

Regional Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Monitoring Update

Quarter 3 Report - September 2018

Key Highlights



>2 million people assessed for cash assistance in 2018 so far; 1.4 million found eligible.



696,792 individuals reached with cash assistance in 2018 so far, over 443,000 in September alone.¹

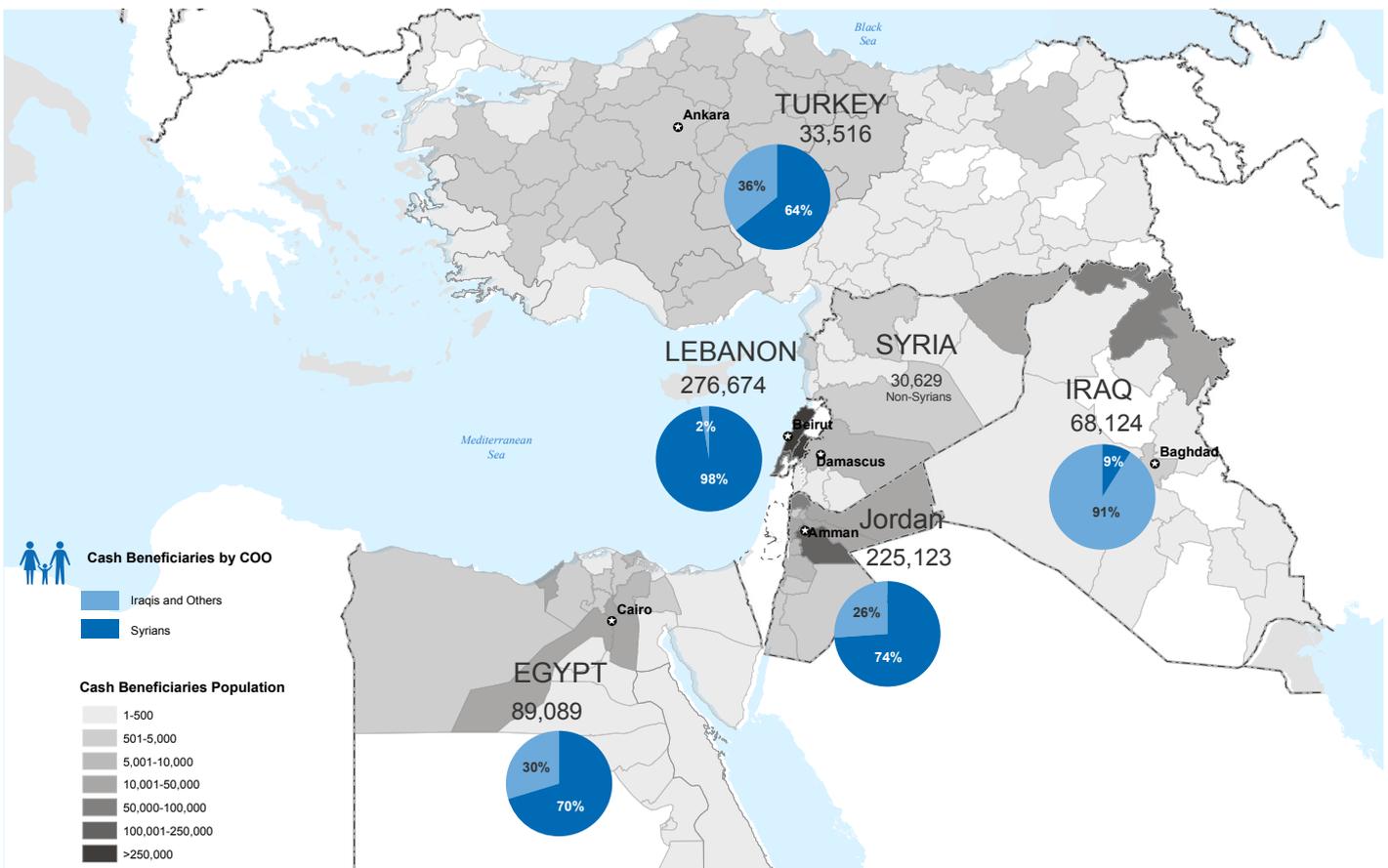


USD 17 million distributed in September 2018, USD 128 million so far in 2018.



USD 48 million - UNHCR's winter assistance programme, 70 per cent of which is cash-based, has a funding gap of USD 48 million.

Beneficiaries reached by country so far in 2018



¹Includes some winter assistance which took place in January and February 2018



Regional Indicators

Needs: The vulnerability of Syrian and Iraqi refugee and IDP populations and their host communities as a result of prolonged displacement has gradually worsened over time. UNHCR uses a variety of tools across the region to keep track of these vulnerabilities and how they change over time. In Jordan, for example, UNHCR uses the Vulnerability Assessment Framework, which creates a shared and consistent profile of vulnerability for Syrian refugee households by using vulnerability indicators that are available to be used by the entire humanitarian community. Across the region, UNHCR also uses multisector data collection via household assessments and data analysis to determine the most vulnerable refugees in need of cash assistance, and outcome monitoring to assess the impact of this

assistance. In Lebanon, the most recent Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance outcome monitoring exercise has resulted in the creation of a well-being index. Results of the exercise have shown that refugees receiving UNHCR Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance have a better perception of their wellbeing in comparison to those not receiving it.

Total Number assessed in 2018 ²	2 million
Individuals assessed by Household visit in 2018	> 450,000
# found eligible for cash assistance in 2018	1.4 million
Number of appeals against non-inclusion	3,276
Number of appeals resulting in positive decisions	431

Response: UNHCR has found 1.4 million individuals eligible for cash assistance in 2018 but has been only able to reach at most around 450,000 per month due to funding constraints. In total, UNHCR has assisted over 695,000 individuals so far in 2018, disbursing over USD 128 million. Hundreds of thousands more need ongoing support to meet their most basic needs.

Assisted with Cash in 2018	696,791
Assisted with Cash in September	443,972
USD disbursed in 2018	USD 128 million
USD disbursed in September	USD 17 million

Protection: As well as providing for refugees' most basic needs, multi-purpose cash assistance enables vulnerable refugees to deal with shocks and changes in circumstances without resorting to negative coping mechanisms. UNHCR's protection and cash programmes work in tandem to ensure that vulnerable persons are successfully identified. Referrals from protection units and partners for cash assistance (and vice-versa) are assessed on a case-by-case basis through interviews with persons of concern and UNHCR updates its records and its beneficiary lists accordingly. Moreover, UNHCR periodically analyses the profiles of excluded refugee families to better understand vulnerabilities and adjust the criteria accordingly. UNHCR works with partners across the region to harmonize approaches and recipients of assistance are also cross-checked to ensure

the integrity of the system. In Lebanon, for example, eligible households are subject to regular joint UNHCR, WFP and partner validation exercises (twice a year) to ensure that the right person is in possession of the right card. Those who fail to be present at the validation exercise are not provided with assistance and are replaced by other beneficiaries.

All Figures for September:

Referrals to case management	622
Referrals from case management to cash assistance	1,176
# of inquiries related to cash assistance	72,184
# of updates to refugee records	63,864

Coverage: Cash assistance support to vulnerable refugee families in under threat due to chronic underfunding. Without urgent funding, UNHCR's activities to support vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi refugees and Internally Displaced Persons will be severely restricted, leaving these vulnerable populations unable to meet their most basic daily needs including rent and

accessing essential services like health care and education.

Assisted by partners in 2018	>2 million individuals
UNHCR Syria Situation funding gap	USD 1.1 billion
UNHCR Iraq Situation funding gap	USD 378 million

² Includes 1.5 million Syrians in Lebanon who are ranked and scored using a desk formula to measure their socio-economic vulnerability within the overall population. This process occurs once a year (most recently in August 2018) and as such all Syrians in Lebanon are considered assessed already. This figure is according to Government estimates, including registered Syrian refugees, unregistered Syrian refugees as well as Syrians residing in Lebanon under alternative legal frameworks.

Highlights across the region

Piloting mobile money transfers for scholarship students in Jordan



Cash assistance helps to meet the most basic needs of Syrian refugees in Azraq camp in Jordan, where 99 per cent of winter assistance has been monetized. Photo © UNHCR / M. Hawari – October 2018

In September 2018, UNHCR and its partner Jubilee Centre for Excellence in Education (JCEE), formally launched a new endeavour to support refugee scholarship students and enhance financial inclusion for refugees living in Jordan. JCEE supports refugee students in Jordan studying through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative, also known as DAFI. For the first time, DAFI scholars will now be able to receive their education stipends through an E-Wallet medium, supported by a secure mobile wallet service. UNHCR worked with the mobile payment service provider and the Central Bank of Jordan to pilot this payment process in Jordan. DAFI students in Jordan were prioritized as a pilot for the mobile money transfers given their high literacy, technological savviness and willingness to experiment with an innovative payment platform which would facilitate the payment modality of their stipends. Around 640 students have so far voluntarily registered for mobile wallets to receive their payments.

UNHCR's Winter Assistance Programme

This winter, UNHCR aims to provide life-saving winterization assistance to 3.5 million vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. This includes the distribution of core relief items and provision of seasonal cash assistance for vulnerable families to meet their additional needs during the winter months. As part of the growing trend towards monetizing assistance, which allows vulnerable persons the ability to prioritize their needs and has knock on benefits of stimulating local economies, 70 per cent of UNHCR's winter assistance in the region this year will be delivered in the form of cash assistance directly to IDPs and refugees. In Jordan, 99 per cent of winter assistance will be provided with cash.

Donors: UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the cash assistance programme for the Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees with unearmarked and earmarked funds as well as those who have contributed directly to the operations.

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