



More than 300,000 Syrian households have received seasonal support through cash or in-kind assistance this year

HIGHLIGHTS:

In Turkey, the Basic Needs Sector continues to provide transportation services to refugees from the camps to city centre. Nearly 1,200 Syrians benefitted from these services in March, enabling them to purchase necessary items not available in camps.

In Lebanon, under the 2015/2016 inter-agency winter support plan, 183,000 households received cash for winter grants and an additional 70,000 households received core relief items such as warm blankets, stoves, and clothing kits. The assistance enabled families to purchase fuel for heating and winter clothing, improve their shelters, and meet additional food requirements. In the first quarter of 2016, 3RP partners also visited an additional 26,000 refugee households to determine their eligibility for cash assistance and profile their cross-sectoral needs (see story to the right).

In Jordan this month, the Basic Needs Working Group continued its collaborative response in providing more than USD 7.9 million worth of regular cash and winterization support to vulnerable beneficiaries from the refugee and host community. The provision of cash and basic needs assistance in Zaatari and Azraq camps also continued.

In Iraq, the final distributions of support for the 2015/2016 winter season took place. Around 215 families in Erbil received kerosene distributions and 915 households in Domiz received stoves. In addition, around 280 newly arrived families received initial basic needs assistance.

In Egypt, a total of 30,710 vulnerable Syrian refugees were assisted through the provision of monthly cash grants in March. In total, more than USD 6 million has been injected into the local economy through the monetization of assistance since the beginning of 2016.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Many Syrian refugees arrive in a desperate condition, their personal belongings, if any, are minimal and basic. The current economic decline, coupled with limited access to sustainable livelihood options, resulting in asset depletion, gradual savings exhaustion and increased debt levels.

3RP partners undertake early planning, preparation, procurement and coordination to deliver an efficient and timely response to millions of Syrian refugees through both CRIs and cash assistance, in order to mitigate negative coping strategies.

Basic needs assistance is provided to eligible families across the region, through ongoing socio-economic assessment, using identification and selection criteria that combine protection, social and economic criteria, to indicate severe vulnerability and required interventions through provision of cash grants to meet their basic needs, and CRIs such as blankets, mattresses, plastic sheeting, jerry cans and kitchen sets.



Syrian refugees receive assistance in Jordan. © UNHCR

Sector Response Summary:



4,349,000 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
1,530,690 assisted in 2016



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,687,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,765,000 currently registered



Basic Needs Sector Funding status:



USD 763 million required in 2016
USD 94 million received in 2016



REFUGEES IN LEBANON PREFER CASH ASSISTANCE OVER IN-KIND ASSISTANCE, NEW RESEARCH FINDS

In recent research conducted by the Lebanon Cash Consortium, refugee families indicated that they prefer receiving cash over in-kind donations because it makes it possible for them to buy goods of their choice that meet their basic needs. For example, families reported that they are spending more money on food (21 per cent more than before receiving cash assistance), leading to a more diversified dietary intake.

The research also finds that the cash grant helped reduce financial hardship and therefore improve refugees' psychosocial wellbeing and sense of security. As a result, fewer families were forced to resort to debt or coping mechanisms such as withdrawing their children from school.

This confirms that cash assistance is achieving its objective of increasing the purchasing power of families and restoring their dignity by allowing them to prioritize their own needs and resort less to negative alternatives for survival.

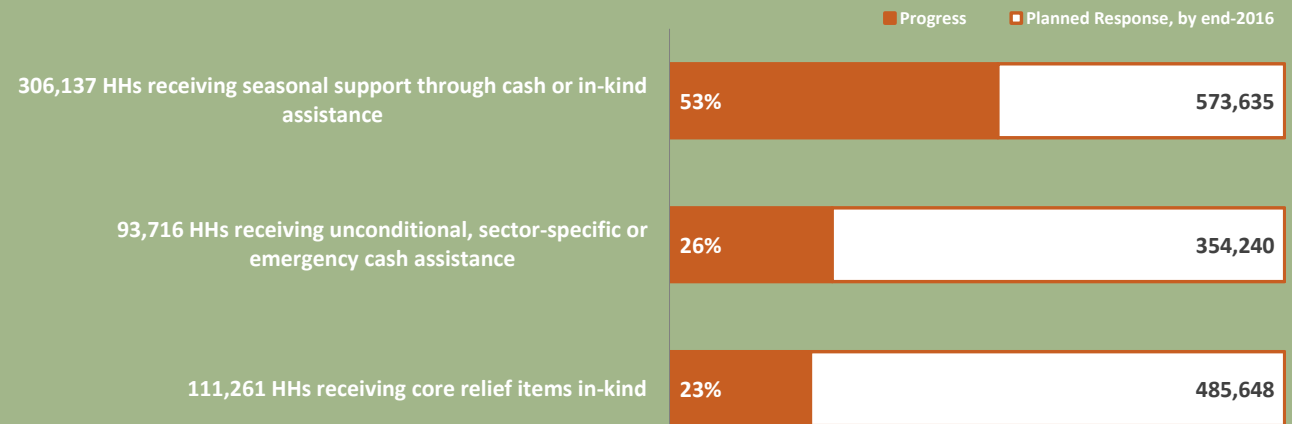
To better capture the economic vulnerability of refugees, profiling and household visits represent a major determinant for targeting assistance.

In Lebanon, the household profiling exercise started in December 2014 and, to date, more than 146,000 Syrian refugee families (almost 60 per cent of the total registered) have been profiled.

As of the end of March, 76,000 households in Lebanon have been identified as poor based on the household visits. Out of these, 44,000 families have been included in the multi-purpose cash assistance. An additional 15,000 families were newly included in cash assistance since the last quarter of 2015, mainly due to partners scaling up their multi-purpose cash programmes.

Full report: [Lebanon Cash Consortium \(LCC\): Impact Evaluation of the Multipurpose Cash Assistance Programme](#)

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MARCH 2016



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 31 March 2016.