

Almost 140,000 households have received unconditional, sector-specific or emergency cash assistance this year

HIGHLIGHTS:

In Lebanon, 70,702 households were profiled (out of the 136,000 targeted), and monthly multi-purpose cash transfers reached 47,250 Syrian households and 10,509 Palestinian households. A total amount of USD 64.6 million of multi-purpose cash assistance was distributed to Syrians and Palestinians. 67,141 households were also assisted with core relief items.

In Egypt, cash assistance was distributed to a total of 41,046 individuals to meet their basic needs.

In Jordan, the Basic Needs Working Group provided USD 7,998,087 worth of regular cash and non-food items (NFIs) to vulnerable beneficiaries from the refugee and host community in August. Around 50,127 households were provided with basic needs support in the form of cash assistance and NFI assistance, in addition to 214,935 individuals provided with support toward meeting their basic needs in urban areas. In camps, distribution of NFIs in the form of replenishment/replacement kits and new arrival kits proceeded.

In Turkey, a needs and market assessment was completed in July, and resulted in the implementation of an e-card programme, where e-voucher cards containing 62 Turkish Lira worth of credits per individual family member were distributed to 844 households in Hatay. This amount will be topped up every month until December 2016 through a secure smart card system. Beneficiaries will be able to purchase supplies at 19 shops located in different villages in Hatay according to an official agreement.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The Basic Needs Sector continues its strategic shift towards the use of unconditional cash assistance instead of in-kind contributions, while also providing basic domestic items for new arrivals, replacement items for refugees who have been living in camps for long periods of time, and seasonal assistance to help refugees cope particularly for the winter months. The strategic priority for the sector is to provide assistance to meet the ongoing basic needs of over 2 million Syrian refugees based on a multi-sectoral household profiling and identification methodology specific to each country.

Even as the sector scales up its response, recent profiling exercises and assessments show that the majority of Syrian refugee households are entering a cycle of asset depletion, with their savings gradually exhausted and levels of debt increasing.

Across the region, this assistance was critical in helping Syrians face the many difficulties created by harsh weather conditions, including freezing temperatures, snow storms, torrential rain and flooding. Planning is underway for the 2016/2017 winterization activities, and predictable funding is required to ensure that the winter response can be implemented as efficiently as possible.



Photo: © E. Gürel / UNHCR / Turkey

Sector Response Summary:



4,349,000 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
1,576,350 assisted in 2016



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



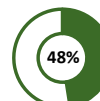
4,740,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,770,400 currently registered



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.54 billion required in 2016
USD 2.16 billion received in 2016



UNHCR LAUNCHES CASH DISTRIBUTIONS THROUGH IRIS-SCAN IN ZAATARI

Jordan broke new ground in 2012 when it became the first country in the world to use iris technology to enable refugees living in urban areas to access cash assistance provided by UNHCR. Now that technology is extended to Zaatari refugee camp for the distribution of cash and the provision of essential humanitarian items in the camp.

Previously items were distributed through in-kind donations and aid coupons but the distribution of aid this way in camp settings has shown to be less efficient and effective than providing refugees with cash through the use of iris technology. Using the biometric data of refugees collected at registration, camp officials can now scan the irises of each refugee coming to collect cash assistance. The iris scanning takes less than a minute and verifies the identity of the refugee. Cash distribution will ensure that the list of beneficiaries is accurate, that refugees presenting themselves at the cash window are who they say they are, and that funds distributed go to the right people.

Aside from iris-scanning technology being highly effective at preventing fraud, the distribution of cash to enable refugees to purchase goods and services in the camp marketplace, or in neighbouring Jordanian towns, allows for competitive purchasing power by enhancing the dignity of refugees to choose what to buy and when to buy, away from the stigma of aid queues. What's more, it eliminates the selling of unwanted donations at reduced rates, which in the past has served to create an imbalance in pricing between the refugee and host community economies.

UNHCR has provided more than USD 208 million to Jordan's most vulnerable refugees in out of camp settings since 2012 helping hundreds of thousands of refugees to survive. Underpinning this form of assistance is the use, for the first time anywhere in the world, of iris scanning technology to allow refugees to access their funds at the blink of an eye. The out of camp system has very low overheads, meaning that for every dollar donated to the cash assistance programme more than 98 per cent ends up in the pockets of refugees.

For more information, [click here](#).

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - AUGUST 2016*

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2016

315,270 households received seasonal support through cash or in-kind assistance

54%

589,035

138,485 households received unconditional, sector-specific or emergency cash assistance

30%

460,940

124,717 households received core relief items in-kind

35%

352,965

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 August 2016.

* Progress data not yet received for Iraq in August 2016