

Protection & Assistance to Syrian Refugees

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, leads and coordinates the responses to the protection and assistance of refugees worldwide. For the Syria crisis, UNHCR leads the refugee response under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).

With generous contributions from donors of almost USD 550 million this year, UNHCR has been providing vital protection and assistance to the more than 4 million Syrian refugees in all five countries and across all sectors of the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP).



In the first half of the year UNHCR provided legal assistance and counselling to some 58,000 refugees. With its partners, UNHCR responded to some 1,350 SGBV incidents and provided the survivors with appropriate services. By September, 16,730 refugees were considered for resettlement and their cases submitted to resettlement countries. The registration records of more than 1.6 million refugees have been updated with iris scan enrolment, helping to improve the profiles of populations in need and designing appropriate programmes in response.



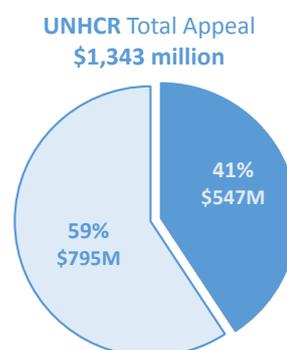
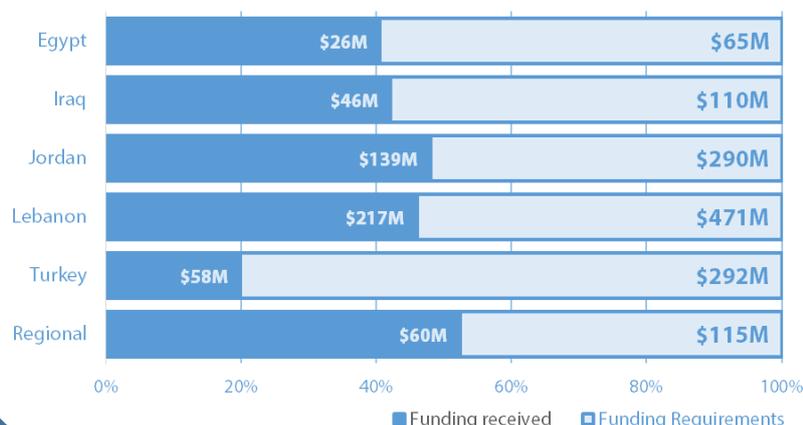
UNHCR has also provided more than 44,000 families with cash assistance to help meet their basic living needs, and reached almost 95,000 families with household items such as blankets, mattresses and cooking equipment.



Refugees falling further into poverty

Notwithstanding the assistance being provided by UNHCR, other humanitarian partners, and host governments, refugees are becoming more vulnerable and slipping further into poverty. For example, 86 percent of refugees living outside of camps in Jordan are now living below the poverty line, while in Lebanon 70 per cent of Syrian refugee households live far below the national poverty line – up from 50 per cent in 2014. Refugee families are struggling to access or pay for essential services such as education, health care, rent, water and sanitation. Vulnerable refugee families are increasingly resorting to negative coping mechanisms, with practices such as child labour, begging and early marriage on the rise.

UNHCR still does not have 59 per cent of the funds it needs to reach all of those refugees who require assistance. This translates to a **funding shortfall of USD 795 million this year**. The impact of this shortfall is felt in all sectors and countries.



Protection & Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) inside Syria

There are 7.6 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Syria. They have been forced to flee their homes and are in desperate need of protection and assistance.



Protection services such as legal assistance, response to sexual and gender based violence, psychosocial support and recreational activities have reached almost 200,000 people, while around 21,000 people have been provided with tents or shelter upgrades.



UNHCR has already this year provided Core Relief Items such as mattresses and kitchen sets to around 1.5 million people, and has helped more than 537,000 people to access health care.



Amidst the escalating violence, people have lost their livelihoods as well as their homes. Unemployment in all sectors is soaring alongside inflation, while the value of the currency plummets – the Syrian pound has lost 90 per cent of its value over the last four years. In most parts of Syria, electricity is available only 2-4 hours a day if at all, and many regions struggle with water shortages. More than half the population lives in extreme poverty, and 9.8 million people are estimated to be food insecure.

To meet the ongoing needs of Syrian IDPs this year, UNHCR requires a total of USD 310 million, of which we have so far received only USD 110 million (35 per cent), leaving a **funding shortfall of USD 200 million this year.**



Consequences of Underfunding

UNHCR urgently needs almost USD 1 billion dollars to meet the needs of Syrian refugees and IDPs.

If further funding is not received, levels of vulnerability and poverty will continue to rise, and refugees and IDPs will miss out on services they desperately need. Some of impacts of a lack of funding include:

- Thousands of women and children in Lebanon will not benefit from medical, emotional or legal support to protect them from early marriage, sexual harassment and negative coping strategies;
- In Jordan, 30,000 families will miss out on cash assistance to help them through the winter, while 73,000 families will miss out in Lebanon, and 16,000 will miss out in Iraq;
- In Turkey, 17,000 families will not receive winter clothes and other in-kind winter assistance;
- In Egypt, refugees detained for attempting illegal departure will remain in detention for prolonged periods with little or no humanitarian and legal assistance;
- Inside Syria, the provision of core relief items and additional winter items such as fuel (including through cross border operations from Turkey and Jordan) would be significantly reduced. The pace of distribution in Syria has already decreased from 20,000 to 8,000 family kits per week, and this will have to further decrease should additional funds not become available.