

REGIONAL STRATEGIC OVERVIEW 2022



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Foreword

The situation in Syria continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. With significant support from the international community, the five countries under the Regional Refugee and Resilience plan (3RP) - Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt - are now into their second decade generously hosting millions of Syrian refugees, refugees of other nationalities, asylum seekers, and stateless persons despite many internal challenges. At the end of 2021, in these countries, there are approximately 7.1 million refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons, including 5.7 million registered Syrian refugees.

As co-leads of more than 270 3RP partners, UNDP and UNHCR recognize that host countries face enormous pressures at a level not seen since the onset of the crisis. 3RP countries continue to face varying degrees of socio-economic crises exacerbated by COVID-19 and in some cases, coupled with a political crisis. This can be seen in the insufficient resources to deliver priority services and enhance recovery, high inflation rates, disruption to supply chains and economic sectors, as well as the loss of income at the household level. The ability of some host governments to effectively provide services and social safety nets to the most vulnerable at this critical time has also been impacted.

The effects on people – whether a host community member, refugee, asylum seeker or stateless person – have been nothing short of devastating. Unemployment, especially among youth and women, and poverty rates have skyrocketed. This is particularly the case in Lebanon where nine in ten displaced Syrian households were living in extreme poverty, with poverty levels also rising dramatically among Lebanese communities and Palestinian refugee populations. Access to quality services, such as health or education, has been compromised. Behind these facts are desperate stories of families unable to put food on the table, care for loved ones, send children to school, and increased vulnerability to a range of protection risks, such as gender-based violence (GBV), disability and child marriage.

To help address these challenges, the 3RP requires some US\$ 6.1 billion in 2022 to meet the growing and urgent needs of approximately 12 million refugees and host community members across the region. This is the largest number of people the 3RP has targeted since its establishment in 2015, particularly among host community members where the number of people in need has approximately doubled since before the COVID-19 pandemic due to the socio-economic impact and increasing vulnerabilities. This underscores the severity of the situation and should not be taken lightly. During 2022, 3RP partners will address not only growing humanitarian needs but also strengthen its efforts on resilience with attention to social cohesion/stability.

Along with support provided by other development actors, including international financial institutions, the multi-faceted support offered by the 3RP in areas ranging from protection, to cash assistance for food and daily essentials, to livelihoods remain a lifeline and essential to building resilience. As part of these efforts, 3RP partners are committed to promoting the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, as well as vulnerable host community members in national systems.

Since its creation in 2015, the 3RP has been at the forefront of international support to host countries. At the same time, the 3RP must evolve during these challenging times. The 3RP has therefore embarked on an evaluation to determine how it can better support host countries and, ultimately, help them fulfil the hope and opportunity presented by the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In doing so, 3RP partners are committed to working collectively with all stakeholders to improve the lives of those who rely on us to make ends meet.

On behalf of the 3RP community, we urge the international community to stay the course in its support of the Syrian refugees and the countries and communities that continue to host them. We recognize that the global economic realities have resulted in a reduction of funding for the 3RP in 2021. However, drops in international support at a time when it is needed most will only lead to graver challenges in the future. Providing predictable, multi-year funding for leading/principal refugee-hosting countries via the 3RP and other bilateral mechanisms remains the best way to ensure that the relative stability seen in many 3RP countries over the past few years is maintained. It also enables us to sharpen our focus on finding durable solutions for refugees and advance the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus.

We thank all of our partners for your continued commitment and support.



Dr. Khalida Bouzar

*Assistant Secretary General and
Regional Director for Arab States
UNDP*



Ayman Gharaibeh

*Director, Regional Bureau for the
Middle East and North Africa
UNHCR*

About

What is the 3RP?

The 3RP is a strategic, coordination, planning, advocacy, fundraising, and programming platform for humanitarian and development partners to respond to the Syria crisis. The 3RP is a comprehensive regional plan with five nationally led response plans¹, so-called country chapters, which are developed through the respective coordination structures consisting of government, UN agencies and I/NGOs.

The 3RP's comprehensive approach has brought together more than 270 humanitarian and development partners at the country and regional level, channelling in total USD 20.6 billion through the plan since its inception as well as strengthening partnerships with other actors, including donors and International Financial Institutions.

3RP Evaluation

The 3RP regional plan is currently under-going an external evaluation to make sure that it remains fit for purpose in an evolving context. It started in July 2021, with the objectives of 1) assessing what has worked well and what has not worked well in terms of the regional 3RP mechanisms; and 2) assessing and generating recommendations on ways in which the regional 3RP mechanisms can evolve to respond to the changing context across the region.

It is expected that the findings of the evaluation will be available in early 2022 and help to shape the next iteration of the 3RP from 2023 onwards.

Updates

Regional Needs Overview 2022



Regional Strategic Overview 2021-2022



Progress Report 2021



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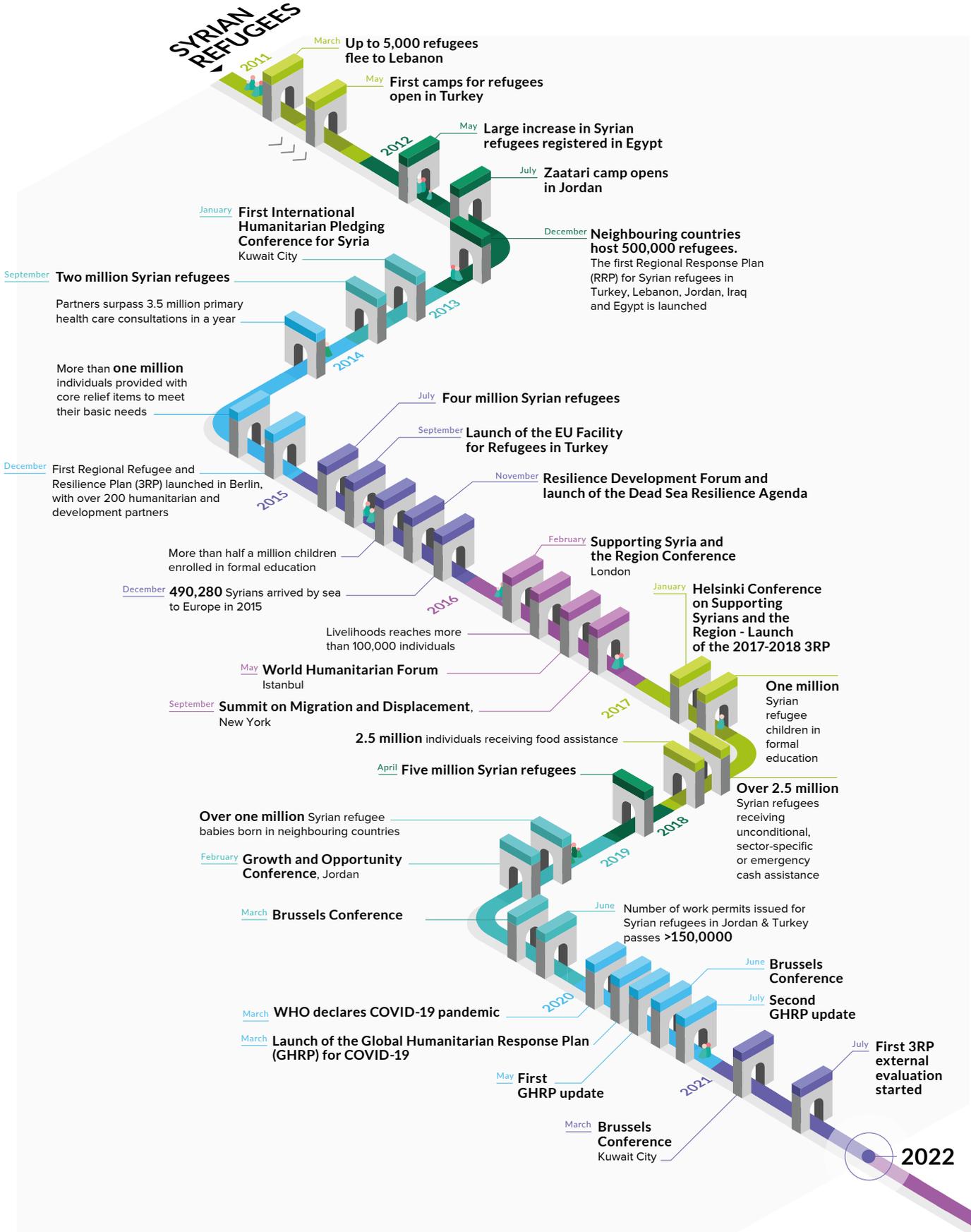
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TIMELINE

Syria Crisis

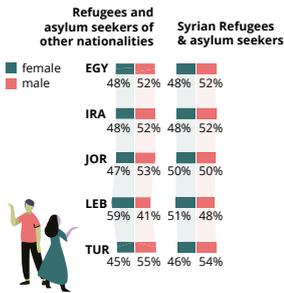


Population Figures²

Regional Total

	In need	Targeted
5,675,872 registered Syrian refugees		
Total Refugees	7,187,115	7,187,115
Host Community	12,923,138	4,259,363

GENDER



CHILDREN (under the age 18)

47% (2,6 million) of the registered Syrian refugees are children under the age of 18.



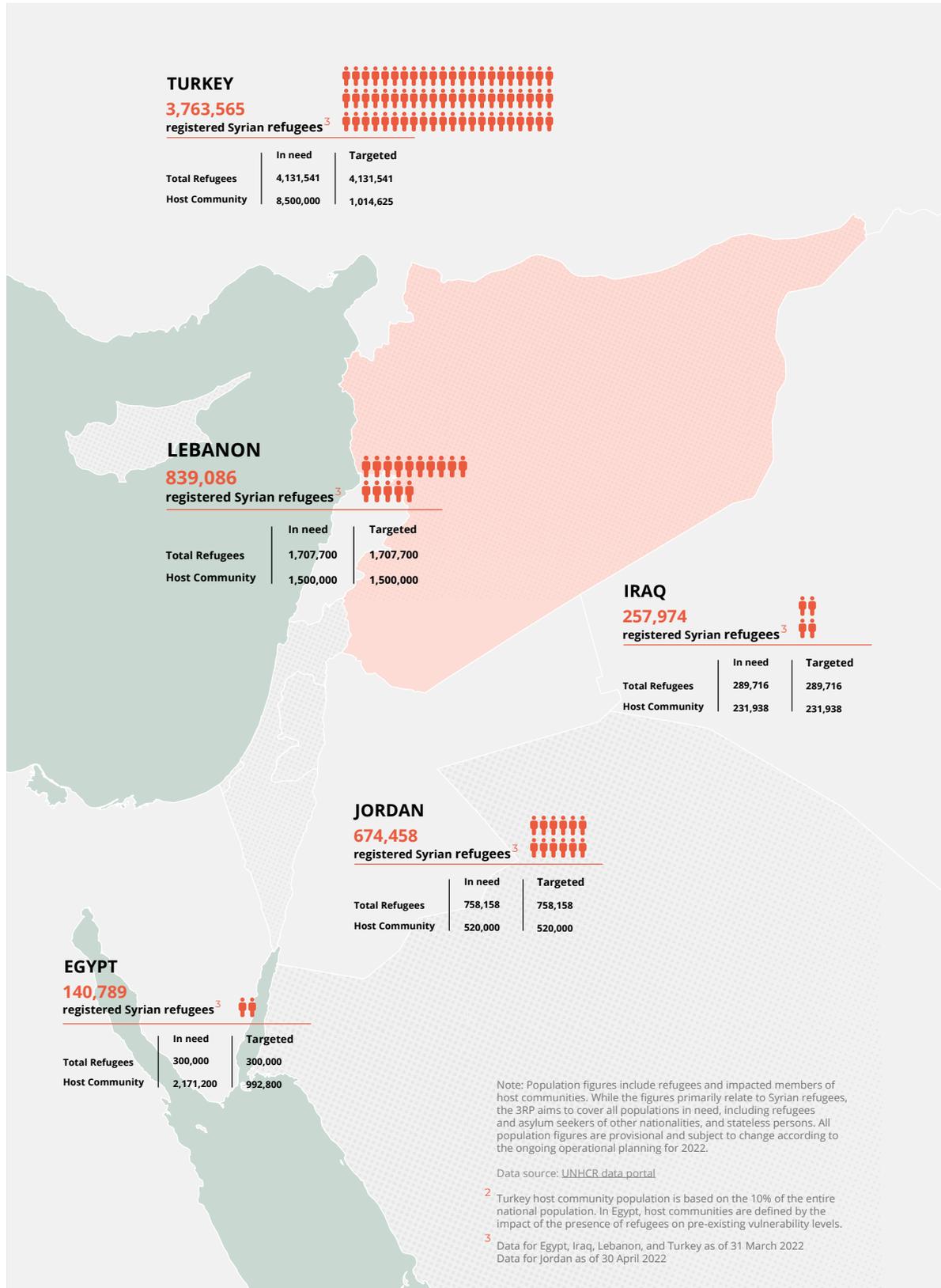
YOUTH (ages 15 - 24)

Syrian refugee youth aged between 15 and 24 years old constitute around 20% of the total registered Syrian population in the five countries. A similar trend is observed in the host countries.



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

9% of individuals were found to have a disability in Lebanon, 30% with physical or intellectual needs in Jordan, and 8% of Syrian refugees are considered to have disability in Egypt.



REQUIREMENTS

Financial Requirements

Total Requirements in USD for 2022

6,101,819,223

Note: Financial requirements are preliminary and pending finalization and approval by partners and host countries.

* Jordan figure is from 2021 and provisional, pending the JRP Task Forces.



Egypt
137,515,596



Iraq
250,769,309



Jordan *
1,300,000,000



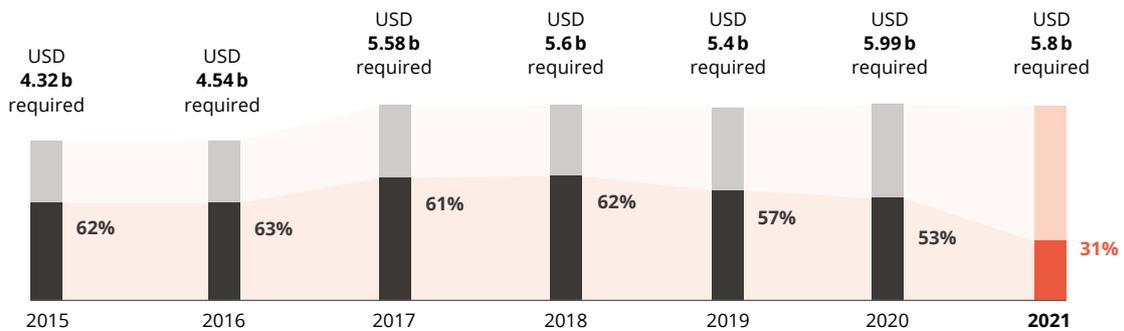
Lebanon
3,200,000,000



Turkey
1,173,641,847

Regional
39,892,471

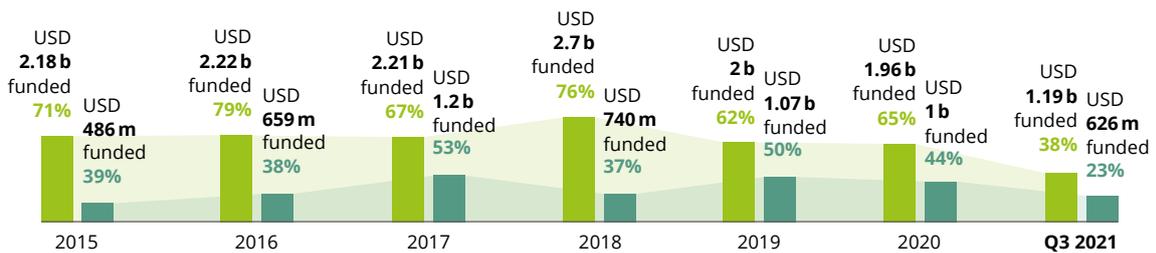
Appeal VS funding in previous years



This graphic covers funding under the 3RP since 2015 and its predecessors, the Refugee Response Plans (RRPs), since 2012. The 2021 figures are based on Q3 and subject to change.

Funding in previous years

- REFUGEE COMPONENT
- RESILIENCE COMPONENT



The figures are pending confirmation from some partners.

The 2021 figures are based on Q3 and subject to change.

OVERVIEW

Situation

Nearly two years have passed since the COVID-19 pandemic affected the 3RP countries that had already been dealing with a decade-long influx of refugees.

Multiple waves of COVID-19 outbreaks hit the region throughout 2020 and 2021, which contributed to worsening socio-economic conditions, including high levels of poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity, as well as increased protection-related intersectoral needs, particularly those related to legal status, gender, age and disability, especially among the vulnerable individuals. The loss of livelihood opportunities has exacerbated poverty and food insecurity rates among refugee households, forcing refugees to remain very reliant on assistance, especially cash-based intervention, which continues to provide a lifeline to many households.

The use of harmful coping mechanisms by both refugees and host communities has been observed across the region. Additionally, public institutions have been overstretched and ill-equipped to respond to the crisis. Supporting national leaderships and strengthening local capacities, specifically infrastructure, service provision, and social safety net programmes, as well as building the livelihoods of individuals and households, are critical elements to ensuring the needs of vulnerable individuals are met in the medium and long-term by building resilience.

The protracted refugee crisis has had a **significant impact on available resources, public services and infrastructure** (e.g., housing, education, health, sanitation and waste management, water, etc.) which may lead some host countries to be less favourable to publicly support programmes that provide services to refugees or place them in employment.

Overall **funding shortfalls** continue to hinder 3RP countries **providing critical services**. The reduction of funding against assessed needs has significantly escalated and enforced some cuts in assistance provided in 2021 which is anticipated to continue in 2022.

Economic recessions and rising levels of unemployment and poverty are exacerbated in some countries by high inflationary pressures and important fiscal challenges.

Worsened inequalities hindering vulnerable population groups to access essential services, including continued learning, education opportunities and health.

Gender-specific social barriers impeding women for accessing livelihood opportunities.

Competition over access to limited job opportunities and basic services between refugee and host community members, as well as among host communities, resulted in increased social tensions.

Increased mental health issues of parents, caregivers due to lack of income is increasing the protection risks of children and youth affected by different types of risks, including school dropout and increased domestic violence.

In some host countries, refugee households, especially female-headed households are facing **evictions and incurring higher debt** to meet household needs.

Income losses coupled with the absence or limited capacity of social safety nets in most 3RP countries have led to an increase in harmful coping strategies. Women were faced with increased role as caregivers domestically, or girls forced into child marriage.

Significant and increasing vulnerability to **food insecurity** across all dimensions (food availability, access, affordability, utilization, & stability).

Limited opportunities for livelihoods and jobs for refugees resulting in **increased dependency on humanitarian assistance**.

Increased protection risks related to legal status, access to civil status documentation, gender, age, diverse background and specific needs.

Some 600,700 Syrian refugees are in **need of resettlement**.

High unemployment rate, especially among youth and women of host communities and refugees.

Heightened risks of increased disparities and limited distance learning opportunities, as well as digital divides widened with the spread of pandemic, will negatively impact the future lives of children and youth from most vulnerable backgrounds

Out-of-pocket costs in some 3RP countries remain a **barrier to access health services** for both Syrian refugees and vulnerable host community members.

Regional

Community / Social

Household

Individual

OVERVIEW

Snapshot of 3RP countries

LEBANON



Syrian refugees **holding valid legal residency** in Lebanon has further decreased from **20%** of individuals over 15 years old in 2020 to just **16%** in 2021, **hampering their access to basic services and civil documentation**, and increasing the risk of deportation.



46% of Lebanese households contacted through phone surveys in June - July 2021⁶ reported **challenges in accessing food and other basic needs**, **6%** more than 2020.



Poverty among the Lebanese community is expected to have increased by **46** percentage point by end of 2021 compared to baseline.⁷ **Nine out of ten Syrian refugees continue to live below the extreme poverty line**, following a steep decline since 2019.⁸

TURKEY



66% of refugee households responding to the phone survey⁴ have a **debt greater than one month of their income** and **43% greater than two months of income**.



Amongst children enrolled in school, only **one third** reported to have been able to **access distance learning on a continuous basis**.

IRAQ



38% of **school-aged-children** are **not attending school**. The main reasons mentioned why children are not attending school are not being able to cover the costs connected with school attendance and unwillingness to participate in education.



84% of refugee **households report being in debt** with an average debt of 1,869,000 IQD (USD 1,263). The debt is primarily incurred for food, basic household expenditures (rent and utilities) and healthcare.

EGYPT



39.6% (rate higher in urban areas where most refugees live) **of overall refugees are considered poor**, with poverty being less prevalent among Syrian refugees.



9% of **refugees of all nationalities aged 18 years and above** are **illiterate**. Less than **5%** of Syrian refugees aged 18 years and above are illiterate, while this percentage increases to **14%** among refugees of other nationalities.



82.1% of refugees were found to **rely on less preferred foods** and more than half (**62.8%**) **of refugees reduced the number and portions of meals per day**, while **44.2%** had to **reduce their adults' food consumption to allow for children to eat**.

JORDAN



By late 2021, **80%** of refugees in host communities are considered **food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity**. Food insecurity is even higher among the female headed households (**82%**) and households with members with disability (**85%**) compared to other refugees.⁹



Unemployment reached **25%** in Q1-2021, with **youth unemployment** rates reaching **48.1%**, and **women's labour force participation** at **14%**.



73% of Jordanian households had **difficulties covering basic needs** (rent, food, education for children, medicine and heating).

For more information:
Regional Needs Overview 2022



Strategic Directions

The 3RP plans for 2022 set four regional strategic directions, with the overarching vision to ensure no one is left behind.

Protecting People

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1

Protecting people is critical to keeping displaced persons and vulnerable host community members safe from the harms of exploitation, abuse, violence, and the associated mental health and psychosocial risks. With this understanding, the 3RP will support the mainstreaming of protection in the planning, design, implementation, and monitoring of its interventions. It will help empower women, men, girls and boys to lead their own development in the long term, ensuring stability in social conditions and mental wellbeing, thus helping to guarantee that no one is left behind.

Protection through legal status and civil documentation

Protection involves ensuring safe haven, secured legal status, and civil documentation of displaced persons. Moreover, access to civil documentation, and birth registration in particular, is essential to ensure refugee children have proof of their legal identity and nationality. The 3RP will support advocacy for access to territory, protection from refoulement, facilitation of registration and case referrals and processing, as well as the acquisition of civil documentation.

Protection from gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)

The 3RP will support national systems preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV and SEA by mainstreaming it across all interventions. It will facilitate awareness and capacity-building, communication with affected communities, and community-based complaint mechanisms. It will strengthen mental health and gender- and child-sensitive protection services and empowerment initiatives for all those affected by GBV and SEA.

Protection of children

Children make up half of the displaced population. The 3RP will enhance girl and boy children’s health, nutrition, and psychosocial support, and access to education to help children better protect themselves and avoid reliance on harmful coping mechanisms. This will be done through strengthening quality, inclusive, adaptable and accessible national child protection systems and legal frameworks, guaranteeing their rights, and maintaining and improving mental and psychological support and specialized case management interventions.



Community Based Protection (CBP)

People with specific needs and diverse profiles continue to face challenges to access information and services, disclose their needs for protection and support, provide feedback and participate. To address those risks, use of participatory methodologies to promote community engagement, as well as sustained and adapted CBP approaches, innovative technologies and social media are needed. This will minimize the impact of mobility restrictions and physical distancing and promote engagement and participation of communities as leaders in the development and implementation of protection and solutions.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

The need for strengthening the provision of MHPSS remains an urgent priority. This will be done through integration of mental health into primary healthcare; scaling up of evidence based MHPSS interventions; working together with refugee communities; training frontline workers to respond to instances of self-harm or suicidal behaviours and ensuring they receive adequate support on self-care; and incorporating MHPSS into education so that children can better concentrate, learn and develop healthy relationships.

Supporting Durable Solutions

STRATEGIC
DIRECTION

#2

Opportunities for enabling pathways towards durable solutions are urgently needed to allow refugees a purpose of the future that provides hope and dignity. The 3RP works towards three possible durable solutions in line with international standards and frameworks: 1) voluntary repatriation to Syria; 2) resettlement to third countries and complementary pathways; and 3) local solutions and opportunities. While a regional approach and coherence is pursued, the exact scale and scope of activities towards durable solutions varies according to the context of each 3RP country.

Voluntary repatriation

All refugees have the fundamental right to voluntary repatriation at a time of their own choosing, and all 3RP interventions are guided by refugees' decisions. Though not promoting or facilitating return, the 3RP continues to strengthen prospects for refugees' long-term safety and stability through information provision on housing, land, property, etc., counselling, voluntariness confirmation, and regularization of documentation. This is guided by UNHCR's Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy and operationalised through the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group. For more information, please see [Annex 1](#).

Resettlement and complementary pathways

With some 600,700 Syrian refugees currently in need of resettlement, the 3RP will continue to support refugees through this process. In particular, UNHCR's Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy will direct a focus on 1) safeguarding the resilience of resettlement programmes; 2) strengthening complementary pathways; and 3) advocacy efforts in receiving communities. Meanwhile, the MENA Contact Group for Complementary Pathways (MCGCP) will disseminate information on opportunities, advocate for complementary pathways programs, and share best practices among partners. Please see [Annex 2](#) for more information.

Expansion of local opportunities and solutions

For the many refugees who may remain in host countries for the near future, enhancing self-reliance remains critical. The 3RP will continue advocating for a supportive legal framework and enabling environment, including to shared service delivery for instance in education and healthcare, promoting access to job opportunities, financing and supporting formation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in order to bridge the gap between refugees' skills and local market demands through training, certification, and recognition of education, qualifications and skills, all while accounting for gender inequalities. Both economic activity and social cohesion are promoted in host countries.



Sharing the Joy of Producing Together IOM TURKEY

Migrant and host community members are provided with lifelong vocational skills and work at solar-dryer facilities (run by solar panels) to earn additional income in Southeastern Turkey. Meral, a representative of the women cooperative in Mersin province, believes that the solar-drying facility is not only good for the environment, but it also encourages women to produce and earn income independently. Thus, the project doesn't only support the economic empowerment for individuals but it sets an example for the whole society.

Meral says: "The sense of solidarity is only possible when members of communities listen to each other, understand each other and share the joy of producing together. In this way, women from both communities can produce and earn together in unity."

Contributing to Dignified Lives

STRATEGIC
DIRECTION

#3

Through displacement and the surrounding pressures from various crises, refugees and vulnerable host populations face multiple challenges. The 3RP will help mitigate these challenges directly through assistance across sectors and support the self-reliance of vulnerable populations.



Basic needs and food security

The 3RP will maintain significant monetized assistance, while continuing a wide range of tailored needs-based interventions, such as cash transfers for nutritious school meals. Efforts will be integrated with longer-term theories of change around financial inclusion through access to social safety nets and self-sufficiency. Meanwhile, recognizing that food security relies on its four dimensions of availability, access, utilization & stability, food production and the stability of the food system will be highly acknowledged by the 3RP partners through supporting agricultural SMEs and infrastructure and encouraging innovation to address climate change and water scarcity. Reducing food insecurity and providing for basic needs helps minimize harmful coping strategies and fosters social cohesion.

Support in camp settings

For refugees in camp settings, 3RP will provide support on WASH and shelter, improving living conditions and upgrading access to clean water and sanitation as well as food assistance.

Support to self-sufficiency

The 3RP will support persons of concern and vulnerable host community members to have access to a sustainable source of income, ensuring stability and promoting dignity. To do so, the 3RP will continue expanding access to work documentation through high-level advocacy and will support demand-driven skills development (including digital skills) to advance employment potential for vulnerable people.

Easing social tensions

The 3RP will develop its conflict-sensitive programming and monitoring frameworks and continue mainstreaming conflict-sensitivity indicators. It will support initiatives that effectively engage and benefit both host community and refugee populations, with a particular focus on youth and women-led initiatives and empowerment.

The funding outlook for food assistance for 2022 remains very concerning with high risks of aid shortfalls

Food support has proved to be keeping most refugee households above the absolute poverty line and therefore largely able to meet their food needs. Specifically in Jordan, the impact is shown by the significant improvement in food security among newly included refugees following the retargeting exercise implemented in July 2021 and, sadly, the marked deterioration of food security among households excluded due to WFP's limited funding for much of 2021. Beneficiary quote during a home visit by WFP, "I used to get two chickens a month with some vegetables, but now I know I can only afford bread [...] I can survive on bread, but what would I feed my children?"



Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action

In response to the high-level regional humanitarian coordination needs, particularly at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the regional Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Working Group was established to ensure proper coordination, streamlined advocacy, centralized information sharing, and the promotion of gender equality in humanitarian action. It provides space and opportunities for greater advocacy for systematic integration of gender analyses in humanitarian programming. Co-led by UN Women, OCHA and CARE, the core group includes UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, FAO, UNHCR and UNAIDs, as well as some I/NGOs, including Mercy Corps, IRC, TearFund, and OXFAM.

Enhancing Local and National Capacities

STRATEGIC
DIRECTION

#4

After ten years of humanitarian assistance to refugees and very low numbers of returns to Syria, investing in sustainable solutions is increasingly becoming a high priority. This entails working at all levels with all stakeholders contributing to building a longer-term approach, including through work at the policy and institutional levels to foster improvements in the enabling environment. A critical underlying factor to sustainability is the need for economic stimulation and job creation for refugees and host communities, bringing coherent benefits for the host countries as well as the refugees themselves. To move this agenda forward, 3RP partners will continue supporting national institutions and system, local actors' capacities to cope, adapt and transform their provision of services and assistance to refugees and host communities. Working with national institutions and local stakeholders is also key to preserving social cohesion and strengthening trust in the public sector. In order for the 3RP to deliver on this strategic discussion, deepening the ongoing efforts to operationalize the Humanitarian Development Peace nexus and build the necessary synergies with other efforts done in host countries related to the work of International Financial Institutions, the SDGs, the UNSDCF and GCR will be critical.



Social Cohesion

3RP partners are working to address both the causes and expression of tensions. Throughout the 3RP countries, livelihoods programmes are targeting both refugees and host community members in accessing training and job opportunities to de-escalate tensions. In addition, providing mediation trainings for local law enforcement officers is also crucial to promote social cohesion between refugees and host community members. 3RP partners are promoting municipality and local institutions' leadership not only in improving equitable basic service provisions to both the refugees and host community members, but also in facilitating structured interaction by opening local dialogue space, and in empowering youth to play a positive role in local community cohesion.

Supporting national and local capacities to expand service provision

The 3RP will continue scaling efforts to strengthen national and local capacities to cope and adapt to increased demand of services through infrastructure development (i.e., schools, health facilities, water networks), the provision of equipment (solid waste trucks, computers) or human resources (e.g., municipal staff, social workers, teachers).

Support to businesses and civil society

3RP partners will continue to support the resilience of businesses and civil society, who continue to suffer from economic shocks related to the pandemic. The 3RP will provide equipment and grants, and will support business development services by identifying clients, expanding market linkages, and utilizing digital solutions through investment in e-commerce, digital platforms and other online livelihoods activities to ensure more people can have access to income-generating opportunities. In line with Grand Bargain commitments to localisation, 3RP partners will prioritise capacity strengthening as well as financial support to improve the engagement of civil society organisations, including those led by and supporting the rights of women and marginalised and vulnerable groups.

Strengthening systems Transforming methods of service delivery

In order to ensure that tangible support paves the way for sustainable improvement of services provided to refugee and host communities alike, the 3RP will support transformative changes in service delivery. In particular, 3RP partners will leverage the sizable learning in building effective and efficient response mechanisms in the sub-region in support of national systems and public institutions for improved strategic planning and institutional arrangements through increased alignment between the humanitarian response and national system to facilitate the transition to public systems when and where feasible. This will entail supporting the development of dedicated policies and action plans (e.g., national policies on child labour or GBV response and prevention, the inclusion of women and men refugees' needs in local plans such as municipal strategic/development plans, and school feeding strategies and programmes). It will also support delivery methods used by national and local institutions (e.g., efficient targeting, validation, data management, M&E, and delivery mechanisms, particularly for cash-based transfer programmes), as well as dedicated training and capacity building of public staff from training new MHPSS specialists to cater to protection concerns of refugees to supporting teachers to teach children with disabilities, or municipal officials to facilitate inter-community dialogue. 3RP partners are also helping institutions to integrate environmental objectives into their work through facilitating zero-waste, bio-gas generation, or recycling activities. More importantly, the efforts of 3RP partners to strengthen national systems are also key to enabling them to access and absorb larger funding, particularly through loans and blended support from International Financial Institutions.

Palestine Refugees

There is growing impoverishment amongst Palestine refugees in the region. Coping capacities have been undermined, threatening food security and their ability to meet other basic needs. In 2022, UNRWA will continue to provide vital humanitarian services such as cash assistance to 162,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon, including 29,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS), and to 19,000 PRS in Jordan. In addition, some 159,245 vulnerable Palestine refugees “ex-Gazan” and 156 Palestine refugees from Iraq in Jordan will receive two rounds of assistance to help them cope with the consequences of COVID-19. In all three fields, the Agency will ensure that Palestine refugees are able to access basic education, healthcare, and environmental health services, integrating COVID-19 prevention measures. Protection interventions will also be implemented to mitigate heightened protection-related risks faced by vulnerable Palestine refugees, in particular women and children, the elderly and people with disabilities.¹⁰



From Syria to Lebanon:
A Palestine refugee recounts his long journey
UNRWA

Mohammed and his wife in their home in Beddawi camp, Lebanon.

“As soon as we arrived in Lebanon, we registered with UNRWA for the cash assistance made available to Palestine refugees from Syria. We have also been able to get our medication from the Agency because my wife and I suffer from chronic diseases.”

Remembering his laundry business in Syria, Mohammed recalls, “I lost it, lost everything.” He continues, “Now we fully depend on UNRWA monthly assistance. My son is jobless because he can’t work in Lebanon. We are living in fear of the day when UNRWA’s assistance stops. We will definitely be turned out to the streets,” he says.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Supporting strengthened advocacy for Syrian children, adolescents and youth across the region

Children bear the cost of the protracted Syrian crisis which exposes them to violence, trauma and multiple displacements along with extremely harsh conditions. Half of all those living in this region are girls and boys; with the wide majority experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after being born and raised in conflict setting.¹¹ Moreover, there is limited access to basic services to provide for a child’s wellbeing and development and limited durable solutions available to them.

In this context, No Lost Generation partners continue to provide support to children, adolescents and youth, committed to ensure that a whole generation of children is not lost while the search for an end to the conflict and durable solutions continues. Because of the grim picture above and the increased challenges faced in 2021, continued advocacy efforts with national governments of host countries, donor governments and all other actors are urgently needed.

The Initiative will focus on local to global advocacy to ensure that progress at policy level also translates into concrete action, and financial resources. In complementarity with 3RP efforts, the No Lost Generation will focus on a strong external influencing for alleviating the suffering of Syrian children across the region in four main areas: 1) Investment for quality education for all Syrian children and adolescents; 2) prioritization of the fight against early child marriage and child labour; 3) highlight innovative best practices that support Syrian adolescents and youth in the transition from education to employment and 4) scale up the field evidence of No Lost Generation members of their systematic and sustainable mental health and psychosocial support programs.



A girl with a bright smile and a new home
UNICEF

Maise Al-shoubi is a 14-year-old Syrian student. She was born in Syria but had to flee the country with her parents 9 years ago. Now, she calls Egypt “home”.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

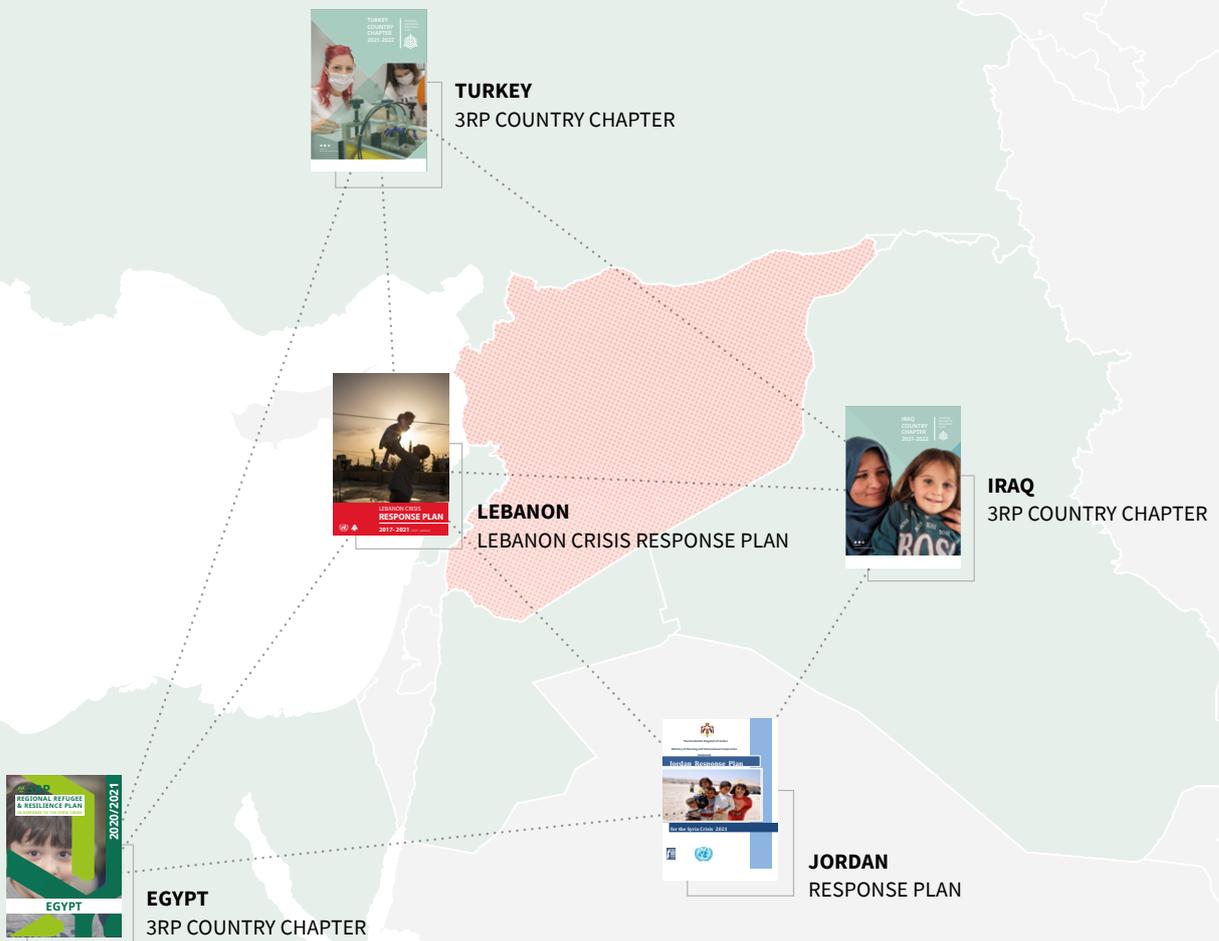
For more information, please visit:



Support to Refugees, and Host Countries & Communities



A strong national leadership is of foremost importance for the 3RP and as such, the 3RP ensures the response plans are in alignment and complementary to national plans. Through the inter-agency coordination structure, each 3RP country develops 3RP Country Chapters, which are nationally led in design and implementation. In Lebanon and Jordan, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and Jordan Response Plan substitute the 3RP Country Chapters.



COUNTRY

Turkey

Registered
Syrian refugees
3,739,240

Total Refugees

In need
Targeted **4,131,541**

Host community

In need
Targeted **8,500,000**
1,014,625

Turkey hosts the largest number of persons under temporary and international protection in the world with 3.7 million Syrians under temporary protection and approximately 330,000 international protection applicants and status holders.

Currently, nearly **99% of Syrians under temporary protection live in urban and rural areas, with less than 1.4% residing in Temporary Accommodation Centres.**

The combination of a large refugee population, the protracted nature of the Syria crisis and a challenging economic climate made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic has placed significant pressure on Turkey's progressive refugee policy and led to a rise in anti-refugee sentiment. While the recent humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan has not resulted in a large increase in Afghan arrivals, there are estimated to be more than 300,000 Afghans living in Turkey, half of whom are registered under international protection regulations.

Despite these challenges, the Government of Turkey (GoT) continues to lead a comprehensive and inclusive response as a model of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the commitment to leave no one behind. As the Syria crisis becomes increasingly protracted, and opportunities for durable solutions remain limited, there is a need for increased and sustained international responsibility sharing to address the rising needs. The 3RP remains the principal strategy, coordination and fundraising document for support to

Turkey's refugee response. Additionally, other programmes including some of those supported by the EU's Facility for Refugees in Turkey are funded outside the 3RP. Nevertheless, 3RP partners and international donors have an important role to play in addressing needs and mitigating challenges as set out in the Global Compact on Refugees.

More than US\$ 4.8 billion have been mobilised through 3RP Turkey since 2015, in particular increasing support to and through public institutions and to municipalities where 90% of Syrians under temporary protection live.

With its three strategic objectives¹² and six sector strategies agreed for 2021/22 with the GoT, the 3RP response is aligned with other strategic frameworks, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the 11th National Development Plan. An SDG tracker was introduced for setting 3RP sector objectives in 2022, to strengthen operational linkages with the UNSDCF, and help quantify the contribution of 3RP projects to Turkey's sustainable development targets.

The 2022 3RP plan was developed in collaboration with stakeholders and is based on recent assessments to ensure complementarity and targeted support for the most vulnerable members of the refugee and host community. Through its inclusive approach, 3RP programmes aim to assist persons under temporary and international protection, regardless of nationality as well as those pending registration and documentation.

Key Sectorial Activities

- **Protection:** Support public institutions, NGOs and local authorities in providing protection services, including to women and girls at risk or survivors of violence, key refugee groups and persons with disabilities. In addition, the protection sector will make information on rights and services available and assess protection trends to inform multi-sectoral responses to support durable solutions and social cohesion.

- **Basic Needs:** Support responses to the basic needs of refugees with cash and in-kind assistance to mitigate the risks of them resorting to negative coping mechanisms. It will also support Municipalities with capacity building and community infrastructure to help meet the demands of large refugee populations on public services while helping to promote social cohesion.

- **Education:** Support the Ministry of National Education in maintaining educational facilities open for face-to-face learning while increasing support to a multi-sectoral response to address the impacts of learning loss due to the pandemic particularly for the most vulnerable children and youth.

- **Health:** Support the network of Migrant Health Centres and the Ministry of Health in increasing immunization coverage for refugee children, ensuring refugee access to COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccination, while supporting provision of sexual and reproductive health services.

- **Food Security and Agriculture:** Prioritise employment generation and facilitation through increased analysis of employment opportunities for inclusive recovery, advocacy, and resource mobilisation while attending to the most vulnerable categories of persons under temporary and international protection.

- **Livelihoods:** Provide employability support to overcome barriers to labour market access while strengthening the capacity of small and medium sized enterprises to create jobs, contributing to multi-stakeholder efforts to transition refugees from social assistance to livelihoods and fostering social cohesion.

COUNTRY

Lebanon

Registered Syrian refugees

844,056

Total Refugees

In need / Targeted
1.5 million displaced Syrians;
1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese;
29,000 Palestinian Refugees
from Syria; and 180,000 Palestine
Refugees in Lebanon

Host community

In need 1,500,000
Targeted 1,500,000

Lebanon continues to host the highest number of displaced people per capita in the world, showing strong commitment to displaced Syrians and vulnerable populations within its borders. The Government of Lebanon (GoL) estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million Syrians who have fled the conflict in Syria, including 844,056¹³ refugees registered with UNHCR, along with 257,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), and other UNRWA eligible persons from Lebanon. These populations live across all governorates in Lebanon.

Alongside this, Lebanon is facing an unprecedented multi-layered political, economic, and public health crisis. Individuals and families are falling deeper into poverty due to currency depreciation, high inflation, rising food prices and loss of income. The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak and severe lack of access to fuel and electricity have further exacerbated the situation.

The situation is placing increased pressure on communities and local authorities. Correspondingly, communal tensions are increasing, with 36 per cent of survey respondents describing inter-communal tensions between Lebanese and Syrian communities as negative (the highest proportion since the beginning of monitoring, compared to 21 per cent in July 2018).

Under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), a nationwide response plan, the Government of Lebanon (GoL) along with its national and international partners seek to deliver integrated and mutually reinforcing

humanitarian and stabilization interventions to address the impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon and provide support to the most vulnerable individuals across the displaced and host community.

The LCRP promotes the strategic priorities identified by the GoL and partners, with interventions aligned to national policies and strategies, responding to evolving needs, and seeking to complement and build on other international assistance in the country.

The Plan aims to respond to the impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner through longer-term, multi-year planning to achieve the following strategic objectives: 1) ensure the protection of vulnerable people; 2) provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations; 3) support service provision through national systems; and 4) reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability. The LCRP uses a needs-based approach which adapts to changes in experiences and context.

In 2022, the LCRP will address the needs of 1.5 million displaced Syrians; 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese; 29,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria; and 180,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon.

The LCRP will seek to mainstream protection, gender, environment and conflict sensitivity approaches throughout every sector in order to ensure interventions are sensitive to local contexts and in turn, minimize harm and contribute to maintaining stability.



Equal Opportunity or Everyone UNDP

Youssef, Mohamad, & Ahmad share their experience of rehabilitating irrigation canals. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

COUNTRY

Jordan

Registered Syrian refugees
672,804

Total Refugees

In need Targeted **758,158**
758,158

Host community

In need Targeted **520,000**
520,000

Jordan hosts 759,351 refugees, under the mandate of UNHCR 672,804 are Syrian refugees, of which 82.8 per cent live within the host communities like all non-Syrian refugees. Jordan is the second largest per capita refugee hosting country in the world, and whilst it is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention, it warrants a favourable protection environment for refugees, safeguarding key fundamental human rights through national frameworks. Jordan actively supports and implements global mechanisms addressing the Syria crisis, while also adhering to the principles and priorities outlined in the 2030 Agenda, the Global Compact on Refugees and the World Humanitarian Summit.

Jordan faces several economic challenges, some arising from the impact of hosting so many refugees, some caused by global economic factors and more recently the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Slowdown in GDP growth driven by the Syrian conflict led to a 4.0 percentage points increase in poverty among Jordanians. Latest estimates indicate a poverty rate of 16 percent among Jordanians and 40 percent among non-Jordanians. Unemployment is rising and youth and women are particularly impacted by limited employment opportunity. A lack of mid- and long-term livelihoods pathways for vulnerable communities, including refugees, is linked to high levels of dependence on cash assistance, informal income generation opportunities, and seasonal labour for the most vulnerable.

In Jordan, the pandemic has been a catalyst for the government to put resilience back at the core of the Jordan Response Plan (JRP). The JRP partners have started tracking the support provided to public institutions to better coordinate and target interventions

to strengthen public systems. Equally, new efforts are being made towards inclusion, such as discussions around the inclusion of non-Syrian refugees in the JRP funding scheme, to legislate inclusive and equitable social protection mechanisms, and to utilize the digital economy to close inequality gaps. Along these lines, an enhanced collaboration between the Government and 3RP/JRP partners will be beneficial to design a more inclusive JRP.

The JRP 2020-2022 strongly encourages a mid- to long-term approach. It aims to address vulnerabilities at individual, household and community levels in order to tackle the root causes of fragility and to ensure that ‘resilience’ remains at the core of the crisis response across sectors. In 2022, it is expected that the JRP will continue seeking to enhance the living conditions and self-reliance of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian impacted by Syria crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Expansion of sustainable livelihood opportunities and broadening access to social security mechanisms are national priorities, recognizing the necessity to enhance private sector development, to ensure job growth, and to promote decent work, leading to a more robust social protection system in country. Achievement of these national goals will offer greater opportunity for refugees in country and so 3RP partners will also continue to advocate for the inclusion of all vulnerable populations in the labour market and to have equitable access to health, education, training, protection, financial inclusion and public services for all.

With respect of action to tackle socio-economic challenges, the JRP will seek to expand access to transportation and

infrastructure to enable vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees in both camp and urban settings to access commercial centres and industrial zones, both in terms of expanding the networks and reducing the cost.

Strategically, more coordinated effort will be needed where Government and institutions strive to upscale critical capacities of the central, regional and local authorities to plan, programme, coordinate and implement the development response, to enable public institutions to provide quality services for all vulnerable groups, and to support the government to cope with the financial burdens resulting from Syria crisis. To deliver accurate, tailored support for vulnerable groups, strengthened analysis and reporting on key markers will be crucial to support inclusion into Government planning, which will allow 3RP partners to advance more cost effective and sustainable solutions for key areas such as municipal services and infrastructure in areas critically affected by demographic stress, including in the solid waste management, housing, and energy sectors.



Disability no longer a barrier to access food in refugee camps in Jordan
WFP

Click [here](#) to watch the video

COUNTRY

Iraq

Registered Syrian refugees
252,591

Total Refugees

In need Targeted **289,716**
289,716

Host community

In need Targeted **231,938**
231,938

As of November 2021, 287,998 refugees and asylum seekers were registered in Iraq, including 252,591 Syrian refugees and 35,407 refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities.

*The negative socio-economic impact of COVID-19 continues to be felt in Iraq with **93%** of the refugee households report **receiving less income than pre-COVID-19** and **88%** of the refugee households reported fewer daily labour opportunities than pre-COVID-19.*

Verified cases of spontaneous return have declined from 8,508 in 2020 to 3,111 in 2021, primarily due to increased insecurity, the economic downturn in Northeast Syria, and relaxations of COVID-19 restrictions in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). While COVID-19 caused widespread economic harm and disruption, the further devaluation of the Iraqi currency and increase in prices in 2021 further exacerbated the socio-economic status of refugees and host communities alike. The 2021 multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) highlighted an overall increase in level of debt, decrease of income, and decline of daily labour opportunities. Lack of access to sustainable livelihood remains the root cause of protection concerns. Despite the welcoming protection environment and “de facto” integration of refugees in KR-I, the lack of a comprehensive legal framework on refugee rights presents a challenge for refugees’ long-term residency rights and access to decent job opportunities, financial and social protection services.

Environmental risks are anticipated to play an important role in 2022, with severe drought

conditions and flash floods predicted. Water scarcity, a decrease of arable land and poor wastewater and solid waste management infrastructures could exacerbate access to and quality of water across refugee camps and deteriorate livelihoods and food production.

Due to the low prospects for return and limited options for Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, the 3RP strategy in Iraq will continue to focus on local integration. Inclusion of refugees into national systems and public services will be sought through advocacy and capacity building initiatives. In 2022, the 3RP will seek to further align itself with KR-I development plans according to the Development Vision 2030 and advance the inter-sector solution strategy to both strengthen inter-agency coordination and advance the inclusion agenda.

The 3RP will seek to strengthen its external relations and information management tools to increase engagement with donors at the country level and expand partnerships with development and private actors and international financial institutions.

In 2022, the Protection Sector, the Gender Based Violence and Child Protection Sub-Sectors will focus on protection monitoring, registration and legal assistance activities. Simultaneously, advancing capacity building of social services and advocacy efforts on policy and legal reform will be pursued to strengthen the protection environment in Iraq and KR-I.

In collaboration with the Livelihood Sector, the 3RP will launch a Livelihood Working Group to increase advocacy on the livelihood and economic inclusion of refugees, as well as to strengthen coordination, cross-sectoral referral mechanisms and evidence-based programming.

Education programmes will focus on ongoing advocacy for the approval and implementation of the Refugee Integration Education Policy in order to shift away from a parallel education system to integrate refugee children into the KR-I education system.

The Health, Shelter and WASH Sectors in Iraq will explore avenues to prevent duplicating humanitarian interventions. The sectors will invest in public services to support a gradual integration of camps in surrounding municipalities, including through the UNHCR Area based Programming for Protection and Solutions. The Basic Needs and Food Sectors continue their efforts to target frameworks and interventions with national social protection systems, while striving graduation from cash dependency by linking with livelihood programming.



Empowering women through vocational training

IOM, photo by UNHCR / Jean-Nicolas Beuze

Five Syrian refugee women who live in Duhok, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, learned how to become pastry chefs. They are now business women as they sell their sweets way beyond Domiz refugee camp in Duhok.

COUNTRY

Egypt

Registered Syrian refugees
136,061

Total Refugees

In need Targeted **300,000**
300,000

Host community

In need Targeted **2,171,200**
992,800

As of November 2021, 267,734 refugees and asylum-seekers from 64 different nationalities were registered in Egypt, including 136,061 Syrian refugees which are 51 per cent of the total population.

In 2022, the 3RP appealing partners will continue to ensure that protection space for and legal status of Syrian refugees are maintained, including extending support to access protection. 3RP partners will support refugees and asylum-seekers in meeting their basic needs and in accessing education, health services, housing, food and livelihoods.

GBV and child protection activities are prioritised to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. 3RP partners will aim to extend financial assistance to all 4,067 separated and unaccompanied children (UASCs). As the partners and the Government of Egypt (GoE) work towards a one refugee approach of assistance for all nationalities, provision of financial assistance to Syrian separated children in 2022 cannot be achieved without securing funding for all refugee separated children from all nationalities.

3RP partners will also prioritize communication with the communities using various platforms and communication means. This will contribute to strengthening the accountability framework for the affected population. Response to persons living with disabilities and other groups in need will continue using an age, gender and diversity sensitive approach.

Access and support of refugees and asylum seekers to public education remain key strategic priorities. While Syrian, Sudanese and Yemeni refugee students have access to the public education system on equal footing

with Egyptians, 3RP partners will continue enabling access to refugee students from all nationalities to attain primary and secondary education through provision of education grants and continued support to the Ministry of Education.

With regard to health services, refugees and asylum-seekers will continue to have access to primary health care services through public health facilities and complementary care through NGO Partners to fill gaps in non-communicable diseases and reproductive health services. 3RP partners will continue to support national efforts to improve the quality of services to refugees and asylum-seekers, and the host population in areas with high concentrations of refugees. The partners will also deliver specific health care assistance, as well as secondary and referral care for life-saving treatments. Monitoring of health trends including COVID-19 cases in the refugee and asylum-seeker community and advocacy for access to essential lifesaving and regular health services including specialized mental health services will continue.

Cash assistance is a protection tool that enables refugees to pay rent, utilities, access to education, and other essential needs, while also reducing refugees's using harmful coping mechanisms such as taking children out of school, child marriage, child labour, begging and other survival mechanisms. Cash-based interventions (CBI) will continue to expand the use of biometrics for verifying beneficiaries' identity to maintain the integrity of the process. It will also allow refugees to spend money in local markets that contribute to the local economy, resulting in protection and social cohesion dividends through strengthened relationships between refugee and host community populations.

The food security partners will extend unconditional food assistance to 150,000 refugees pursuant to availability of resources and general food assistance to 130,000 refugees and asylum seekers from nine nationalities, including those of Syria, Sub-Saharan Africa, Yemen and Iraq. Moreover, there will be a provision of monthly food assistance to the most vulnerable pregnant and lactating women and their infants under two years of age. Once resources are availed, there will be a scale up of current operations to target the most vulnerable groups including refugees and asylum-seekers from all socioeconomic backgrounds regardless of previous vulnerability assessment ranking. Similarly, assistance to pregnant and lactating women refugees will be reinstated, as well as livelihood activities targeting host community and refugees through Food For Training programs will be resumed provided there are adequate resources.



Innovative solutions to improve livelihoods in host communities of Syrian refugees in Egypt
UNDP

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Annexes:

Annex 1:
Voluntary Repatriation

Annex 2:
Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Annex 1: Voluntary Repatriation

Background

The return of Syrian refugees from neighboring countries continued at a steady pace during 2021. Some 32,581¹⁴ Syrian refugees returned in 2021 compared to 38,235 in 2020. An observation has been made that there was an increase in return from Jordan Egypt and Turkey and a significant decline for Iraq and Lebanon compared to the previous year. The overall number of UNHCR verified returns of Syrian refugees between January 2016 and November 2021 is over 300,000. This figure represents only refugee returns verified by UNHCR; the actual number is likely higher.

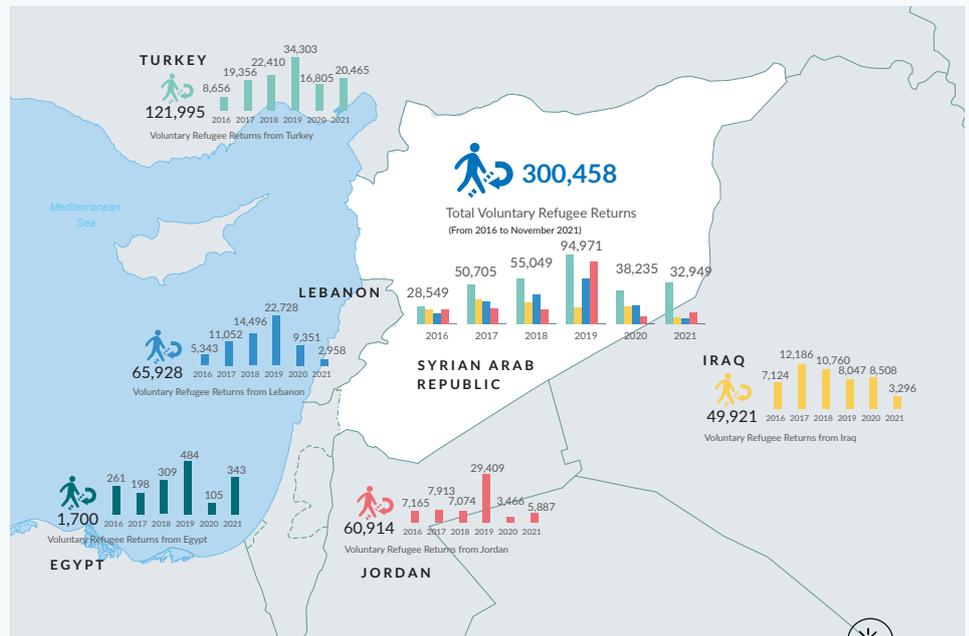
Travel restrictions, including border measures and other public health containment policies related to COVID-19, that for example resulted in border closures in 2020 have largely subsided at the time of writing. However, border crossing points continue to operate at reduced capacity and Syrians intending to return must submit a negative PCR test result at the time of their crossing. A positive development was seen in the removal of the requirement to exchange of 100 USD to Syrian pounds at the official rate upon entry. The financial implications of the new procedures had posed additional challenges for vulnerable refugees.

The latest round of the regional intention survey, similar to the previous years, indicates that most Syrians continue to wish to return to Syria one day but only a small number intends to do so by early-2022. Women, men, and children refugees continue to consider concerns over safety and security, livelihood opportunities, access to shelter and basic services inside Syria as primary barriers to return. The slight decrease in the short-term intention to return is at least in part linked to a perceived deterioration of the situation inside Syria since 2019. Although 90 per cent

of Syrian refugees surveyed cannot meet their basic needs in host countries, this was not seen as a significant push factor. Likewise, the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic only impacted the returns decision-making of a small per centage of refugees.

Engagement with refugee communities to monitor needs and vulnerabilities continues. Nearly 90 per cent of refugees surveyed as part of [UNHCR's annual survey on Syrian Refugees' Perception and Intention on Return to Syria conducted in February and March 2021](#) indicated they cannot meet their basic needs in host countries which is validated by more detailed findings of assessments conducted in the 3RP countries. Considerations around livelihood are an important priority for Syrian refugees both in displacement and related to achieving durable solutions and it has during the most recent survey been highlighted as the second most important decision-making factor related to return to Syria. Consideration around the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was found to factor severely or slightly in the decision making of only 12 per cent of the refugees, while 85 per cent stated it did not at all.

VOLUNTARY REFUGEE RETURNS AS VERIFIED BY UNHCR AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 2021



Return Planning Figures

As during the previous years, assessments among Syrian refugees in the region continue to highlight their overall intention for an eventual return to Syria. UNHCR's intention and perception survey found that 70 per cent of Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon hope to return to Syria one day.¹⁵ Intention to return in the immediate future (next 12 months), on the other hand remains comparatively low at just 2.4 per cent, despite challenging living conditions in host countries.

3RP planning for 2022 is based on a return planning figure of 130,000 – 250,000 Syrian refugees. This figure is based on the recent trends and projections, the latest intention survey, on-going assessments, as well as ensuring consistency in planning from previous years. It is important to note that these figures are projections used for planning purposes only and undue reliance should not be placed on them. Such planning figures necessarily involve uncertainties, which may cause the actual level of return to differ. Return planning figures will be updated as necessary throughout the year as more information becomes available, including to inform the on-going response, as well as contingency planning.

Voluntary Repatriation as a Durable Solution – Current Approach

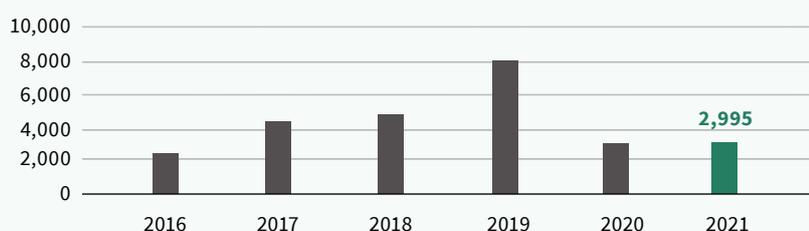
The 3RP's approach to durable solutions for Syrian Refugees continues to be guided by international protection and humanitarian standards and centered on refugee intentions and concerns. It focuses on three core areas: 1) supporting refugees, host countries and communities; 2) enhancing preparation and support for those who choose to voluntarily return, and 3) advocating for expansion of resettlement and complementary pathways. Related to voluntary repatriation, [UNHCR's Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy: Protection Thresholds and Parameters for Refugee Return to Syria \(2018\)](#) continues to be a key guiding document.

All refugees have the fundamental human right to return to their country of origin at a time of their own choosing in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner. This requires their access to reliable information and that the decision-making process and return is in no way coerced. Forced returns or those triggered by push factors related to conditions in host countries are unlikely to be sustainable and can expose refugee returnees to additional protection risks and re-displacement. Ensuring these basic principles are adhered to will require a renewed collective commitment to depoliticize refugee returns.

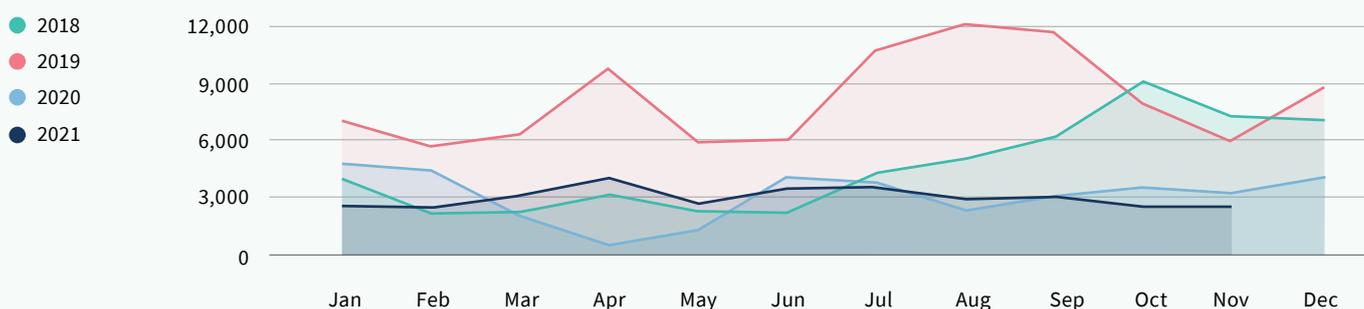
Refugees' intention and decisions will remain the main guidepost for planning and preparations for support related to returns. While 3RP partners are neither promoting nor facilitating refugee return, some support including counseling to ensure free and informed decision making and referrals to reduce protection risks, has been provided and continues to be strengthened in coordination with host governments. UNHCR also continues to monitor returns and assess the voluntariness of the decision while highlighting the continued need for protection spaces and access to legal work and services for those unable or unwilling to return.

Expanding support to host countries is critical to maintain protection space and refugee access to legal work and services, in line with the comprehensive protection and solutions approach. Most refugees will remain in host countries for the foreseeable future. Reducing support will result in increased push factors, potentially leading to refugees returning prematurely to Syria or seeking to move beyond the region.

Syrian Return: Monthly Average as of 30 November 2021



Syrian Refugees: Regional Return Trends 2018 - 2021



3RP Priorities for Voluntary Repatriation in 2022

Through regional, multi-stakeholder discussions related to preparedness planning on return of Syrian refugees, priority areas of work have emerged:

1. Support for Refugees intending to Return

UNHCR and inter-agency partners efforts to support refugees to ensure refugees are able to make a free and informed decision and to support planning and preparedness to try to ease the process for the refugee and mitigate risk were possible remains an important priority. Efforts continue to take place in close coordination with host governments and guided by the Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy.

Such support can include pre-departure individual counseling or group information sessions, return monitoring and needs based services, for example through provisions of legal aid to replace missing documentation. 3RP partners have also provided direct presence at some of the border crossings (for example in Jordan), supporting families with administrative processes and monitoring their safe passage. Specific support related to return is complemented by other types of non-return specific support in host countries, related to education and skills for example, also help to contribute to a greater prospect of a more successful and sustainable return and reintegration.

During counseling, refugees are provided information about the situation in Syria or processes to access rights and services and the voluntariness of their decision is assessed. Access to information ensures refugees can make the best, safest and most sustainable choice for themselves and their family and helps them access basic services upon their return. The information gathered by humanitarian actors during the engagement with refugees further supports the monitoring of motivating factors behind and barriers to returns in the various settings.

Building on the Regional Operational Framework (ROF) developed by the 3RP's Durable Solutions Working Group (RDSWG) in early 2019, UNHCR and 3RP partners continue to evaluate how to enhance support and address the needs of refugees who take a free and informed decision to return in line with current position and approaches. During early 2022, an update of the ROF by the Working Group is planned based on contextual changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic and in the overall situation in host countries and inside Syria. The revised documents will guide return related planning and preparedness efforts for the coming years.

2. Engagement on addressing Barriers to return

Advocacy to remove barriers for safe returns will remain another important priority. UNHCR and 3RP partners continue to engage with stakeholders to gradually address and remove what refugees say inhibit their return, such as concerns over safety, housing, livelihoods or access to services. For example, fees related to border crossings and the provisions that were introduced in 2020 requiring refugees to have 100 USD at the time of the crossing, pose challenges for refugees wanting to return including placing additional financial burden on vulnerable individuals. UNHCR and 3RP partners have seen some advocacy success such as the exception of returning refugees from the requirement to exchange 100 USD upon entry. They are also to mitigate others for example by working with Syrian authorities to enhance health facilities at border crossing points. Finding pragmatic solutions to these challenges supports making solutions such as return sustainable.

3. Continue with Planning and Preparedness on Return

Planning and preparedness efforts related to return will continue under the RDSWG. In view of the changing situation in Syria and host countries in the region and the diversity of perspectives among refugees themselves, an agile and operational posture will continue to be needed.

In 2020, the RDSWG expanded its preparedness planning efforts through the activation of thematic workstreams. These are time bound working groups that focus on thematic areas outlined in the ROF. These workstreams have two important functions. They inform ongoing information provisions and specialized support to refugees who are intending to return. They also lay important groundwork in case of a sudden change in the context that would allow large-scale facilitation of voluntary repatriation in the future.

Five workstreams have been set up covering Livelihood, Education and Protection related topics (including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Housing Land and Property rights, Civil Documentation and Explosive Hazard Risk Education). A range of outputs have been produced in these workstreams. Some of the information material that has been developed, where appropriate, also contains information about advice on mitigation strategies for refugees related to specific protection risks such as explosive hazards.

Forced Returns

Returns that are forced, whether directly or indirectly, put persons at risk, may amount to violations of international law, could hamper stability and reconciliation in Syria and may have a deterring effect on other potential refugee returnees as stories of hardship circulate. UNHCR continues to work with authorities to prevent such instances and respond to them if they occur.

4. Improving Data and Information

Data and information related to return and durable solutions more broadly continue to be vital to ensure the intention and needs of refugees guide regional planning, response and advocacy. This includes information about perception, intention and returns movements and as it relates to other durable solutions. Efforts to improve the current information will continue and regional coordination structures such as the RDSWG will help facilitate information sharing and planning.

Improving data and information related to return has been an ongoing effort during the last years. Data on return and return intention is important to ensure the voices of refugees are at the core of planning efforts and regional advocacy. This will continue including efforts to highlight individual experiences of refugees to demonstrate the complexity of their experiences and understand decision making processes related to displacement and return. Insight in the return process and conditions inside Syria further informs the counselling provided to refugees to help them make an informed decision and, for those with the intention to return, to help them prepare. Efforts related to research on thematic areas related to return including on education and livelihood will continue through the efforts of workstreams under the RDSWG and 3RP partners.

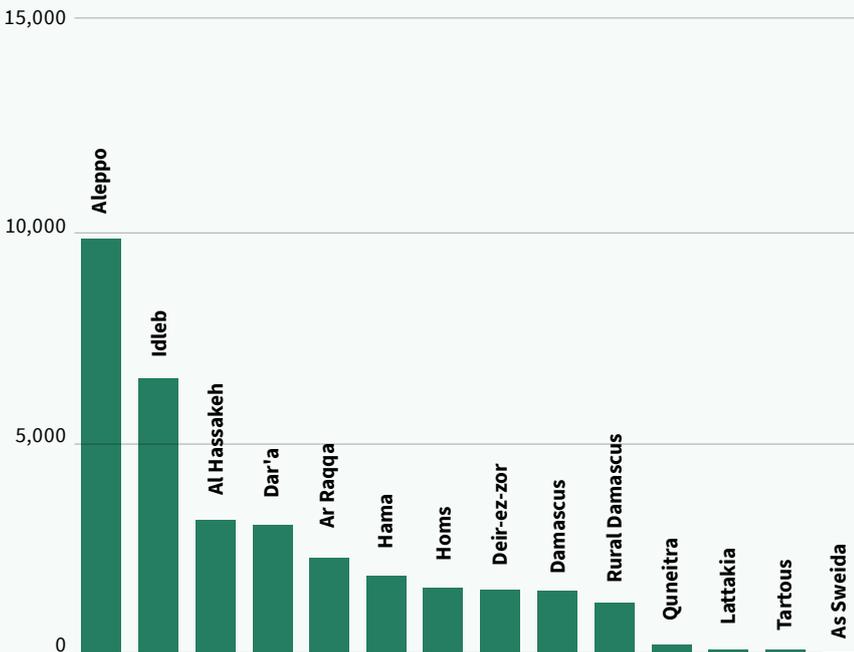
For more information:
Dashboard Archive



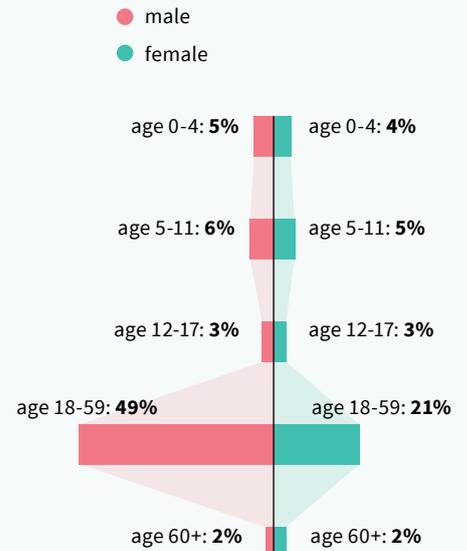
Sixth Regional Survey on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions and Intentions on Return to Syria (RPIS)



Syrian Returns: Returns by Governate of Origin as of 30 November 2021



Syrian Returns: Return by Sex and Age in 2021 as of 30 November 2021



Disclaimer: percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Annex 2: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Background

The launch of the multi-stakeholder Three Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways¹⁶ in late 2019 saw a renewed global commitment to resettlement and complementary pathways.

Drawn from the Global Compact on Refugees, the Strategy provides the blueprint and impetus for all stakeholders to deliver on increasing refugees' access to third country solutions. It has three broad goals: first, to emphasize the importance of resettlement for burden and responsibility sharing, promoting and advocating for increased resettlement places and the number of resettlement State partners; second, to expand opportunities for Complementary Pathways and legal pathways for admission to third countries; and third, to promote welcoming, inclusive societies in receiving countries. While the Three-Year Strategy ostensibly covers UNHCR's approach until the end of 2021, the principles remain relevant going forward. [UNHCR's Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy: A Roadmap to Advance Resettlement and Complementary Pathways in the Syria Crisis](#) reflects very similar aims and approaches. Strategy will continue to guide UNHCR's and other regional humanitarian resettlement and complementary pathways activities related to Syrian refugees.

In the 3RP Countries the positive global developments in 2019 were reflected in a much-welcomed reversal of the downward trend in resettlement submission numbers of previous years, with a 10 per cent increase in submissions compared to 2018. Of these submissions, Syrian refugees remained the largest percentage by far, and were also the largest refugee population submitted for resettlement regionally and globally, due to the ongoing – and ever-increasing – protection needs of this population group.

Syrian Resettlement Submissions in 2021

Country of Asylum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Egypt	788	10	22	22	119	74	131	12	91	115	41	151
Iraq	1,229	71	35	31	135	54	63	125	163	227	140	185
Jordan	4,090	47	177	321	310	127	386	308	323	414	933	744
Lebanon	5,869	372	174	346	584	667	400	571	830	1,069	258	598
Turkey	8,080	465	100	417	1,160	650	541	424	666	847	1,700	1,110
20,056												

Syrian Resettlement Departures in 2021

Country of Asylum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Egypt	796	44	19	37	29	52	41	7	67	125	74	301
Iraq	581	12	25	0	13	14	65	112	82	96	74	88
Jordan	3,448	62	244	121	58	138	206	361	421	930	110	797
Lebanon	5,042	5	240	275	355	265	467	391	562	1,140	669	673
Turkey	4,920	248	379	333	281	292	595	894	594	279	467	558
14,787												

However, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted resettlement activities in 2020 and, to a certain extent, 2021, with States', UNHCR and 3RP partners' efforts to capitalize on available resettlement quotas delayed or reduced. Departures were put on hold for a period in 2020, and States were compelled to readjust timeframes and arrangements for processing. Notwithstanding, partners focused on the delivery of quotas during 2020 and 2021, in order to capitalize on every precious resettlement place and maintain a "stay and deliver" approach. The focus has been on timely, high-quality submissions, aimed at those with the most compelling protection needs.

Looking forward to 2022, some 612,000 Syrians, mostly living in 3RP countries, were projected in need of resettlement. The pandemic has had a particularly disastrous effect with many pre-existing vulnerabilities faced by refugees further aggravated, particularly for women and girls. The economic context, already challenging for

host and affected communities, has now worsened to the point where even countries of asylum with relatively favorable protection environments are becoming less secure, with increasing instability, marginalization or outright hostility from host communities, renewed targeting for arrest, detention and deportation. Some refugees are under threat of complete destitution facing food and shelter insecurity, negative coping mechanisms and serious protection risks resulting from poverty, including exploitation and early and forced marriage.

Despite the ongoing commitment of UNHCR and partner to resettlement and complementary pathways for Syrians from States, a renewed sense of urgency and collaborative action is needed, to preserve – and if possible, expand – resettlement and complementary pathways opportunities for Syrians in the years ahead, to ensure ongoing protection and solutions.

Priorities in partnership under the 3RP – the way forward for 2022

3RP partners under the leadership of UNHCR will continue to reflect the international community's burden and responsibility sharing towards Syrian refugees and safeguard the protection space in the five main countries hosting Syrians. The approach in 3RP countries envisages an ongoing, multi-year programme which safeguards the resilience of resettlement opportunities for Syrians, targeting those with compelling protection needs, for whom return to Syria will not be possible in the foreseeable future. Concurrently, complementary pathways may offer solutions that allow Syrian refugees to regain normalcy in life, contribute to their local communities and pursue secure and sustainable futures. A collective approach toward the following three strategic objectives is proposed.

1. Safeguarding the resilience of Syrian resettlement programmes:

Ensuring ongoing resettlement opportunities for Syrians remains a key regional priority from both a protection and solutions standpoint, and UNHCR and 3RP partners plan to work with States in various bilateral and multilateral ways towards this aim.

Ensuring robust and adaptable resettlement processing modalities

COVID-19 related safety restrictions introduced in early 2020 limited face-to-face contact and initially impacted the ability to conduct in-person processing for registration, refugee status determination and resettlement. However, UNHCR together with partners was able to develop effective remote-based activities in a timely manner, to ensure ongoing resettlement submissions. These procedures ensure that the integrity of the case processing is maintained while also protecting the health and safety of refugees, staff members and other partners. Given the appearance of successive COVID-19 variants and the ongoing uncertainty of the global situation – particularly with regard to international travel – UNHCR and partners will need to remain flexible to possible ongoing restrictions, and nimble in the way resettlement processing modalities are enacted. Therefore, in 2022 3RP partners will continue to develop these methodologies further and promote and encourage the use of

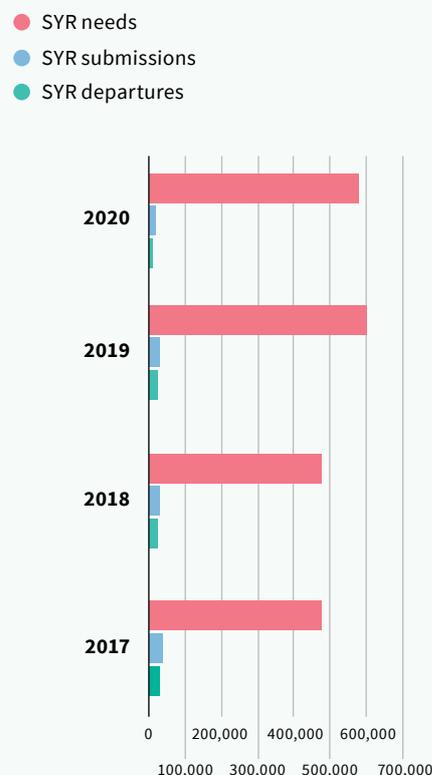
such approaches, to ensure that programmes remain as resistant as possible to future restrictions, and which can be flexible to unprecedented circumstances.

States are encouraged to review case processing and identify remote-based opportunities for processing, and to ensure resumption of safe departures at the earliest opportunity, so that quotas are fully realized. States may coordinate closely with UNHCR on the logistical support or information needed to achieve implementation of remote-based processing modalities. 3RP Partners will provide logistics planning, provision of spaces or other forms of assistance to support these aims. Partners in countries receiving refugees will continue to advocate for the continued safe arrivals of refugees on resettlement, with appropriate safety mechanisms in place. Where relevant, the active support of States to ensure appropriate health measures are met prior to travel (including vaccinations) would be welcomed.

Ongoing engagement in multi-lateral fora

The spirit of broad partnership which has characterized the Syrian resettlement programme will remain an important priority. 3RP partners will continue to work closely with States establishing new or increased programmes in the region to support the development of sustainable, enduring activities. A close engagement with the Priority Situations Core Group (PSCG), the

Projected Resettlement Needs, Submissions and Departures for Syrian refugees in MENA and Turkey 2017-2020



RDSWG, and, at the global level, the Annual Tripartite Consultations on resettlement (ATCR) will remain important. These fora may foster new approaches and provide an avenue to pass key advocacy messages on the importance of maintaining Syrian resettlement.

Further enhance collaboration with 3RP partners to improve identification and referrals

In order to preserve the maximum benefit of resettlement for Syrian refugees and the ongoing effectiveness of programmes, UNHCR and partners envisage a targeted approach to identification, with resettlement remaining a reliable and effective protection tool preserved for those with compelling protection needs, and for whom return to Syria will not be possible in the foreseeable future. UNHCR will work with partners to continue collaboration to highlight protection needs and risk profiles in a multi-agency manner, as well as to contribute ongoing identification efforts towards those with the most compelling protection needs.

2. Strengthening capacities to increase complementary pathways opportunities for Syrian refugees:

Linked to the second aim of the Three-Year Strategy, UNHCR, in conjunction with 3RP partners and regional stakeholders, are planning an ambitious programme of complementary pathways activities. This will require creating approaches and the engagement of partners to meet the gaps outlined in the strategy to expand complementary pathways. UNHCR in MENA has identified three objectives in which these valuable opportunities for refugees may be operationalized, enhanced and made long-lasting.

Increase Refugee Access to complementary pathways with protection safeguards:

Creating a community of practice to increase cross fertilization between UNHCR operations, partners, states and other stakeholders while continuously providing guidance and support for new complementary pathways programs. UNHCR intends to continue working with states, partners and other stakeholders that offer, plan to offer, support, or advocate for third country pathways to ensure their programmes meet the minimum standards for protection, transparency, and support to refugees.

Strengthen coordination and partnerships on Complementary Pathways:

In order to enhance and make complementary pathways long-lasting, creating approaches that promote engagement of partners and states are key. The MENA Contact Group for Complementary Pathways (MCGCP), is and will, continue to be the driving vehicle for strengthening coordination and partnerships on complementary pathways in the region. The MCGCP is a multi-lateral platform with over 120 participants including 3RP partners and resettlement states and private sector actors. States and partners are encouraged to take an active role within this group and contribute, wherever possible, to activities and discussions.

Grow the evidence on Complementary Pathways:

The availability of data on the use of complementary pathways by refugees is considered key to increasing the accessibility and predictability of pathways. For the time being, neither UNHCR nor other stakeholders systematically collect data related to complementary pathways used by persons in need of international protection. While the data presented in the OECD-UNHCR report Safe Pathways for Refugees II on the use of safe admission pathways by populations with a refugee background continues to be significant, at this time it is not possible to distinguish whether the recipients of family, work and study permits arrived directly from their countries of origin or via countries of asylum. UNHCR in MENA aims to build the evidence base to improve advocacy efforts to remove barriers, change policy, monitor, document, and report on the use of existing complementary pathways by using tools such as ProGres, where possible and by collaborating with states and other stakeholders to capture refugees' access to complementary pathways in the MENA region.

3. Engagement with partners on renewed and supportive advocacy efforts in receiving communities:

Recognizing that successful resettlement outcomes are also contingent on the receiving communities in resettlement countries, UNHCR seeks to work closely with partners on advocacy efforts designed to contribute to inclusive and welcoming environments to boost the overall success of Syrian resettlement, as well as to mitigate and respond to the possible risk of reduced resettlement and complementary pathways quotas for Syrians in the coming years.

To advocate for resettlement places and opportunities for the Syrian refugees, UNHCR will collaborate with partners in multi-lateral fora, to tailor protection responses and highlight challenges and needs to donors and civil society. UNHCR will produce tools or narratives which can support advocacy for specific profiles, operations, or receiving countries, in order to garner support for Syrian resettlement, or to promote the positive impact of resettlement for receiving communities. The MCGCP will undertake advocacy efforts to support complementary pathways opportunities, as an additional way to promote wider opportunities for Syrians in the region.

States are encouraged to provide UNHCR of information needed to better ensure national and local authorities responsible for reception and integration support are well-equipped and well-prepared to respond to the needs for refugees upon arrival. States may also wish to consider showcasing particular successes or best practices with regard to reception or integration approaches for Syrians in receiving communities. UNHCR also welcomes constructive input from partners on any areas for improvement within the process which may better support refugees' swift and positive integration.

Partners will continue to highlight to civil society or other contacts within receiving countries the importance of Syrian resettlement as a concrete expression of solidarity in the region, remind that the predicament of Syrians in the MENA region continues to worsen, and underscore the need for ongoing opportunities for protection and solutions.

Sources

Title photos



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Footnotes

- ¹ In Lebanon and Jordan, Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and Jordan Response Plan constitute the country chapters for the 3RP, while in Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, the country chapters, which are nationally led in design and implementation.
- ² Turkey host community population is based on the 10% of the entire national population. In Egypt, host communities are defined by the impact of the presence of refugees on pre-existing vulnerability levels.
- ³ UNHCR and Government of Turkey as of 31 October 2021
- ⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkey/intersectoral-vulnerability-survey-vulnerability-conditions-refugees-living-turkey>
- ⁵ WFP mVAM surveys
- ⁶ Phone survey conducted by WFP & World Bank
- ⁷ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35365>
- ⁸ Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees 2021
- ⁹ <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2021-mobile-vulnerability-analysis-and-mapping-refugees-community>
- ¹⁰ UNRWA services and interventions highlighted in this paragraph are part of the UNRWA emergency appeal for Syria, Lebanon and Jordan 2022, which will be available on the UNRWA website in January 2022.
- ¹¹ Syria Relief Report, The Destruction You Can't See, available here: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ptsd_report_final.pdf
- ¹² The three strategic objectives of the 3RP 2021/22 are to i) Contribute to the protection of Syrians under temporary protection and persons under international protection; ii) Promote inclusion and access to services, including health, education, social services, as well as municipal services and local solutions; and iii) Promote harmonization, self-reliance and solutions.
- ¹³ As of 31 October 2021
- ¹⁴ As of 20th of November 2021
- ¹⁵ RPIS, 2021, UNHCR- please include full reference depending on the sourcing format used.
- ¹⁶ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Three Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, June 2019, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/5d15db254.pdf> [accessed 10 March 2020]

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We thank our donors for their generous support for 3RP activities.



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