

UNHCR Regional Winter Assistance Plan 2017-2018

(Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt)

UNHCR estimates that there are over 15 million Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in the region. This coming winter, UNHCR plans to provide integrated winter assistance to over **four million vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees** to help them weather the adverse conditions.

The **USD 245 million Regional Winter Assistance Plan is only 26 per cent funded, with the majority of the country operations severely underfunded. UNHCR requires additional funding of USD 181 million**, without which UNHCR will be forced to significantly reduce winter assistance to the most vulnerable.

UNHCR's winter assistance will include cash payments, as well as distribution of winter items. Significant investment is also planned in preventative measures, such as insulating and repairing shelters and improving drainage in camps. The plan will be implemented in coordination with government agencies, partners and Clusters/Sectors.



Total beneficiaries (Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees)
4.25 million



Total budget
245 million

Total funding shortfall
181 million
(26% funded)

Syria situation



Beneficiaries

Overall

3.22 million
 Syrian IDPs and refugees

by Country

87,000	179,500	317,500	870,000	1,210,000	553,000
Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Syria	Turkey



Budget (USD)

197 million

2.2 M	14.4 M	19.1 M	115.3 M	22.9 M	22.6 M
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Shortfall

149 million

-	12 M	19.1 M	115.3 M	2.4 M	-
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Seasonal cash assistance

Beneficiaries 1.67 M (52%)
 Total budget 163 M (83%)

In-kind assistance

Beneficiaries 1.5 M (48%)
 Total budget 34 M (17%)

Iraq situation



Beneficiaries

Overall

1.03 million
 Iraqi IDPs and refugees

by Country

1,250	960,000	19,790	6,898	19,050	22,950
Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Syria	Turkey



Budget (USD)

48 million

31 K	41.6 M	3 M	1.4 M	1.1 M	1.1 M
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Shortfall

32 million

-	26.1 M	3 M	1.4 M	1.1 M	-
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Seasonal cash assistance

Beneficiaries 543 K (53%)
 Total budget 29.33 M (61%)

In-kind assistance

Beneficiaries 487 K (47%)
 Total budget 19 M (39%)

COUNTRY PLANS

SYRIA

- UNHCR's Whole of Syria winter plan aims at assisting 1.2 million Syrians (242,000 families) with non-food item kits and shelter support. From Syria, UNHCR will provide winter assistance to 1 million IDPs (200,000 families) starting from September 2017. Priority will be given to newly displaced persons (including those who have been displaced multiple times) and those living in hard-to-reach areas. In addition to the high thermal blankets and extra piece of plastic tarpaulin, IDPs will be provided with winter supplementary items such as sleeping bags, winter jackets, and winter clothing kits through partners (as part of the regular programme) and through inter-agency convoy deliveries to hard-to-reach and besieged locations. Post-distribution monitoring exercises will take place on a monthly basis to gather feedback from the beneficiaries.
- UNHCR's cross-border intervention from Amman hub for IDPs in southern Syria aims at providing winter assistance to 60,000 IDPs (12,000 families) located in areas prioritized for winter support based on severity of winter and those living in the informal tented settlements. Non-food item kits specific to winter including high thermal blankets, plastic tarpaulin, and winter clothing kits will be delivered through humanitarian convoys and distributed by partners. From Turkey hub, core relief item kits specific to winter including high thermal blankets, tarpaulin and solar lamps will be trans-shipped and distributed by partners to 150,000 IDPs (30,000 families) in northern Syria.
- Furthermore, subject to funding, UNHCR will provide winter support to all registered Iraqi refugees in the country, 19,050 individuals (6,850 families), through a one-time cash assistance of USD 56 per person.

Without additional funding, 210,000 Syrian IDPs (42,000 families) will not receive winter support through cross-border interventions in northern and southern Syria which will create a significant response gap impacting on the health of IDPs. Under-funding will leave 19,050 Iraqi refugees (6,850 families) in Syria to face the harsh winter season without the means to support themselves, which could affect their well-being especially in light of the current security and economic situation in the country.

TURKEY

- UNHCR's winter programme in Turkey will consist of one-off cash assistance of USD 50 to 305,950 Syrian and Iraqi refugees (61,190 families) in urban areas and provision of non-food items to 270,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees (54,000 families) living in camps across the country through the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority. The replacement of part of non-food items assistance in camps with cash-assistance is currently being considered through dedicated assessments.
- Pre-loaded debit cards issued by Turkey's Post and Telecommunication Office (PTT) will be distributed to the refugees starting first week of November 2017. The cards could be used to withdraw cash from ATM machines as well as a debit card in any shop which is part of Master Card circuit, a new feature introduced this year based on the feedback received from the beneficiaries through the post-distribution monitoring exercise. Beneficiaries will be identified through phone verification and house-to-house needs assessment exercise conducted by the partners. People belonging to vulnerable families living in the coldest areas will be targeted, including single parent headed households, unaccompanied and separate children, and households with members with special needs and serious

medical conditions. Inclusion rate in the geographical areas selected for the winter programme will be of an estimated 80 per cent of all refugee families surveyed and beneficiaries already included under the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme will be excluded from the winter support.

- A post-distribution monitoring exercise will be conducted within two months of the completion of the debit card distribution, using a monitoring tool developed by UNHCR in coordination with the inter-agency Winterization Task Force.

LEBANON

- UNHCR plans to assist 870,000 Syrian refugees (174,000 families) living below the poverty line with a five-month winter assistance package from November 2017 to March 2018. This will include seasonal cash assistance of USD 147 per family per month for 139,000 highly and severely vulnerable families for five months and an additional USD 75 per family per month for 35,000 families already receiving monthly multi-purpose cash assistance. Furthermore, fuel vouchers will be provided to 50,000 Syrian refugees (10,000 families) for five months covering highly and severely vulnerable refugees residing in areas with no-ATM access (such as Aarsal), and weather proofing shelter kits for 123,220 refugees (24,644 families) living in informal settlements. The targeting, prioritization and winter assistance package will depend on the availability of resources.
- UNHCR will conduct a survey through household visits in January/February 2018 to confirm that the refugee families received the seasonal cash assistance and were able to access and utilize the funds. Focus groups discussions will also be conducted to collect qualitative information. Communication with refugees will be improved both on the selection criteria for assistance and details of the assistance package.
- The winter assistance programme for the Iraqi refugees will be harmonized with the Syrian refugees and nearly 6,900 vulnerable Iraqi refugees (2,759 families) will be provided with seasonal cash assistance.

Without additional funding, UNHCR will not be able to provide winter support to 870,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees (174,000 families). This will lead to refugees more into debts as needs of a family are higher during winter. Refugee families will have more pressures to resort to negative coping mechanisms affecting in particular women and children. For the Iraqi refugees, unavailability of funds will result in targeted households receiving support for winter for only two months, leaving them with no winter support from January to March 2018.

JORDAN

- UNHCR winter programme for Syrian refugees in Jordan is designed to target the seasonal needs of vulnerable refugees living in camps, urban settings and at the north-eastern border with Syria (berm). Around 317,500 Syrian refugees (63,500 families) will be provided with winter assistance through cash, non-food items and shelter support, including 45,000 people (9,000 families) at the berm, 122,500 refugees (24,500 families) in Zaatari and Azraq camps, and 150,000 refugees (30,000 families) in urban areas across the country.
- From November 2017 to February/March 2018, all Syrian refugees in camps will be provided with cash for gas (one-time per family) to cover the cost of refills and cash for shelter (one-time per family) to be used for shelter repairs. In urban areas, 150,000 Syrian refugees (30,000 families) will receive a one-off cash assistance (per

person) which will be distributed through the Common Cash Facility system and the beneficiary selection will be coordinated through the inter-agency Winterization Task Force Group to ensure a uniform approach is utilized and avoid any duplication or overlap. Special attention will be given to female-headed households, elderly, persons with disabilities, children at risk, persons with medical needs and specific protection needs. The intervention at the berm, dependent on the security situation and humanitarian access to the area, foresees the distribution of high thermal blankets and of plastic sheeting for protecting the people of concern from the harsh weather.

- A one-off cash assistance (per person) will be provided to 19,790 Iraqi and refugees of other nationalities (9,895 families) through the Common Cash Facility system. Beneficiaries will include those who are already receiving cash through the UNHCR's regular cash assistance programme or are in the waiting list. UNHCR and its partners will undertake regular monitoring exercises.

The shortfall of funding will affect all planned beneficiaries for the winter programme - 317,500 Syrian refugees (63,500 families) and 19,790 Iraqi and refugees of other nationalities (9,895 families). The increased needs during winter months will drive vulnerable families to take on debts for advancing urgent needs, thereby worsening drastically their economic vulnerability status. In the camps, lack of winter support will affect the economic and health status of the refugees. For the Iraqi refugees, as there are few avenues for support available, underfunding

IRAQ

- UNHCR will provide 960,000 Iraqi IDPs (160,000 families) with winter assistance both in camps and in urban areas, targeting the newly displaced people from Ninewa, Salah-al-Din and Anbar governorates as well as other vulnerable IDPs across the country. In urban areas, families living in poor shelter conditions or with socio-economic vulnerabilities will be targeted. Identification of beneficiaries will be based on ongoing vulnerability assessments and verification involving partners and community representatives. In camps, assistance will include tent insulation kits, core relief items specific to winter (including blankets, heating stove, plastic sheet, and kerosene jerry cans), depending on identified needs, and one-off cash assistance of USD 200 per family (equivalent to approximately 280 litres of kerosene) to cover costs for heating fuel for the four-month winter period. IDP families living in host communities and out-of-camp settings will receive one-off cash assistance of USD 400 per family to cover their winter needs, including kerosene.
- UNHCR plans to provide 179,500 Syrian refugees (35,900 families) with winter assistance in light of needs and vulnerability identified through protection monitoring and communities, both in camps and in urban/rural areas. For refugees in camps, core relief item kit specific to winter and one-off cash assistance of USD 400 per family will be provided to cover the winter needs from November 2017 to February 2018. A core relief item kit consisting of shelter insulation kits, blankets, heating stoves, plastic tarpaulins, and kerosene jerry cans, and will be distributed to newly arrived IDPs and to those who have lost the items. In urban and rural locations outside of camps, UNHCR will provide where possible and required, a one-time cash assistance amounting to USD 400 per family, using mobile money transfers. UNHCR staff and partners will monitor distribution of winter assistance to ensure accountability of the process. Post-distribution monitoring will be carried out by the dedicated partner, focus group discussions and telephone interviews. UNHCR's field teams will also ensure monitoring and follow up.

Without additional funding, UNHCR will not be able to provide winter support to 870,000 IDPs (145,000 families) who are in desperate situations and rely heavily on the winter assistance. Considering the difficult and often limited shelter conditions in tents, unfinished buildings, and public buildings, IDPs often have to run their kerosene heaters around the clock during bouts of freezing temperatures and as such costs to cover the fuel needs is critical. The assistance reduces stress on health services, limiting the effect the winter conditions has on the health and wellbeing of the IDPs. Furthermore, the assistance allows beneficiaries to focus their otherwise limited resources on addressing other needs. For Syrian refugees, shortfall of funding will leave 149,500 refugees (29,900 families) with no assistance during the winter months.

EGYPT

- UNHCR plans to provide a one-off cash assistance to 87,000 Syrian refugees (27,000 families) and 1,250 Iraqi refugees (310 families) of at least USD 25 per person. Vulnerable refugees identified by partners or UNHCR through the social-economic vulnerability assessment will be targeted. The assistance will be distributed through Post Offices across the country, primarily in the three governorates of Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta and the distribution is planned to take place in November. UNHCR will be closely monitoring the winter programme through regular meetings with partners as well as through a post distribution monitoring planned for December.



Syrian refugees Nazih, his wife Fatima and their children warm their hands next to a stove inside their shelter at an informal settlement near Terbol in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, February/2017. ©UNHCR/David Azia

LINKS

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>; www.unhcr.org