

Syria and Iraq situations

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

As of 30 November 2017

UNHCR developed a regional winterization plan for 2017-2018 based on the **assessed most vulnerable 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 2.8 million Syrians and Iraqis during the winter months.** The winterization programme covers the period from September 2017 to March 2018.

As of 30 November 2017, **over 1.8 million Syrians and Iraqis have been reached** with winterization support. This includes 1.5 million Syrians and over 300,000 Iraqis.

3.81 million*

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

2.8 million

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

1.8 million (64%)

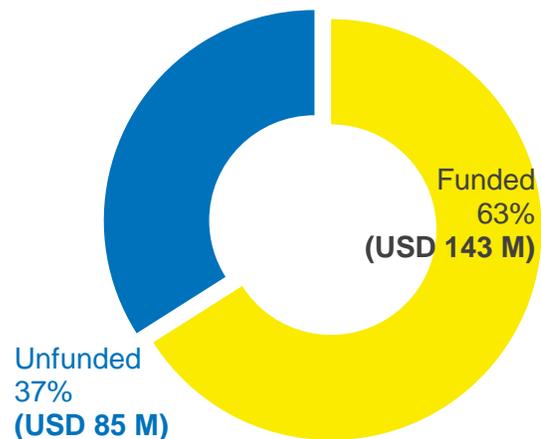
People reached with winter assistance as of 30 November

(1.2 million people with seasonal cash assistance and over 600,000 people with winter items)

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, 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.



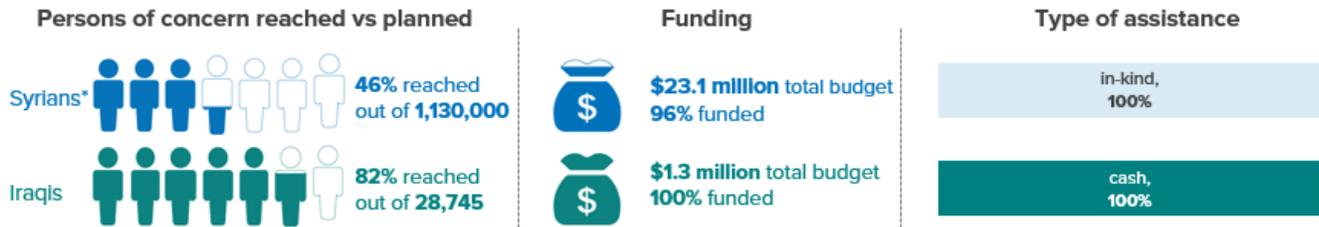
Provision of core relief items specific to winter such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, heaters and gas cylinders, and winter clothes.

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 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



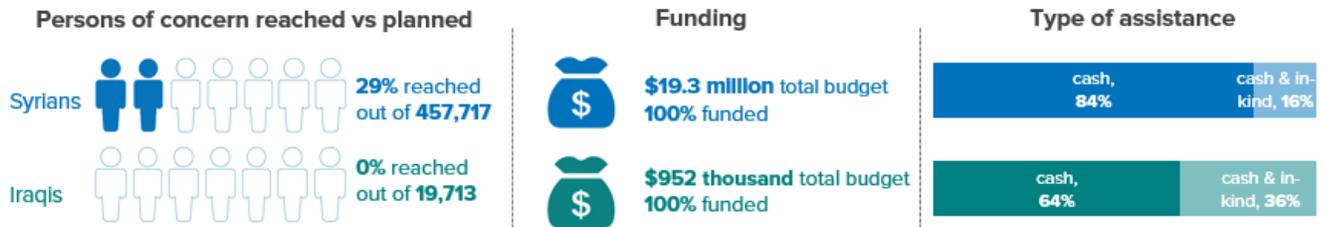
* Includes Syrian IDPs planned to be reached by UNHCR operations inside Syria and through cross-border operations from Turkey and Jordan.

- As part of its Whole of Syria winter plan, UNHCR plans to assist over 1.1 million IDPs and has so far provided winterization support to over 515,000 individuals across Syria (including cross-border interventions). As of 30 November 2017, some 446,652 Syrian IDPs (89,330 families) have been reached from inside Syria with winter items such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheeting, and winter clothing kits in Aleppo, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Quneitra, Rural Damascus, and Tartous 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 60,000 IDPs, returnees and members of host communities in southern Syria, prioritising those living in colder and higher altitude locations, or in tented settlements. In October and November 2017, some 1,028 winter kits including high thermal blankets and tarpaulins were distributed in southern Syria. An additional 3,825 winter clothing kits will be transported over the border from Jordan into Southern Syria and pre-positioned (trans-shipped) in December. In November 2017, road access to north-western Dar'a and Quneitra was restored.
- From Gaziantep, Turkey UNHCR completed five trans-shipments of 8,912 winterized core relief item kits to northern Syria to assist 44,560 people. The assistance targeted vulnerable IDPs and host communities in Aleppo and Idlib governorates. A total of 63,440 people have been assisted with winter kits in north-west Syria through the Gaziantep hub since October 2017.



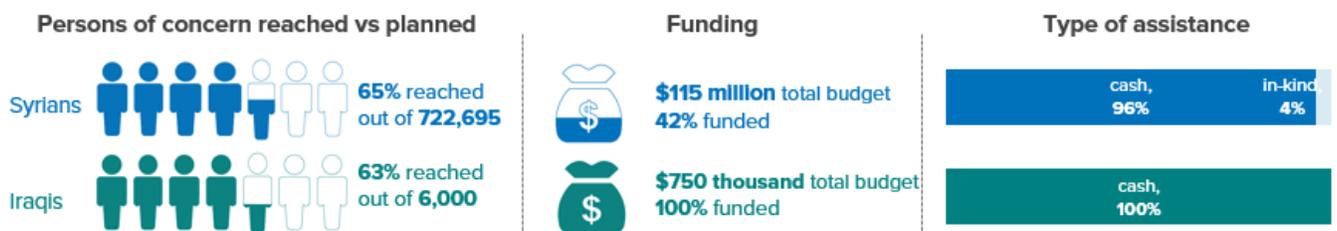
UNHCR continues to distribute winter items to families in neighborhoods in east Aleppo. © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

TURKEY



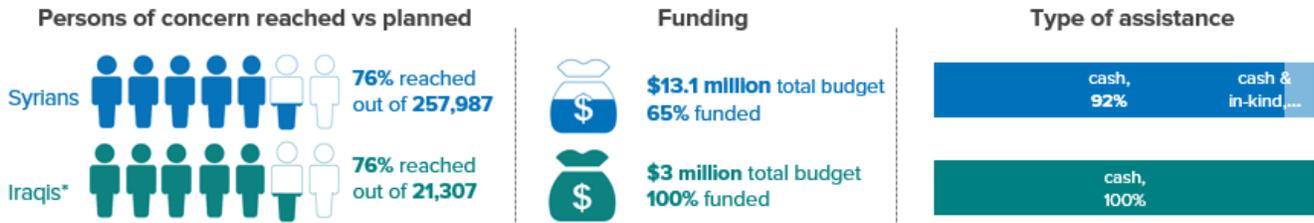
- In November, UNHCR began the distribution of one-off seasonal cash assistance of USD 50 per person to Syrian and Iraqi refugees residing outside camps. As of 30 November, some 133,435 Syrian refugees (26,687 families) received cash assistance through pre-loaded debit cards issued by Turkey's Post and Telecommunication Office (PTT). The cards can be used to withdraw cash from ATM machines or through a debit system in any shop which is part of Master Card circuit, a new feature introduced this year based on the feedback received from beneficiaries through the post-distribution monitoring exercise. The rest of the 457,717 Syrian refugees targeted and all Iraqis targeted outside camps will be provided with cash assistance in December.
- Around 229,007 Syrian and Iraqi refugees in 19 camps locations will receive cash assistance of USD 28 per person in December 2017. This will also be provided through pre-loaded debit cards issued by the PTT.

LEBANON



- In early November 2017, UNHCR's winterization programme started in Lebanon. To date about 479,765 highly and severely vulnerable Syrian refugees (95,953 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 470,000 Syrians and host community members with fuel vouchers and blankets in Bekaa valley. Furthermore, 14,100 weather proofing shelter kits were distributed to 70,500 persons (14,100 families) living in informal settlements.
- For Iraqi refugees, the winterization programme is harmonized with the Syrian refugees and so far 3,774 vulnerable Iraqi refugees (1,258 families) received seasonal cash assistance.

JORDAN



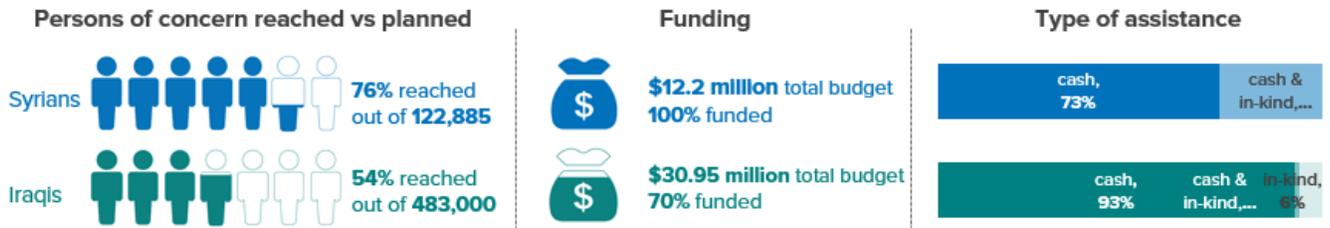
* The figure for Iraqis include refugees of other nationalities.

- In urban areas, 72,632 Syrian refugees (16,793 families) received a one-off cash assistance (at family level) in November 2017 through the multi-agency Common Cash Facility system. In December 2017, 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 of cash beneficiaries will be part of UNHCR's post-distribution monitoring mechanism.
- Distribution of winter assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Zaatari and Azraq camps began in October 2017. UNHCR has reached 114,969 individuals (24,271 families) with cash for gas to cover the cost of gas refills and cash for winterization for shelter maintenance. 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.
- For the Iraqis and refugees of other nationalities, a one-off cash assistance at household level was provided to 16,283 individuals (6,488 families) in November 2017 through the Common Cash Facility system. A cash top-up for extremely vulnerable families will be provided in December 2017 and additionally-identified vulnerable families will be included in the distribution of one-off cash for winter.



A Syrian refugee, second right, has her identity checked with iris recognition technology before queuing to receive winter cash assistance at Zaatari refugee camp, Mafraq Governorate, Jordan. © UNHCR/David Azia

IRAQ

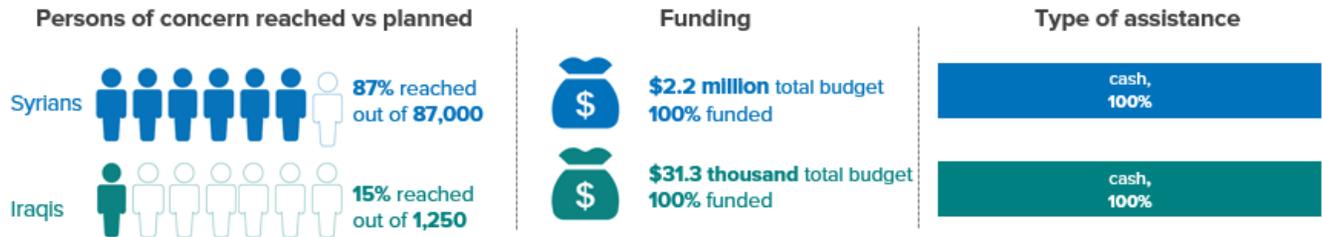


- As of 30 November 2017, UNHCR has provided 258,822 IDPs (43,137 families) with winter assistance in camps and urban areas, targeting the newly displaced people from Ninewa, Salah-al-Din and Anbar governorates and other vulnerable IDPs across the country. A large part of the assistance is cash-based, allowing families to decide for themselves how to spend the money on their most urgent needs during the difficult winter months. UNHCR has disbursed a one-off cash assistance, ranging between USD 200 and 400, to 222,762 IDPs (37,127 families) living in camps and urban areas. In camps, UNHCR distributed core relief items specific to winter (including blankets, heating stoves, plastic sheets, and kerosene jerry cans) to 36,060 displaced Iraqis (6,010 families).
- UNHCR has provided 93,580 Syrian refugees (15,596 families) with winter assistance. Of this number, 60,330 refugees (10,055 families) in camps and urban areas received winter cash assistance of USD 400 per family, while 33,250 Syrian refugees (5,542 families) in camps have received winter core relief item kits. The identification is based on vulnerability assessments and verification conducted together with partners and community representatives.



Distribution of essential household items for winter to Syrian refugees living in urban areas in Dohuk Governorate. November 2017 © UNHCR/Rasheed Hussein

EGYPT



- UNHCR and UNICEF launched the winter assistance programme for 129,000 vulnerable refugees in Egypt in November 2017. The unconditional cash assistance of a minimum USD 34 per person was disbursed, through post offices across the country and ATMs to refugees assessed to be in need of winter assistance, primarily in the three governorates of Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta.
- The disbursement of cash grants was accompanied by awareness raising via social media, which provides practical advice on winterization measures to be taken at household level. Vulnerable refugees, entitled to receive the grant, are identified by UNHCR or partners through the social-economic vulnerability assessment and cover all nationalities of refugees in Egypt including Syrians and Iraqis.
- UNHCR will closely monitor the collection rate of assistance through weekly reports provided by the post office. Regular meetings with partners, community members and refugees during the distribution period will also support the monitoring process.

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](#)