



1.6 million refugees and members of host communities benefit from community support projects in Lebanon alone in 2014

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

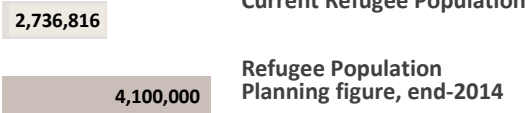
Access to **livelihood opportunities** for Syrian refugees has been facilitated through training and financial assistance in several countries in the region. In Egypt, more than 70 refugees received financial grant as part of the livelihoods programme in April. In Iraq, around 670 beneficiaries benefitted from life-skills and vocational training including tailoring, beauty salon skills, computer skills and languages. 340 refugees in Darashakran and Basirma camps received in-kind grant packages as well as training opportunities in small scale business. In Lebanon, 735 people benefited from vocational trainings and 426 from livelihood programmes during April.

In Lebanon, a further 44 **community support projects** (CSPs) were completed during April, benefitting 70 communities and representing an investment of USD 1.2 million in host communities. So far this year, it is estimated that 1.6 million refugees and members of host communities have benefited from CSPs. To further enhance the impact of such projects, a workshop was organized to draft guidelines on how to conduct participatory processes at the local level, bringing together lessons learnt and best practices from peace building initiatives and CSPs.



IOM Iraq

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

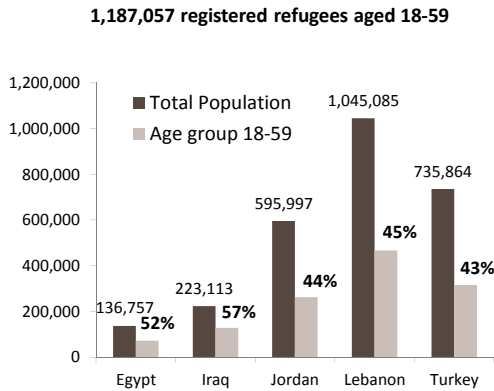


NEEDS ANALYSIS:

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 residence permits are able to legally work, though residence permits are difficult to obtain.

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:

