



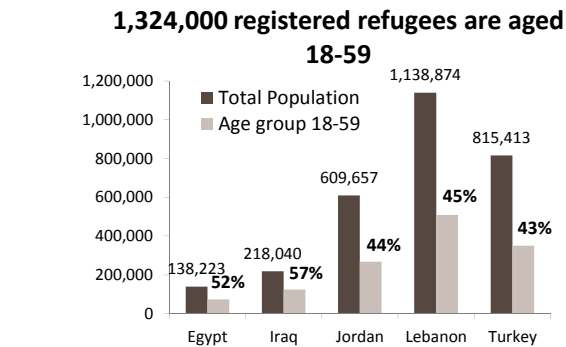
Almost 25,000 people have now participated in technical, vocational, life-skills or literacy training during 2014.

JULY HIGHLIGHTS:

In Egypt during July, more than 50 men and women were supported with micro-enterprise seed grants, along with training, coaching and support, bringing the total number assisted with self-reliance programmes to 720 for the year. During the month, training was also carried out for enumerators who will be working on a survey of Syrian refugees in Egypt as part of a socio-economic assessment. In Lebanon, almost 4,000 individuals have benefited from income generating opportunities or new employment in 2014. Over 2,300 people participated in employment assistance programmes this year in Iraq. Sustainable livelihood opportunities will also be provided to 100 vulnerable Syrian and host community youth in Dohuk and Erbil by providing them with livelihood trainings, job search and job placement assistance.

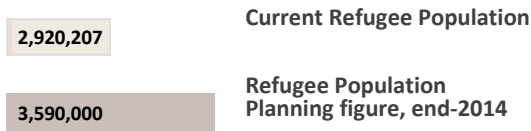
More than 3,100 people have participated in vocational training or skills development programmes in Egypt this year. In Lebanon, almost 11,000 people have received vocational and life-skills support this year (some 1,300 in July). More than 650 people have participated in vocational or life-skills training in Iraq this year.

In Lebanon, social cohesion activities continued, with three new Community Support Projects completed in Batroun and Trablous. A total of USD 178,000 was invested in the communities through these projects. Seven new CSPs have also been approved for Akkar, along with 29 new projects in Akkar, Central Bekaa and the South to support communities to cope with the impact of the crisis. 224 communities are now benefiting from 153 CSPs completed since the start of the year. Three local conflict mitigations mechanism were also established in Wadi Khaled, Hermel and Beghdan (Mount Lebanon) to engage local communities in dialogue mechanisms.



C. Robinson / UNHCR

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The current legislative and policy frameworks in the region provide limited employment opportunities for Syrian refugees. Relatively high unemployment among nationals pre-dates, and is exacerbated by, the economic impact of the crisis. The International Labour Organization cites a Middle East unemployment rate of 10 per cent in 2013, with a young adult unemployment rate of 26 per cent. Economies in the region are suffering from the trade losses and reduced household market participation for locally produced or traded goods. Many countries continue to bear scars from the global economic crisis and related access to capital, foreign investment and reduced domestic growth.

Refugees seek work in informal sectors which require manual, unskilled short term labour with sub-standard working conditions and reduced salaries, often accompanied by exploitation risks. The engagement of refugees in informal labour practices has created a perception among host communities that refugees are depriving nationals of work opportunities and depressing wages. Although this is not necessarily evidenced by employment statistics, the perception may drive poor community relations, distrust and disruption of social cohesion. Many refugees originate from rural areas of Syria and lack necessary skills for work in urban settings.

An analysis of livelihood is needed to more thoroughly examine factors beyond legal barriers, including the remoteness of locations where refugees reside, language skills, tools, capita and increasing intolerance towards Syrian refugees. Longer-term strategies necessitate a mixture of legal considerations to provide avenues to allow Syrians to work balanced with the employment of national cohorts. Such strategies may offer short and longer-term cash-for-work and large public works projects for poor nationals and poor Syrians.

