

SYRIA AND IRAQ SITUATIONS

REGIONAL WINTER ASSISTANCE PROGRESS REPORT

January 2016

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



Syrian refugee children along with their mother trying to remove water from in front of their tent before reaching inside. (Bekaa, Lebanon, January 2016) © UNHCR/Haidar Darwish

Torrential rain, snow storms and flooding hit the Middle East during the month of January, creating more difficulties for millions of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the region. UNHCR staff worked around the clock to help people endure the cold freezing temperatures by delivering emergency supplies including cash vouchers to help the most vulnerable refugees purchase needed items, as well as provision of fuel, stoves, blankets and weatherproofing kits.

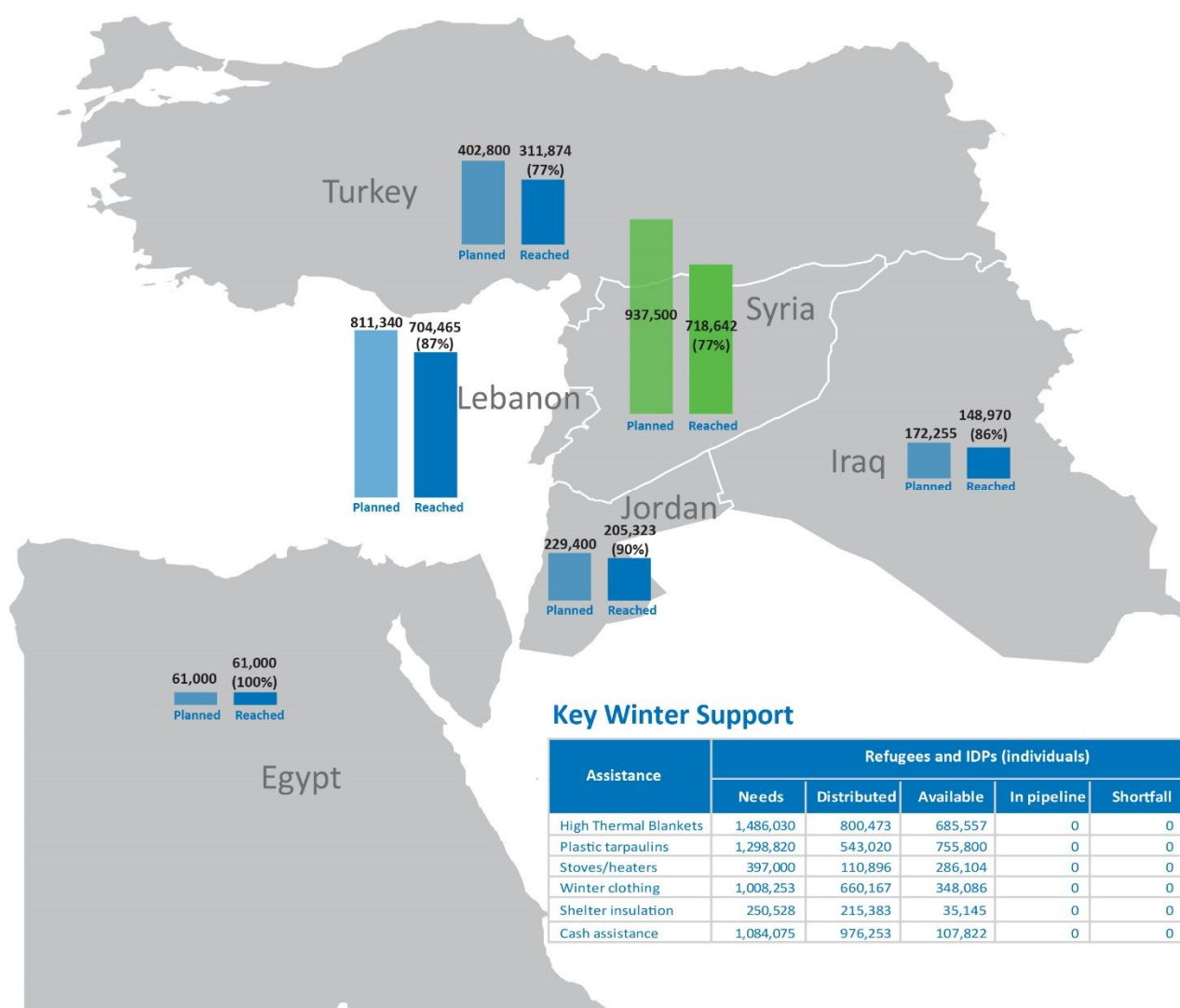
As of 20 January, 82 per cent of the total Syrian refugees and IDPs and nearly 48 per cent of the total Iraqi refugees and IDPs identified for UNHCR winter support have received assistance. The current budget for the Syria situation regional winter plan is USD 154 million (USD 141 million for Syrian refugees and USD 13 million for Syrian IDPs) and for the Iraq situation regional winter plan is USD 30 million (USD 10 million for Iraqi refugees and USD 20 million for Iraqi IDPs).

Both the plans are 100 per cent funded and UNHCR is grateful to the Governments, charities and other organizations for their contributions which have helped UNHCR to significantly increase its original planning figures for winter 2015-2016 assistance.

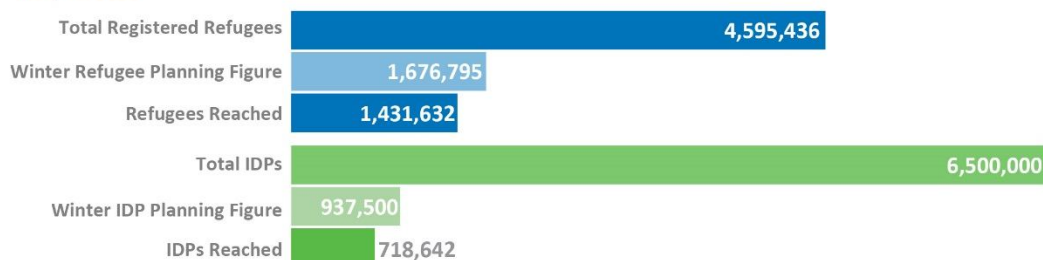
SYRIA SITUATION

UNHCR's regional winter plan for the Syria situation will address the winter needs of **2.7 million Syrians** (1.6 million refugees and 1 million IDPs). As of 20 January, UNHCR has distributed winter core relief items (CRI) to more than **600,000 Syrian refugees in the region and over 700,000 IDPs in Syria**. Additional cash assistance for the winter months was provided to almost 1 million Syrian refugees.

REFUGEE AND IDP PLANNING FIGURES AND DISTRIBUTION FOR UNHCR WINTER ASSISTANCE (INDIVIDUALS)



Key Facts



11.1 million
Total Refugees and IDPs



2.6 million (24%)
Refugees and IDPs
Winter Planning Figure



2.1 million (82%)
Refugees and IDPs
reached

SYRIA

The winter programme in Syria started in October 2015 and, as of 18 January 2016, a total of 511,142 individuals (105,499 families) living in Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama, Al-Hasakeh, Quneitra, Dar'a, Tartous and Latakia governorates were assisted with winter supplementary items (not all beneficiaries were assisted with the entire winter package as beneficiaries are assisted only with the required items). Although the target for winter support provided from inside Syria remains 750,000 individuals (150,000 families), due to the emerging needs in hard-to-reach and besieged areas, UNHCR has decided to make additional 50,000 kits of winter clothing available. Furthermore, families living in skeleton buildings and other sub-standard shelters in Aleppo were provided with additional sleeping bags and winterized shelter kits.

Cross-border intervention from Jordan

UNHCR has completed distribution of winter CRIs including hygiene kits, reaching its target of distributing 13,500 winter kits in central and southern Dar'a Governorate. Of the 4,000 winter kits distributed in January, 1,800 were re-directed to the towns of Nawa and Dael in Dar'a Governorate (as part of a coordinated sector response) to respond to the urgent needs of families from the recent displacement from Sheikh Miskine (Dar'a Governorate). The Jordan Hub Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Working Group continues to meet regularly and is on track to assist 155,000 individuals in southern Syria through a coordinated distribution of seven organizations.

Cross border intervention from Turkey

Security incidents at the Bab al-Hawa crossing point between Syria and Turkey had an adverse effect on the cross-border trans-shipments. During the month of January, 4,000 winterization kits were trans-shipped to Aleppo Governorate and 55,000 individuals (11,000 families) were assisted with winter kits in Aleppo and Idlib governorates.

TURKEY

Delivery of winterization items to the camps continued. As of 20 January, 284,837 winter clothes, 271,128 pairs of winter boots, 288,109 high thermal blankets and 24,986 heaters have been delivered to the camps.

LEBANON

In response to winter storm 'Vladimir' that hit the country on the first day of the New Year, UNHCR and its partners in the Bekaa Valley and Northern Lebanon activated their contingency plans to assist those affected by the heavy rain, very low temperatures, cold wind and snowfall. As temperatures plummeted, UNHCR, in coordination with partners and the relevant municipalities, distributed over 1,500 blankets that had been pre-positioned to be rapidly provided in the event of adverse weather conditions. More than 150 households across Northern Lebanon received extra plastic sheeting to limit water leakages and works are on-going to repair 10 sites damaged by heavy rains.

Nearly 140,000 Syrian households have now received three months of winter cash assistance in the amounts of USD 147 per month for those living above 500 metres, and USD 100 per month for those living below 500 metres. The assistance will directly benefit 700,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon and provide them with the means to support themselves during the winter months. In January, UNHCR continued to reach out to all refugees eligible for winter cash assistance, both through the two-way SMS verification process and individual calls, particularly to those who failed to show up for the cash card distribution. The no-show rate currently remains at 19 per cent.

So far, a total of 8,060 families have received fuel cards in the north-eastern Lebanese city of Aarsal. UNHCR and its partners are monitoring developments in Aarsal and are conducting distributions of fuel cards when the security situation allows. Nearly 54,000 high thermal blankets and quilts have been distributed and pre-positioned in 16 of Lebanon's 26 districts as a contingency stock in the event of extreme winter storms. Partners have also assisted in distributing more than 2,300 diesel stoves throughout Lebanon.

As per the agreement of November between UNHCR with WFP to support 5,000 extremely vulnerable Lebanese families through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), directed by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), the identified recipients have received the first instalment of USD 30 per person for the four winter months via WFP e-vouchers intended for food purchases.

JORDAN

Since the start of delivery of winter assistance in Jordan, 26,071 Syrian refugee families in camps and over 43,000 in urban areas have received winter cash or voucher assistance which has injected USD 15 million into the host economy. Of the total, 17,009 Syrian refugee families received a full package (USD 103 per person), while 26,071 families received a half package (USD 68).

As of December, nearly 99 per cent of the unconditional cash vouchers which were provided to the residents of Zaatari camp in October and November to purchase gas refills have been redeemed. Each family in Zaatari camp also benefited from a one-off cash distribution of USD 28 which took place in the second half of December. In Azraq camp, heaters were provided to 1,494 new arrivals, and 13,318 gas refills and 3,000 gas cylinders were provided to the entire camp population. About 97 per cent of the unconditional winterization vouchers which were provided in December to 16,830 individuals have also been redeemed. Furthermore, 23 Community Support Committees were provided with cash by UNHCR to make one-off emergency payments to meet life-essential winter needs.

UNHCR also distributed high thermal blankets to vulnerable refugees across the country. More than, 17,000 people received blankets



Blanket distribution in Azraq camp in January. © UNHCR/A. Bino



Gas heaters and cylinders were provided to the residents of Azraq camp in January. © UNHCR/O. Sarrado

in Azraq camp and nearly 4,400 blankets were provided to people stranded at the border. Distribution in the urban areas began in December and so far 25,875 blankets have been distributed in Amman, Ajloun, Aqaba, Irbid, Jerash, Karak, Ma'an, Madaba, Tafilah, and Zarqa governorates.

UNHCR successfully reached its target of providing shelter upgrades to 1,000 urban refugee families. Activities took place across six governorates and benefitted some 3,400 individuals. Shelter upgrading was implemented prior to the winter months to ensure families have proper insulation before the start of winter. Shelter Insulation was also improved in Azraq camp with the introduction of concrete flooring in 3,126 shelters.

IRAQ

In December, UNHCR completed distribution of winter CRIs reaching to a total of 13,564 vulnerable Syrian refugee families in Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates with plastic sheets, blankets, and kerosene jerry cans. UNHCR also distributed tent insulation materials to 2,722 Syrian refugee families across the three governorates. UNHCR continues its coordination role with partners and local authorities for an integrated winter response.

Distributions of kerosene which began in mid-November continued throughout December. UNHCR has reached 16,230 refugee families in the three governorates with 3,803,780 liters of kerosene. UNHCR has also begun distribution of cash for kerosene distributing more than USD 2,055,200 to 10,765 refugee families across the three governorates to ensure that vulnerable refugee families are able to heat their tents.

EGYPT

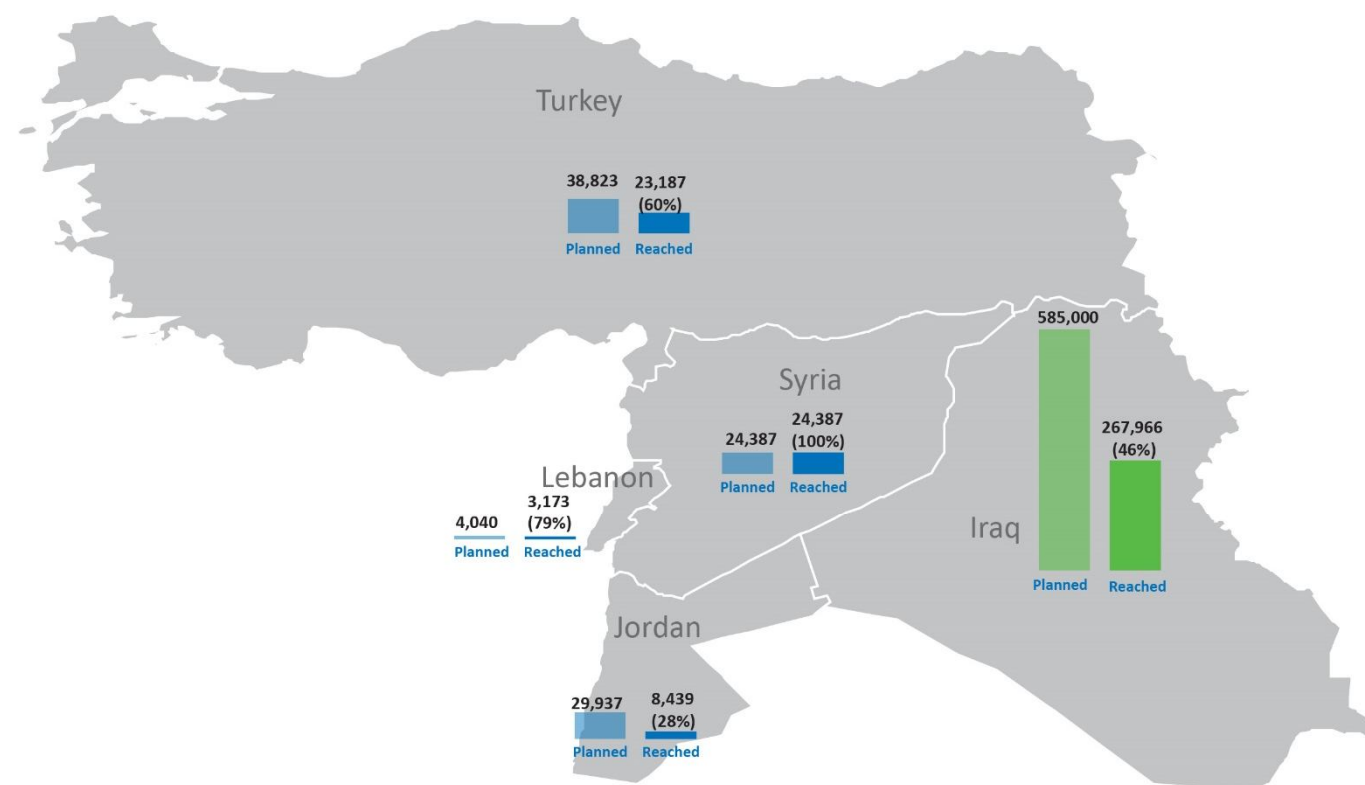
The winter assistance programme for the Syrian refugees in Egypt was completed on 10 January. Over 85,000 vulnerable refugees assessed to be in need of winter assistance have received assistance including unconditional cash assistance of USD 38 per person. Some 61,000 Syrian refugees received unconditional cash assistance from UNHCR and the remaining 24,000 Syrians received it from UNICEF. The assistance was provided through 3,000 post offices across the country, with 90 per cent of the cash assistance distributed mainly through seven post offices located in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta.

UNHCR also provided regular monthly cash assistance to 32,000 Syrian refugees to help them cope during the harsh winter months. UNHCR closely monitored the provision of winter assistance through weekly reports provided by the post office on the collection rate of assistance. Regular meetings that took place with the Partners, community members and refugees during the distribution period also supported in the monitoring process. UNHCR is in the process of conducting a post distribution monitoring exercise (PDM) specific to winter assistance in early February to understand the impact of the programme on Syrian refugees.

IRAQ SITUATION

UNHCR's winter plan for the Iraq situation is planned to reach **700,000 Iraqis** (almost 100,000 refugees and close to 600,000 IDPs). As of 20 January, UNHCR has provided winter CRIs to almost **20,000 Iraqi refugees in the region and 270,000 IDPs in Iraq**. Cash assistance for the winter months was provided to 45,000 Iraqi refugees and 100,000 Iraqi IDPs received kerosene or heating fuel.

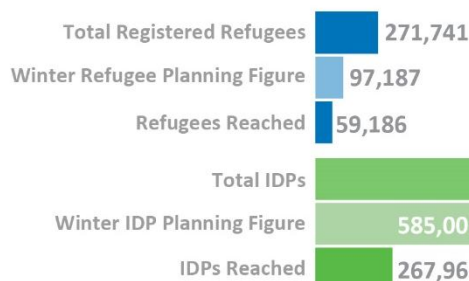
REFUGEE AND IDP PLANNING FIGURES AND DISTRIBUTION FOR UNHCR WINTER ASSISTANCE (INDIVIDUALS)



Key Winter Support

Assistance	Refugees and IDPs (individuals)				
	Needs	Distributed	Available	In pipeline	Shortfall
High Thermal Blankets	441,850	284,914	156,936	0	0
Plastic tarpaulins	408,650	267,966	140,684	0	0
Stoves/heaters	438,650	293,301	145,349	0	0
Winter clothing	30,000	14,364	15,636	0	0
Shelter insulation	7,300	7,300	0	0	0
Cash assistance	174,442	44,822	126,620	0	0

Key Facts



3.5 million
Total Refugees and IDPs

682,187 (21%)
Refugees and IDPs
Winter Planning Figure

327,152 (48%)
Refugees and IDPs
reached

IRAQ

As a result of further needs assessments in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), additional winter needs have been identified for 21,730 IDP families, which is above the original target of providing winter assistance to 60,000 families. Thus, the overall target for winter CRI kits has been increased to 81,730 families across Iraq. As of 20 January, UNHCR had distributed winter CRIs including plastic sheets, heating stoves, kerosene jerry cans, and blankets to 63,820 families in Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Missan, Ninewa, Sulaymaniah, Thi-Qar and Wassit governorates, and provided cash for winter items to 4,000 families in Erbil Governorate. More than 6,800 IDP families living in UNHCR-provided tents, also received tent insulation materials such as tent liners and insulated floor boards. UNHCR also provided 500 IDP families living in Erbil Governorate with shelter sealing-off materials to improve living conditions in unfinished buildings. Winter CRI distribution across Iraq is more than 78 per cent complete.

UNHCR continues to complement the government's kerosene ration distribution, and as of January, UNHCR has distributed 5,918,600 litres of kerosene to 19,460 IDP families in Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, and Sulaymaniah governorates. Furthermore, UNHCR has also distributed USD 3,590,600 in cash to 17,950 IDP families, in Dahuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniah governorates to purchase kerosene.

TURKEY

Delivery of winterization packages continued to the camps where Iraqi refugees reside. As of 20 January, 14,364 winter clothes, 13,796 high thermal blankets, 30,000 pairs of winter boots, and 5,067 heaters have been delivered to the camps. The distribution of winterization cash assistance to Iraqi refugees residing outside the camps has been completed, with 2,941 households (8,823 individuals) receiving USD 100 each.

LEBANON

UNHCR has provided 1,300 families from Iraq and other nationalities with three months of winter cash assistance in addition to distributing more than 3,000 high thermal blankets.

JORDAN

A total of 2,121 Iraqi refugee families have received winterization cash since the start of the exercise, of which 769 families received a full package (USD 103 per person) and 1,352 received a half package (USD 68).

SYRIA

The planned winterization assistance for asylum seekers and refugees in Syria was already delivered in November 2015, benefitting 8,000 families (24,000 individuals), with each family receiving USD 273.

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