



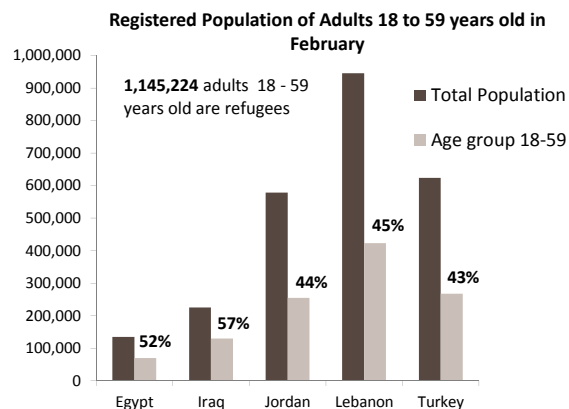
13,700 individuals have accessed vocational training or employment assistance opportunities in 2014

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

Given the increasingly protracted nature of the conflict in Syria, it is vital that social cohesion between Syrian refugees and the local communities in their host countries is maintained to ensure long-term damage to social fabrics and relationships is not done. In Lebanon, **Community Support Projects** completed in February included: rehabilitation & expansion of public schools in the North; provision of disability friendly ramps and a new pavement in Tripoli; equipping a cinema club and community centre with audio-visual & IT equipment in Saida; establishment of a football field in Mina; and procurement of waste collection bins for municipalities in different locations in the North. In Jordan, a joint assessment mission in Irbid was conducted to identify CSPs. In Lebanon, some 290 young people and 40 local leaders were also trained on addressing misperceptions and mitigating conflicts.

Livelihoods for refugees and others of concern is also a priority to ensure that they are productive and maintain incomes and skills while outside of their home countries. Business training and access to job-placement schemes have been provided for refugees in Iraq, while in Lebanon almost 1,000 people benefited from income generation and employment opportunities. In Egypt, almost 100 people have gained employment through self-reliance programmes since the start of the year.

Post-basic education, vocational training, skills development, language classes and life skills courses have this year benefited more than 7,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey, 4,400 people in Lebanon, almost 200 youths in Jordan, and over 100 individuals in Egypt and Iraq, respectively.



REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE REGION:

2,508,402

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Expected Refugee Population by end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

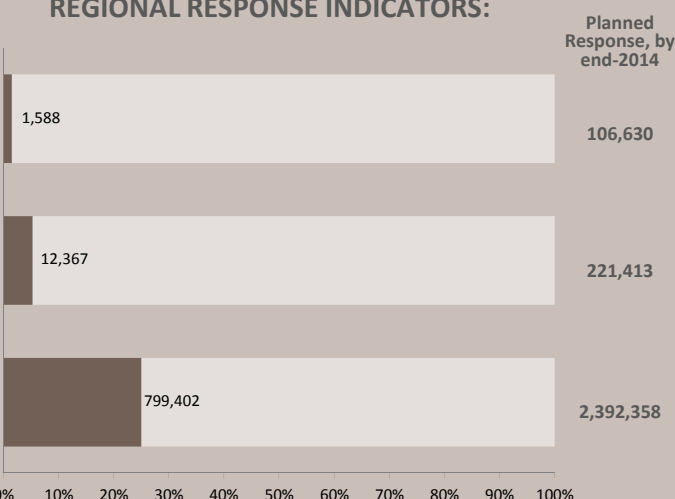
Having access to, and participating in, the labour market to earn wages is a major preoccupation for Syrian refugees in the region. Labour policies vary between countries, and only a few offer refugees full access to the labour market. Though there are some special categories which may lead to employment in refugee-hosting countries, most refugees throughout the region have limited legal access to the labour market. In Iraq, for example, registered refugees who have residency permits are able to legally work, though residency permits are difficult to obtain. More than 90 per cent of refugees are estimated to be unemployed in Jordan and 57 per cent in Egypt.

While legal access to the labour market is a first step, finding employment opportunities, both in the formal and informal sectors, is challenging. Even in countries where refugee employment is legal, most refugees are unable to compete equitably with locals for job opportunities, especially for professional and skilled employment. For those refugees who are able to find work, most are engaged in unskilled daily labour, often at far lower wages than the national average, in environments without insurance or adequate safety measures. The wages and work conditions tend to be exploitative for many.

Women and persons with disabilities, both among refugees and the local community, suffer from additional challenges in accessing the labour market across the refugee hosting countries. Child labour is also prevalent throughout the region, often in dangerous conditions, jeopardizing lives at the expense of educational opportunities.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

1,588 individuals participating in employment assistance, income generation activities or business development projects



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. There are currently 2.5 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 14% funded