

Syria and Iraq situations

(Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt)
As of 31 October 2017

This winter, UNHCR plans to provide winter assistance to **3.81 million vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees** in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

Distribution of winter assistance has already started in most of the countries in the region. As of 31 October, **over 650,000 Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees have been reached** with winter assistance.

The total budget for the Regional Winterization Plan is **USD 228 million** and covers the period from **September 2017 to March 2018**.

3.81 million*

Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees planned to be reached with winter assistance.

650,760 (17%)

People reached with winter assistance as of 31 October. Under the Regional Winterization Plan, most of the winter assistance will be provided during November.

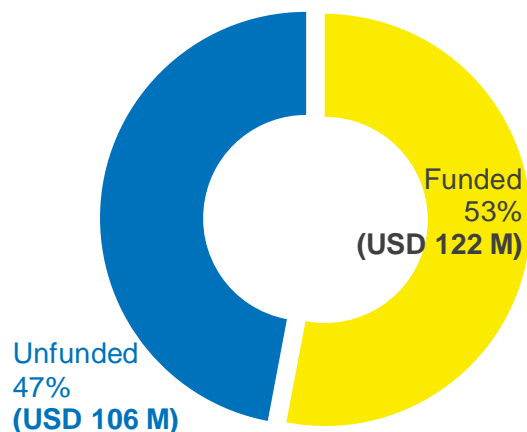
66%

Of the winter assistance will be delivered in the form of cash directly to IDPs and refugees.

FUNDING

USD 228 M

requested



UNHCR's winterization strategy focuses on three broad areas of intervention;



Winterization of shelter including shelter weather-proofing and repairs, and improvements to drainage systems and other infrastructure in camps and informal settlements



Provision of seasonal cash assistance for vulnerable families to meet their additional needs during the winter months



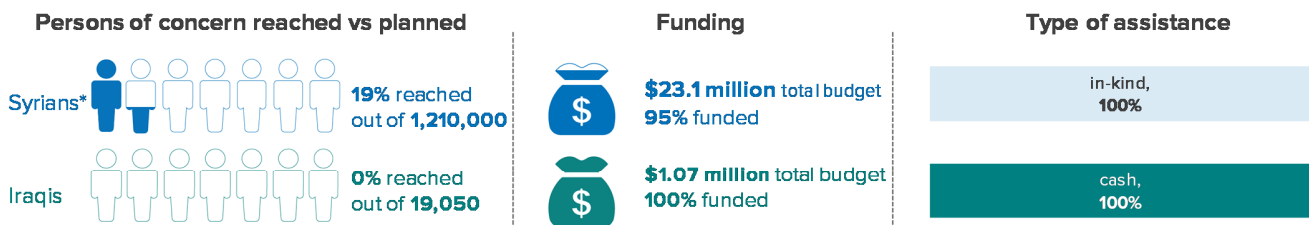
Provision of core relief items specific to winter such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, heaters and gas cylinders, and winter clothes

The winterization programme is implemented through UNHCR's own staff, government agencies, partners, and community outreach volunteers, in coordination with the broader inter-agency response platforms.

* The total number of people to be reached with winter assistance and budget has decreased compared to the original plan issued in September as the realistic availability of funds and timing has triggered a reassessment of the planning figures.

Country updates

SYRIA

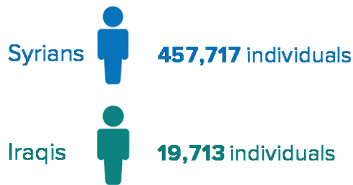


* Includes Syrian IDPs planned to be reached by UNHCR operations inside Syria and through cross-border operations from Turkey and Jordan.

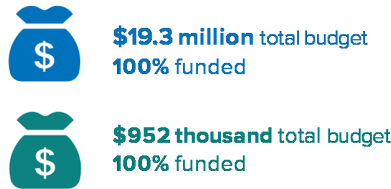
- As part of its Whole of Syria winter plan, UNHCR plans to assist over 1.2 million IDPs and has so far provided assistance to 270,290 individuals in several governorates across Syria. As of 31 October, 205,170 Syrian IDPs (41,907 families) have been reached from inside Syria with winter items including high thermal blankets, plastic sheeting, and winter clothing kits. Assistance has been so far distributed in Aleppo, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus, and Tartous governorates and priority has been given to newly displaced vulnerable families (including those who have been displaced multiple times) and those living in hard-to-reach or besieged areas and in sub-standard shelters.
- UNHCR has stepped up its response for IDPs in camps in north-east Syria including distribution of winter clothes and sleeping bags. However, high turnover in camps remains a challenge. As people enter and leave the camps in large numbers, there is limited time to conduct adequate assessment, identify those in need of winter support, and track beneficiaries.
- For cross-border interventions from Amman (Jordan), UNHCR aims to provide winter assistance composed of high thermal blankets, tarpaulins and winter clothing in addition to standard core relief items to 60,000 IDPs (12,000 families) in southern Syria. Of the 4,350 winter kits and extra blankets trans-shipped in October, around 250 items have been so far distributed to 1,240 individuals living in precarious habitation conditions in informal settlements or in higher altitude areas. Due to an upsurge in conflict in the Yarmouk valley, road access to reach north-western Dar'a and Quneitra governorates was temporarily interrupted.
- From Gaziantep (Turkey) hub, two trans-shipments with high thermal blankets, tarpaulins and solar lamps took place in October. So far 18,880 individuals (3,776 families) were provided with winter items in Idlib and Aleppo governorates. Due to the volatile security situations in Idlib, some partner organizations temporarily suspended their activities which caused a delay in the distribution of items.

TURKEY

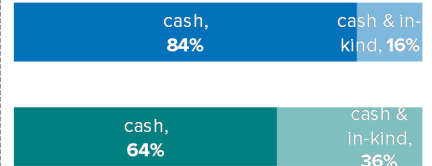
Persons of concern planned



Funding



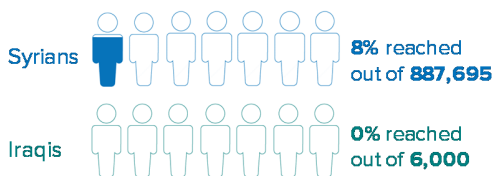
Type of assistance



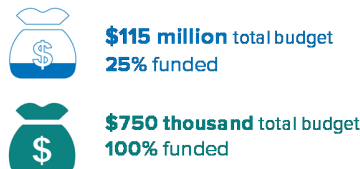
- The distribution of one-off seasonal cash assistance of USD 50 per person to 247,760 Syrian and Iraqi refugees (50,190 families) in urban areas is planned to take place in two phases – in November and December.
- For Syrian and Iraqi refugees in camps, agreement has been reached with the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) to replace part of the non-food item assistance (clothing) with cash assistance. A total of 229,670 Iraqi and Syrian refugees (46,281 families) will be provided with cash assistance of USD 28 per person and the distribution will take place in December.

LEBANON

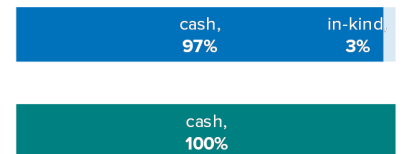
Persons of concern reached vs planned



Funding

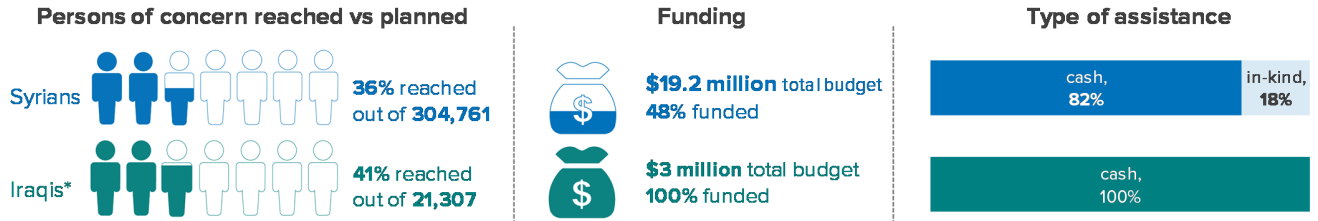


Type of assistance



- UNHCR's winter programme in Lebanon aims to assist the most vulnerable refugee families, who are living below the poverty line, to meet some of their additional seasonal needs. UNHCR aims to assist over 887,000 Syrian refugees and 6,000 Iraqi refugees with a winter cash assistance package. The targeting, prioritization and value of the package will depend on the availability of resources.
- In October, 14,100 weather-proofing shelter kits were distributed to 70,500 Syrian refugees (14,100 families) living in informal settlements. For Iraqi refugees, the winterization programme is harmonized with the Syrian refugees and nearly 6,000 vulnerable Iraqi refugees (2,000 families) will be provided with seasonal cash assistance.

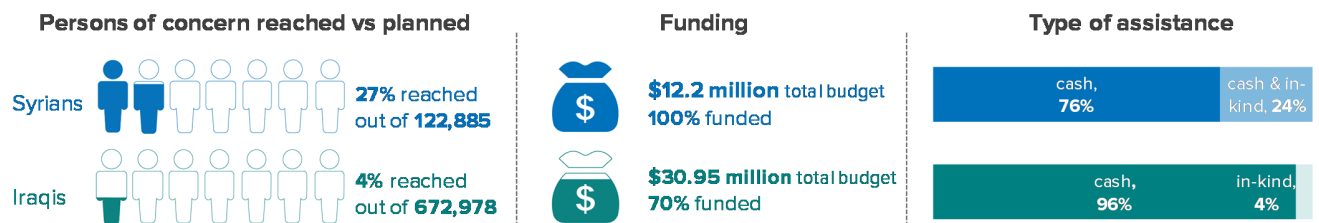
JORDAN



* The figure for Iraqis includes refugees of other nationalities.

- Distribution of winter assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Zaatari and Azraq camps began in October. UNHCR has reached 109,734 individuals with cash for gas to cover the cost of gas refills and unconditional cash to address shelter maintenance and cover other winter needs. Shelter repair interventions have started in both camps and will continue during the entire winter period, prioritizing the most vulnerable families. Distribution of shelter insulation materials, heaters and gas cylinders has also begun in Azraq camp.
- In urban areas, over 70,000 Syrian refugees (more than 16,000 families) will receive one-off cash assistance (per family) in November through the multi-agency Common Cash Facility system. In early December, a second round of winter cash assistance will be provided to additionally identified vulnerable Syrian families, primarily through the UNHCR Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) system. UNHCR and its partners will undertake regular monitoring of project activities, and engagement with cash beneficiaries will be part of UNHCR's post-distribution monitoring mechanism.
- For the Iraqis and refugees of other nationalities, one-off cash assistance at household level will be provided to 8,770 individuals in November through the Common Cash Facility system.

IRAQ

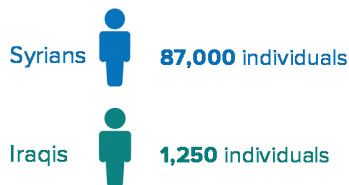


- UNHCR began its winterization programme in Iraq in October, aiming to reach nearly 800,000 vulnerable Iraqi IDPs and Syrian refugees over the next four months. A large part of the assistance will be cash-based, allowing families to decide for themselves how to spend the money on their most urgent needs during the difficult winter months.
- Identification of families who will receive cash assistance has already been finalized. In camps, assistance will consist of winter kits including a heating stove, high thermal blankets, and tent insulation kits, depending on identified needs and, in targeted camps, a one-off cash assistance of USD 200 - USD 400 per family to cover costs of heating fuel for four months.

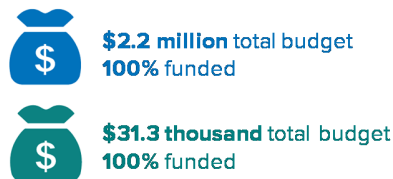
- IDP and refugee families living in host communities and out-of-camp settings will receive one-off cash assistance of USD 200 – USD 400 per family to cover their winter needs, including kerosene. Core relief items specific to winter have already been dispatched to UNHCR warehouses in the various locations, and so far 28,716 IDPs and 33,250 Syrian refugees have received winter items.
- Assistance targeting families displaced as a result of the recent Mosul offensive will cover 8,000 households living in urban areas, and 17,500 households living in camps. Each household will receive a winter kit or, for targeted camps, a mix of winter kits and cash payments.
- In central and southern Iraq, 15,000 displaced families (including 3,000 living in urban areas) will receive cash assistance or winter kits. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), where temperatures can fall to below zero at night, UNHCR plans to provide winter kits or cash assistance to 152,885 Syrian refugees (30,577 families) and to nearly 210,000 newly displaced Iraqis (35,000 families), including those living in and in the community.

EGYPT

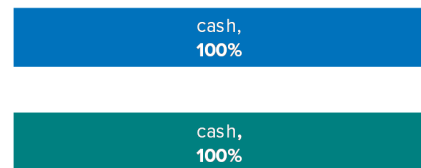
Persons of concern planned



Funding



Type of assistance



- UNHCR plans to provide 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, with distribution planned to begin by end November. The cash value is 75 per cent of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), defined as the household requirements to meet basic needs for winter.
- To ensure that vulnerable refugees receive 100 per cent of the MEB, UNICEF has agreed to complement the cash grant with a top-up amount of USD 10. The UNICEF fund will also allow UNHCR to extend its winterization assistance to an additional 25,200 persons (13,741 families) of other nationalities.

FUNDING

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the winter programme for Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees with unearmarked and earmarked funds. UNHCR is also grateful to private donors, charities and other organizations for their contributions.

CONTACTS

For more details, please contact UNHCR MENA Director's Office in Amman (Jordan) at: jorrherds@unhcr.org

LINKS

[Syria Regional Refugee Response portal](#); [UNHCR website](#)



UNHCR distributes winter items to families in east Aleppo, Syria, in October. © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf