

2020-2021 Regional Winterization Programme Progress Report #2

November-December 2020

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria

This winter, UNHCR aims to reach over **3.1 million¹** Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees (including refugees of other nationalities) with winterization assistance in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. For many, this is the tenth consecutive winter in displacement.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions received for its winterization programme which have facilitated early provision of assistance in many countries across the region, allowing vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees to be prepared for the harsh winter season.

The distribution of winterization assistance is underway in all country operations and as of 31 December 2020, **over 1.7 million people** have been reached. The winterization programme covers the period from September 2020 to March 2021.



3.1 million vulnerable people in need of winterization assistance¹

including

2.5 million Syrians

&

479,930 Iraqis and refugees of other nationalities²



Over 1.7 million people reached with winterization assistance as of 31 December 2020 (55%)



Total funding requirements: USD 211.3 million (88% funded as of 31 December 2020)



Distribution of core relief items and winterization items in Aleppo, Syria. Photo by @UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

¹ UNHCR's comprehensive target of reaching 3.8 million persons with winterization assistance was revised down reflecting a prioritized target that UNHCR Syria is able to meet within this winter season.

² This includes refugees of other nationalities in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria covered under the Iraq situation. In Iraq and Egypt, UNHCR estimates that an **additional 127,200 vulnerable refugees** of other nationalities are in need of winterization assistance. They are included within the overall planning figure of 3.1 million.

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



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, and winter clothes.



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

- 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 provision of seasonal cash assistance does not overlap with the provision of core relief items and shelter assistance for winter.

SYRIA

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 December)

SYRIANS



Individuals

725,000 individuals targeted*
458,307 individuals reached

Type of Assistance

In-kind: 100%

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



Individuals

15,195 individuals targeted
13,794 individuals reached

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

* Includes 675,000 Syrian IDPs planned to be reached by UNHCR operations inside Syria and 50,000 IDPs through cross-border operation from Gaziantep (Turkey).
 UNHCR's comprehensive target of reaching 1.35 million persons with winter assistance through operations inside Syria was revised down. The revised target of 675,000 represents the prioritized target that UNHCR Syria is able to meet within this winter season.

- Between September and December, UNHCR Syria provided almost 420,000 individuals (approximately 92,000 families) with in-kind winter assistance. The distributed items include high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping bags, winter jackets and winter clothing kits. UNHCR has prioritized the needs of the 675,000 most vulnerable people, including recent returnees, people living in hard-to-reach areas and in sub-standard shelters, who have not been assisted in the past.
- In Syria, all urban refugees individually registered with UNHCR receive an unconditional one-time multi-purpose cash grant. The average amount of SYP 426,000 (around USD 340) is fixed for a family of five. The winterization grant is intended to help families meet their increased needs during the winter months and mitigate the risks of negative coping mechanisms. The transfer value of the cash grant has been calculated by the Cash Working Group based on costs of in-kind assistance and heating fuel for four months (November to February). Due to the operational context, the assistance is delivered to the beneficiary in direct cash. Between November and December, almost 13,800 refugees (around 5,000 families) received multi-purpose cash grants. The main challenges were related to the bank liquidity and network connectivity in some distribution areas.
- The UNHCR Cross-Border operation from Turkey started its winterization assistance in November, and trans-shipment of all 10,000 winter core relief item (CRI) kits to north-west Syria was completed in 2020. As of end-December, around 8,000 CRI kits have already been distributed to vulnerable persons of concern in north-west Syria through UNHCR partners. The winter CRI kit contains four foam mattresses, five high thermal blankets, two plastic tarpaulins, one carpet, and one hygiene parcel. Distributions are ongoing with COVID-19 safety measures in place and expected to be completed by January 2021. For information on the response to the flooding in north-west Syria in 2021, please refer to the Flash Updates [#1](#) and [#2](#).

LEBANON

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 December)

SYRIANS

Individuals

1.1 million individuals targeted
629,934 individuals reached

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

Individuals

7,843 individuals targeted
1,186 individuals reached

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

- UNHCR remains the only agency planning large-scale winter assistance for refugees in Lebanon. In November and December, over 631,100 people (158,590 families) including almost 630,000 Syrian refugees (158,075 families) and some 1,190 refugees of other nationalities (515 families) received winter cash assistance for an amount of LBP 954,000 per family (corresponding to four months winter assistance). In parallel, during the same period, cards were distributed to around 30,000 families bringing the total number of cards distributed since the start of UNHCR's winterization programme to 34,049. Meanwhile, 36,000 families had their cards validated remotely leading to a total of 101,919 cards validated. Distributions of cards was temporarily suspended during the second half of November due to a two-week lockdown declared by the Lebanese authorities in response to the COVID-19 situation.
- In addition, as part of UNHCR's regular programme and with funding outside of the Winterization Plan, in November and December UNHCR distributed almost 64,000 items including medium and high thermal blankets, mattresses, sleeping mats, hygiene kits, solar lamps, food parcels and clothing items to poor Lebanese. An additional 149,000 items were distributed to refugees. In a bid to support the most vulnerable among the hosting community, UNHCR also completed the distribution of winter cash assistance (LBP 954,000 per family) to 8,174 poor Lebanese families.
- As part of its regular programme, by mid-December UNHCR also finalized the distribution of weatherproofing kits and shelter materials to vulnerable refugees challenged with sub-standard shelter conditions and living in informal settlements across the country. Needs were identified and assistance was targeted based on the findings of a "door-to-door" technical assessment, with over 65 per cent of people assessed found eligible for assistance. More than 26,000 Syrian refugee households (138,000 individuals) were assisted. UNHCR and partners continue to be mobilized, with shelter kits and materials in stock to ensure immediate response to any occurring emergency event.

JORDAN

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 December)

SYRIANS

Individuals

340,000 individuals targeted
240,919 individuals reached

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

Individuals

45,000 individuals targeted
27,694 individuals reached

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

- During November and December, UNHCR distributed winter cash assistance to over 268,600 individuals (a total of 66,709 families, including 54,416 Syrian families and 12,239 families of other nationalities). Please see the [winterization dashboard](#) for additional information. UNHCR Jordan completed its winterization programme in December, reaching all prioritized families.



UNHCR helps refugee families in Jordan with cash assistance this winter.
 Photo by ©UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

- A market survey was conducted to identify the average costs of winter items and two standard packages were developed – one for families not on monthly basic needs assistance and another (reduced package) for cases on monthly assistance. The average cost of the full package is JOD 233 (around USD 329) and the average cost of the reduced package is JOD 190 (around USD 268). Both packages aim to cover winter assistance for a period of four months and persons of concern will receive cash assistance once.

IRAQ

SYRIANS

IRAQI REFUGEES

REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED



Individuals

174,625 individuals targeted
70,373 individuals reached



Individuals

407,856 individuals targeted*
237,394 individuals reached



Individuals

36,005 individuals targeted
2,965 individuals reached

(as of 31 December)

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100 %

* Humanitarian partners in Iraq, including UNHCR, recently re-engaged in providing assistance to an IDP camp that presented critical needs which resulted in the increase of the total number of IDP beneficiaries from 391,182 to 407,856 individuals.

- Winter cash assistance started in mid-December. A total of 237,394 Iraqi IDPs (45,829 families), 70,373 Syrian refugees (21,133 families), and 2,965 refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities (593 families) received their cash assistance through two financial service providers, Asia Hawala and Zain Cash, as of end-December. The assistance was provided through mobile e-wallets for IDPs and through iris scan authentication mechanism (Eye Pay) at cash out for refugees.
- Implementation during December presented some challenges in relation to the liquidity issues faced by the financial service providers and their agents, devaluation of the Iraqi Dinar, as well as extended holidays by the banks.

EGYPT

SYRIANS

IRAQIS REFUGEES

REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES

PERSONS OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED



Individuals

85,500 individuals targeted
17,675 individuals reached



Individuals

4,033 individuals targeted
348 individuals reached



Individuals

91,200 individuals targeted
18,445 individuals reached

(as of 31 December)

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

Type of Assistance

Cash: 100%

- UNHCR is the only agency implementing large-scale winter assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt. As of end-December a total of almost 36,500 people had received one-off winter cash assistance. This total includes 17,675 Syrian refugees, 348 Iraqi refugees, and 18,445 refugees of other nationalities, primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In November and December, UNHCR's focus was on targeting, scheduling distributions in line with COVID-19 safety measures and service provider capacities, as well as scaling up efforts on communication with communities. Along with SMS communication, calls to over 9,000 cases were conducted informing about their assistance entitlements.



Withdrawal of winter cash assistance by Syrian refugees in the camps in Iraq via EyePay. Photo by @UNHCR/Hayder Tareq Salman

Donors:

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the winterization programme for the Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees, including refugees of other nationalities, with unearmarked and earmarked funds as well as those who have contributed directly to the operations.

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