

THE 2016-2017 UNHCR REGIONAL WINTER ASSISTANCE PLAN

Syria and Iraq situations



UNHCR estimates that more than 14.5 million people have been displaced from their homes in Syria and Iraq, with over five million seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Syrians affected by war are falling further into poverty with increasing vulnerabilities. In Lebanon, 70 per cent of Syrians are living below the poverty line and 50 per cent in extreme poverty, while in Jordan 93 per cent are living under the poverty line. With the continued fighting in Iraq, people are being displaced increasingly and becoming more vulnerable the longer their displacement.

This winter assistance plan is part of UNHCR's continued efforts to put in place measures to support vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees in Middle East to cope during the harsh winter months, particularly between November and February. For the coming winter, UNHCR plans to provide integrated winter assistance to 4.57 million vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees with an overall budget of USD 343 million. Multi-sectoral assistance in the form of seasonal cash, core relief items specific to winter, and shelter insulation support will be provided in coordination with partners and Clusters/Sectors. Winterization also includes engineering work for camps and settlements, and improvements of drainage systems.

	 Total beneficiaries	 Total budget	Total funding shortfall				
	4.57 million	343 million	157 million				
Syria situation	Overall	by Country					
 Beneficiaries	3.25 million Syrian IDPs and refugees	85,000	177,495	292,040	870,337	1,211,500	610,000
 Budget (USD)	209 million	 Egypt	 Iraq	 Jordan	 Lebanon	 Syria	 Turkey
Shortfall	63 M	3.2 M	13.4 M	21.1 M	114.2 M	34.6 M	22.3 M
		950 K	-	-	62 M	-	-
		Seasonal cash assistance Beneficiaries 1.64 M (50%) Total budget 150 M (72%)			In-kind assistance Beneficiaries 1.7 M (53%) Total budget 58.5 M (28%)		
Iraq situation	Overall	by Country					
 Beneficiaries	1.32 million Iraqi IDPs and refugees	1,500	1,233,475	29,937	6,110	23,800	22,100
 Budget (USD)	134 million	 Egypt	 Iraq	 Jordan	 Lebanon	 Syria	 Turkey
Shortfall	94 million	57 K	127.6 M	3.2 M	1.7 M	1.5 M	817 K
		-	92.6 M	378 K	692 K	-	-
		Seasonal cash assistance Beneficiaries 981 K (75%) Total budget 52 M (39%)			In-kind assistance Beneficiaries 520 K (39%) Total budget 82.6 M (61%)		

¹ For Syria situation, 4% of the beneficiaries and for Iraq situation 14% of the beneficiaries will receive both seasonal cash and in-kind assistance.

SYRIA

As part of UNHCR's Whole of Syria winter plan, UNHCR will assist some 1.2 million IDPs which represents over 18 per cent of the Syrian IDPs in the country. Priority will be given to the newly displaced vulnerable families (including those who have been displaced multiple times) and those living in hard-to-reach areas in skeleton buildings and sub-standard shelters. IDPs will be provided with shelter assistance and core relief items specific for winter along with supplementary winter items, including sleeping bags and winter clothing. An estimated 95,000 vulnerable IDPs, within the overall total, will be supported with UNHCR's cross-border interventions from Amman and 120,000 IDPs will be reached by Gaziantep hub. Furthermore, UNHCR will provide winter support to 23,800 Iraqi refugees reaching nearly 96 per cent of Iraqi refugees in Syria through a one-time cash assistance of USD 65 per person to cover season-specific needs, such as winter clothing and fuel for heating. This plan does not include the Aleppo response plan, which already has prepositioning of winter items for potential newly displaced vulnerable families.

TURKEY

UNHCR plans to provide targeted winter assistance to 610,000 vulnerable Syrian and 22,100 Iraqi refugees residing in and outside of camps, representing 22 per cent of the total Syrian and Iraqi refugee population in the country. For those living in camps, as per Government's policy, UNHCR will deliver clothes to the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority who leads the distribution in the camps. For refugees in urban areas, UNHCR will be providing a one-off e-voucher assistance of USD 200/household and beneficiaries will be identified through house-to-house needs assessment exercise conducted by partners. UNHCR and partners will conduct ongoing monitoring exercises for all the activities.

LEBANON

UNHCR aims to assist a total of 870,337 Syrian refugees and 6,110 Iraq refugees, representing approximately 82 per cent of the Syrian refugee population and 28 per cent of the Iraqi refugee population in the country. Identification of beneficiaries will be determined by an econometric formula developed on the basis of the 2015 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees, and the corresponding economic vulnerability of each household. UNHCR's goal is to provide assistance to all those living below the poverty line. Seasonal cash assistance of USD 147 will be provided to vulnerable households to meet their winter needs. For those already receiving monthly multipurpose cash assistance, UNHCR will provide an additional USD 75 to help families meet the extra expenses. Blankets and mattresses will be pre-positioned at community centers and with municipalities in the event of extreme weather and to meet ad hoc needs. UNHCR will conduct a phone survey in December or January to confirm that the designated refugee households received the cash assistance and were able to access and utilize the funds. A full post-distribution monitoring will take place in March/April 2017.

Under-funding will leave refugees in Lebanon without the means to support themselves when extreme weather, limited income opportunities, and higher expenses place additional strain on families. Without cash support, families will have to resort to coping strategies, such as reducing food expenditures and selling productive assets, while not being able to purchase fuel for heating and winter clothes.

JORDAN

UNHCR will provide winter assistance to over 292,000 vulnerable Syrians and nearly 30,000 Iraqis and other nationalities which is 44 per cent of the Syrian refugee population and 52 per cent of refugees of other nationalities in Jordan. All Syrian refugees in camps will be provided with cash for winter aimed at addressing shelter maintenance or non-food item needs, and cash for gas for covering the cost of refills during the four winter months. Assistance for new arrivals to the camps will include provision of gas stoves/heaters and high thermal blankets. For Syrian and Iraqi refugees in urban areas, a one-time cash assistance will be provided as a 'full' or 'half' package depending on whether the families have or have not received winterization support in the past years. The cash will be distributed through the Common Cash Facilities system and high thermal blankets through the community centers. UNHCR and its partners will undertake regular monitoring of project activities and cash beneficiaries will be part of UNHCR's post-distribution monitoring mechanism which is conducted on a quarterly basis.

Any funding shortfall will inevitably result in fewer families receiving support. As it is unlikely that another agency will be in the position to assist Iraqi refugees, vulnerable families would be left without any means of assistance. Not receiving cash for winter would mean a further exacerbation of the vulnerability situation of many families as they would incur debts in order to address the increased needs arising during the winter season.

IRAQ

UNHCR plans to reach over 1.2 million IDPs and almost 177,500 Syrian refugees across the country both in camps and out of camp settings, targeting those living in poor shelter conditions or with socio-economic vulnerabilities. This also includes the additional winter needs for those newly displaced or could be displaced due to fighting in Mosul and surrounding areas. For families in camps, tent insulation kits, core relief items specific to winter, and kerosene for heating (in-kind/cash) will be provided, while for those living in host communities, assistance will be provided through cash assistance and kerosene. Identification of beneficiaries will be based on ongoing vulnerability assessments and verification involving partners and community representatives. Post-distribution monitoring will be undertaken through mobile field teams and focus group discussions as well as telephone interviews by randomized sampling, alongside household visits.

EGYPT

A total of 96,500 refugees (85,000 Syrians and 1,500 Iraqis) are in need of winter assistance. This assistance will be provided through analysis of socio-economic assessment data, financial assistance trends, and referrals by partners and UNHCR. Building on achievement of last winter programme, cash assistance will be the main means of support which will be provided during November. A one-time cash payment of USD 38/person which will be distributed through the Post Offices for Syrian refugees in cold areas in Egypt, while for Iraqi refugees and other nationalities, cash assistance will be provided through ATM cards. UNHCR will closely monitor the distribution through regular meetings with partners as well as by conducting a post-delivery monitoring exercise.

With the current available funding UNHCR will only be able to provide winter assistance to some 60,000 Syrian and 1,500 Iraqi refugees in Egypt. This means that due to the gap in funding, UNHCR will not be able to provide support to 25,000 vulnerable Syrians.



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