

Syria and Iraq situations

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

UNHCR developed a regional winterization plan for 2017-2018 based on the **assessed needs of 3.81 million Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees** in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

With the generous contributions received so far, **UNHCR will provide support for up to 3.6 million Syrians and Iraqis during the winter months.** The winterization programme covers the period from September 2017 to March 2018.

As of 31 December 2017, **over 3.1 million Syrians and Iraqis have been reached** with winterization support. This includes 2.6 million Syrians and over 500,000 Iraqis.

3.81 million

Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees assessed to be in need of winterization support.

3.6 million*

Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees to be assisted with the contributions received so far.

3.1 million (86%)

People reached with winter assistance as of 31 December 2017

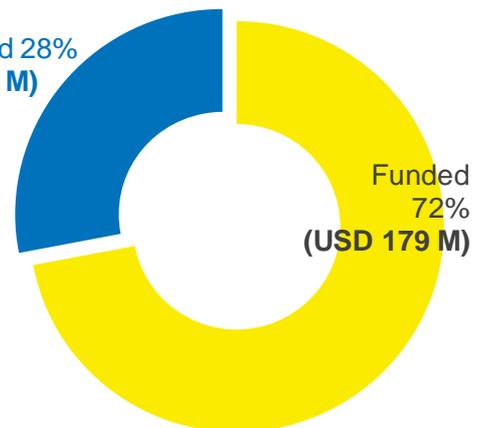
(Over 2 million people were supported with seasonal cash assistance and more than 1 million people with winter items)

FUNDING

USD 250 M

requested

Unfunded 28%
(USD 71 M)



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.



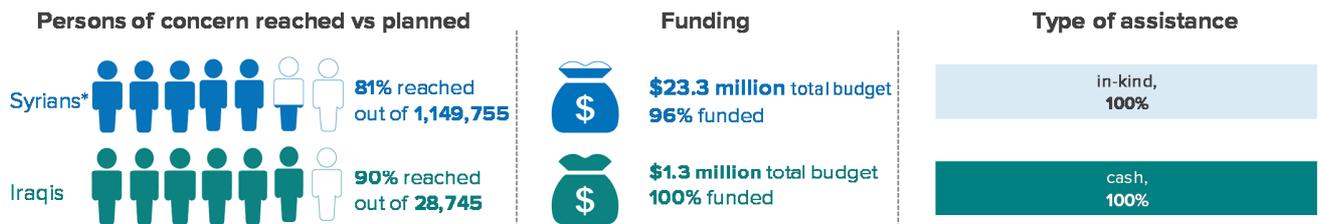
Provision of core relief items specific to winter such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, heaters and gas cylinders, and winter clothes.

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 the budget have increased since the November report due to the additional funding received in December 2017.

Country updates

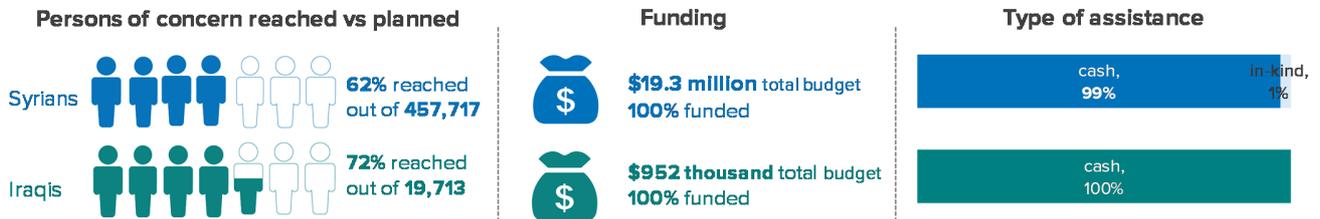
SYRIA



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

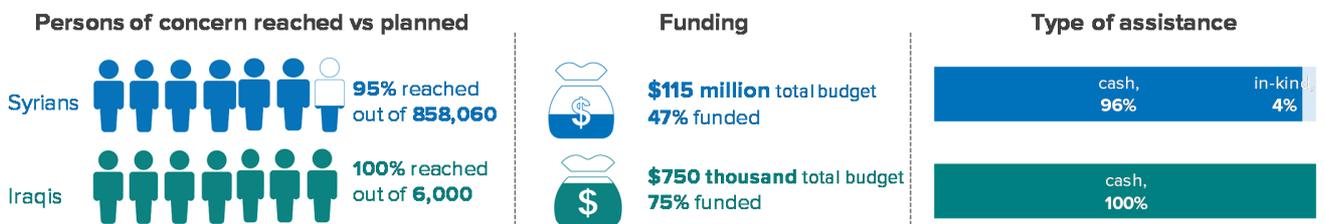
- As part of its Whole of Syria winter plan, UNHCR aims to assist over 1.15 million IDPs. Winterization support has so far been provided to over 927,500 individuals across Syria (including cross-border interventions).
- As of 31 December, some 809,091 Syrian IDPs (169,921 families) have been reached from inside Syria with winter items such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheeting, and winter clothing kits in 13 governorates. Priority has been given to newly displaced vulnerable families (including people displaced multiple times), people living in hard-to-reach or besieged areas and in sub-standard shelters. Lack of approvals continue to affect timely delivery of winterization items. A contingency stock of 35,000 kits will be maintained throughout the country at various hubs for emergency response in case of a sudden displacement.
- For cross-border interventions from Amman (Jordan), UNHCR aims to provide winter items to nearly 69,000 people in need in southern Syria. Between October and December 2017, UNHCR distributed winter clothing to 44,975 vulnerable individuals including IDPs, returnees and members of host communities, prioritizing those living in colder and higher altitude locations, or in tented settlements. In addition, core relief kits specific to winter (high thermal blankets and tarpaulins) was provided to more than 38,000 individuals.
- From Gaziantep (Turkey), 2,000 winterized core-relief kits were trans-shipped to northern Syria in December to assist 10,000 people in need. The assistance targeted vulnerable IDPs and host communities in Al Bab and Jarablus sub-districts in Aleppo Governorate. In total, 73,440 individuals (14,688 households) have been assisted with winterized core-relief item kits in northern Syria between October and December 2017.
- UNHCR finalized its 2017-2018 winterization programme for refugees and asylum seekers in Syria in December. Almost 26,000 individuals (8,081 families) benefitted from a one-time cash assistance ranging from USD 116 for small families to USD 194 for families with seven or more members.

TURKEY



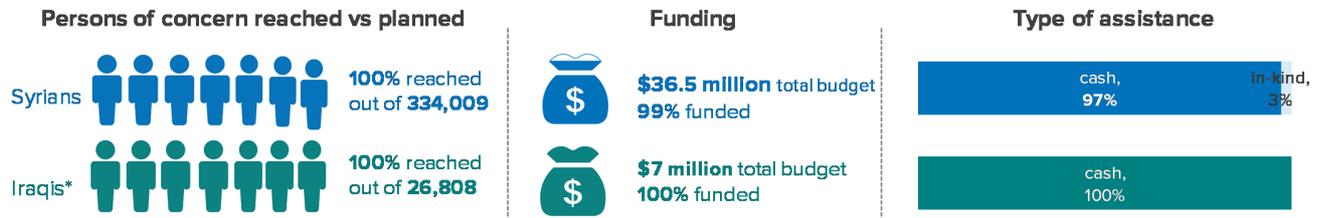
- UNHCR began the distribution of one-off seasonal cash assistance of USD 50 per person in November to Syrian and Iraqi refugees residing outside camps. As of 31 December, 227,911 Syrian refugees (46,629 families) and 14,102 Iraqi refugees (3,740 families) have received unrestricted, multi-purpose cash grants though pre-loaded debit cards issued by Turkey's Post and Telecommunication Office (PTT). The cards can be used to withdraw cash from ATM machines or through a debit system in any shop, a new feature introduced in 2017 based on the feedback received from beneficiaries through the post-distribution monitoring exercise.
- According to the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD), there are 229,007 Syrian and Iraqi refugees (45,818 families) in 19 camps across the country. As of 31 December, 54,185 individuals (10,837 families) received their PTT cards with the value of USD 28 per person. The rest of the refugees will be provided with winter assistance in January 2018.

LEBANON



- UNHCR's winterization programme started in Lebanon in early November. By the end of December, 783,625 highly and severely vulnerable Syrian refugees (156,725 families) received seasonal cash assistance through ATM cards (common cards used by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF). Beneficiaries are informed by SMS about their eligibility based on their vulnerability, which is assessed by UNHCR and partners. UNHCR's call centre capacity has been increased in order to accommodate queries and complaints regarding the seasonal assistance. UNHCR has also supported over 30,000 Lebanese host community members with fuel vouchers and blankets in the Bekaa valley. Furthermore, 14,100 weatherproofing shelter kits were distributed to 120,680 people (24,136 families) living in informal settlements.
- The winterization programme for Iraqi refugees is harmonized with the Syrian programme and so far 5,980 vulnerable Iraqi refugees (1,495 families) received seasonal cash assistance.

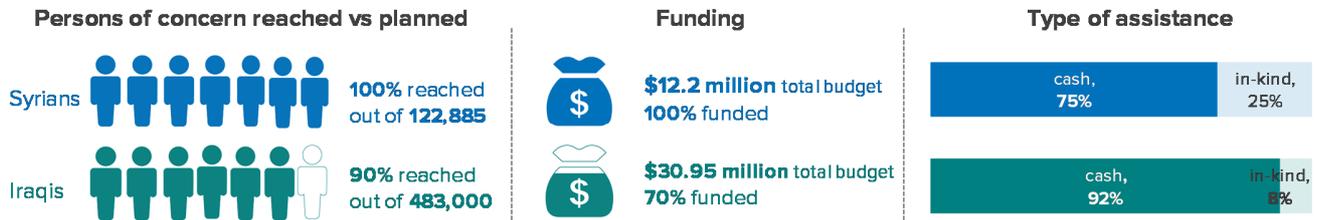
JORDAN



* The figure for Iraqis include refugees of other nationalities.

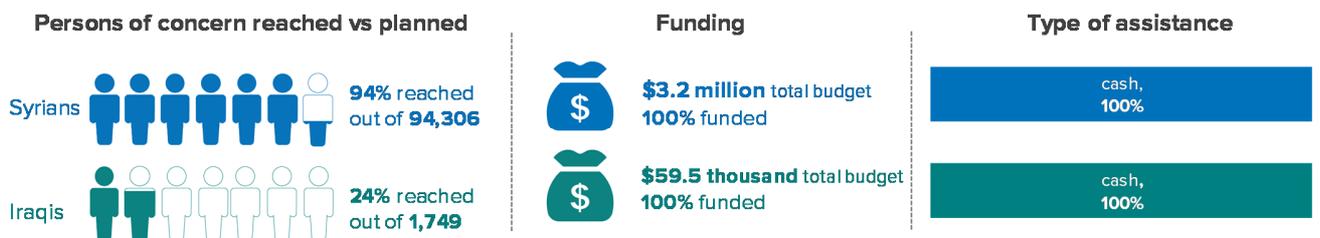
- UNHCR largely concluded its 2017-2018 winterization assistance in advance of the coldest months. In urban areas, UNHCR provided cash assistance to 219,040 individuals Syrian refugees (48,149 families) and 26,808 refugees of other nationalities (13,354 families) through the multi-agency Common Cash Facility system for the purchase of winter items.
- Distribution of in-kind and cash assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Zaatari and Azraq camps began in October, with the final distribution of insulation materials to be concluded imminently. As of end December, UNHCR provided winterization assistance to over 24,000 families in both camps. Shelter repair interventions will continue in both camps, prioritizing the most vulnerable families and deteriorated shelters.
- For refugees in urban areas, help desks and mobile help desks have been established across the country, comprising UNHCR protection, field and community services teams. In view of the harsh weather, help desks located in areas with the highest concentration of vulnerable refugees have doubled the frequency of their presence which will allow timely and better access to and provision of assistance to the most vulnerable families. Through the collaboration of 25 Community Support Committees across the country catering to all refugee nationalities, UNHCR and its partners continue to monitor the condition of vulnerable refugees through outreach activities, referring people for follow up and assistance where needed. A particular focus of the outreach teams are informal tented settlements located in hard to reach areas where the most vulnerable people reside.
- In camps, UNHCR has established inter-agency contingency plans for harsh weather. The multi-sectorial response plans include water and sanitation, health, non-food items, shelter, roads and infrastructure with a 24-hour response capacity. Contingency stocks of high thermal blankets, plastic sheeting and other non-food items are in place and released on a case by case basis.

IRAQ



- As of 31 December, UNHCR has provided 433,104 IDPs (72,184 families) with winter assistance in camps and urban areas, targeting newly displaced people from Ninewa, Salah-al-Din and Anbar governorates as well as other vulnerable IDPs across the country. A large part of the assistance is cash-based, allowing families to decide for themselves how to spend the money, prioritizing their most urgent needs during the difficult winter months. UNHCR has disbursed a one-off cash assistance payment, ranging between USD 200 and 400, to 397,044 vulnerable IDPs (66,174 families) living in camps and urban areas. In camps, UNHCR also distributed core relief items specific to winter (including blankets, heating stove, plastic sheet, and kerosene jerry cans) to 36,060 displaced Iraqis (6,010 families).
- UNHCR has provided 122,645 Syrian refugees (24,529 families) with winter assistance - 92,045 refugees (18,409 families) have received winter cash assistance in camps and urban areas, and 30,600 refugees (6,120 families) in camps have received core relief item kits.

EGYPT



- UNHCR and UNICEF launched the winter assistance programme for 94,306 Syrian refugees (28,733 families) and 1,373 Iraqi refugees (527 families) in Egypt in November 2017. An amount of USD 34 was defined as the household requirements to meet basic needs during winter (Winter Minimum Expenditure Basket, MEB). UNICEF complemented UNHCR's winter budget by USD 1.5 million which allowed UNHCR to provide the entire MEB of USD 34, and to ensure that additional vulnerable refugees could be assisted.
- As of end December, some 88,647 Syrian refugees (94 per cent of targeted Syrian refugees), collected their cash assistance through the post office. Despite SMS reminders, only 425 Iraqi refugees (24% of the target) collected the cash assistance. UNHCR will continue sending reminders to families who have not collected their winter assistance, which can be collected until January. A post-distribution monitoring will be conducted in February.

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](#)



A 47-year-old Syrian woman sits in her caravan in Azraq camp in Jordan, which has benefitted from insulation for the winter. December 2017 © UNHCR/M.Hawari