830,263 individuals (200,326 families—including 197,957 Syrian refugee households) and 6,938 individuals (2,369 families) from other nationalities—received the first tranches of winter cash assistance.
- To complement the cash assistance programme and further support refugees living in areas prone to flooding and harsh conditions, UNHCR distributed CRIs, such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, and sleeping bags, to 38,457 individuals (16,533 families) and host community 5,313 individuals (4,982 families).



Chadi, 5 years old receiving UNIQLO thermal clothes from UNHCR staff in Lebanon, Bekaa. Photo by ©UNHCR/ Houssam Hariri

JORDAN

SYRIANS

Individuals

391,400 individuals targeted
434,472 individuals reached (111%)*

Type of Assistance

Cash

IRAQIS

Individuals

26,000 individuals targeted
19,632 individuals reached (76%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

TARGETED INDIVIDUALS PLANNED VS. REACHED

(as of 31 December)

* The operation chose to increase the number of individuals receiving the reduced assistance, and once later additional funding arrived a further set of beneficiaries were also assisted with the same package. This resulted in a higher than originally planned total number of beneficiaries

- As planned, UNHCR and IOM successfully launched the winter task force for out-of-camp assistance, and co-facilitated the development of eligibility profiles, a [standard assistance package](#) based on market prices, and assistance duplication measures focused on use of the UNHCR's Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) database. The process followed and tools developed will prove useful for future winter assistance as well.
- In order to support all targeted individuals despite limited funding received late in 2022, UNHCR reviewed and revised its winter assistance amounts, with a reduced but unified winter package provided to families. UNHCR was able to reach 434,472 Syrian individuals (101,604 families) and 19,362 mainly Iraqi refugees (8,529 families). Those receiving regular cash assistance for basic needs in both urban and camps received JOD 70 (\$100) per family, compared to JOD 185 (\$260) from last year in urban areas, and JOD 300 (\$423) in camps. Those who are not receiving regular assistance received JOD 95 (\$134) per family compared to JOD 230 (\$325) last year.

UNHCR chose to increase the number of individuals receiving the reduced assistance, and upon reception of additional funding a further set of beneficiaries were also assisted with the same package. This resulted in a higher than originally planned total number of beneficiaries. Partners on the winter task force similarly varied their assistance, in some cases providing a top-up to UNHCR assistance.



Nawal, a Syrian refugee and single mother of five, collects her winter cash assistance from a financial service provider, alongside her youngest daughter Raneem. After fleeing her home in Dar'aa, Syria in 2013, her husband passed away from cancer in 2016, leaving Nawal as the sole provider for her family. "Last winter was very hard on us, we didn't receive any assistance. At least this year we will be able to buy new blankets and do some repairs to the roof to stop the water leaking." @UNHCR/Jordan

IRAQ

	IRAQIS	SYRIANS	REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES
TARGETED INDIVIDUALS PLANNED VS. REACHED	 Individuals 281,724 individuals targeted 0 individuals reached (0%)*	 Individuals 232,374 individuals targeted 42,927 individuals reached (18%)	 Individuals 25,774 individuals targeted 5,486 individuals reached (21%)
(as of 31 December)	Type of Assistance Cash	Type of Assistance Cash	Type of Assistance Cash

* Budget limitation does not allow UNHCR to assist Iraqi IDPs with cash assistance for the 2022-2023 winter.

- In early December 2022, over 88,000 refugees (27,000 families) were identified as most vulnerable, out of some 258,000 refugees (79,500 families) eligible for winter cash assistance, with distributions starting shortly thereafter.
- Due to the limited available funding, UNHCR only provided winter cash assistance to vulnerable urban refugees in Iraq. UNHCR reduced the cash grant to half of the initially planned entitlement to maximize coverage (IQD 240,000, equivalent to \$166; instead of the originally planned IQD 480,000, equivalent to \$330).
- By end-2022, UNHCR provided some 48,400 most vulnerable refugees in Iraq with winter assistance including 42,927 Syrian refugees (13,000 families) and 5,486 refugees of other nationalities (2,000 families). The remaining winter cash distributions will be completed in February 2023 for the remaining 39,587 identified individuals.



Om Saker, 34, is the sole provider for her three children. Their living conditions are harsh, especially during winter. UNHCR's winter cash assistance has been life-saving for the four of them. "[When I first received the assistance] I felt so happy that I couldn't sleep. I felt comfortable and didn't need to ask for anything from anyone." Photo: © UNHCR/Ahmed Ayad

Additional resources:

- [UNHCR Regional Winterization Assistance Plan 2022-2023](#) (September 2022)
- [UNHCR Global Focus](#)

Donors:

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the Syria and Iraq situation response in 2023, with unearmarked and earmarked funds as well as those who have contributed directly to the operations:

