

REGIONAL WINTER ASSISTANCE 2016-2017

PROGRESS REPORT - Syria and Iraq situations

As of 30 November 2016



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

As temperatures dropped in parts of the Middle East in November, UNHCR expedited the distribution of life saving winter assistance to help thousands of vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt weather the adverse conditions.

Since September, UNHCR has reached over **2.1 million Syrian IDPs and refugees (64% of the planned beneficiaries)** and **more than 155,000 Iraqi IDPs and refugees (11% of the planned beneficiaries)** with winter core-relief items (CRIs) and seasonal cash assistance. The distribution of most remaining winter assistance for the refugees and IDPs in the region will continue in December. Regionally, for both Syria and Iraq situations, **46 per cent** of the winter core relief items has been released for distribution, **24 per cent** are in stock, and **30 per cent** are currently in the pipeline. UNHCR is also preparing for the post distribution monitoring exercise planned to begin in the countries from December onwards.

UNHCR is grateful to the Governments, charities and other organizations for their contributions that have helped significantly increase the number of people UNHCR will be able to reach with winter assistance in 2016-2017.



Syrian and Iraqi
IDPs and refugees

Planned beneficiaries

4.72 million

Beneficiaries reached

2.25 million



Total budget

USD 347 million

Current funding shortfall

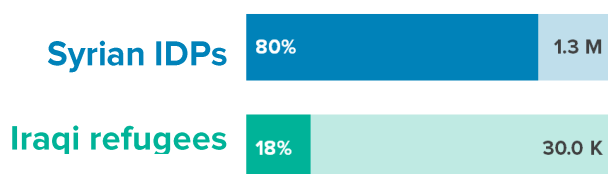
USD 57 million



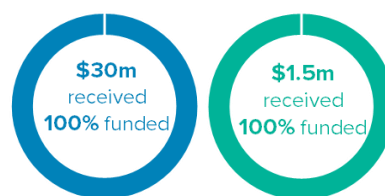
Newly arrived Iraqi IDPs at the Iraqi government Khazeer M2 camp line up to receive UNHCR winter assistance.
©UNHCR/Ivor Prickett

SYRIA

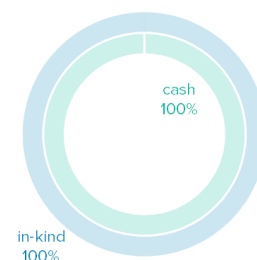
Beneficiaries reached vs. planned beneficiaries



Funding



Type of assistance

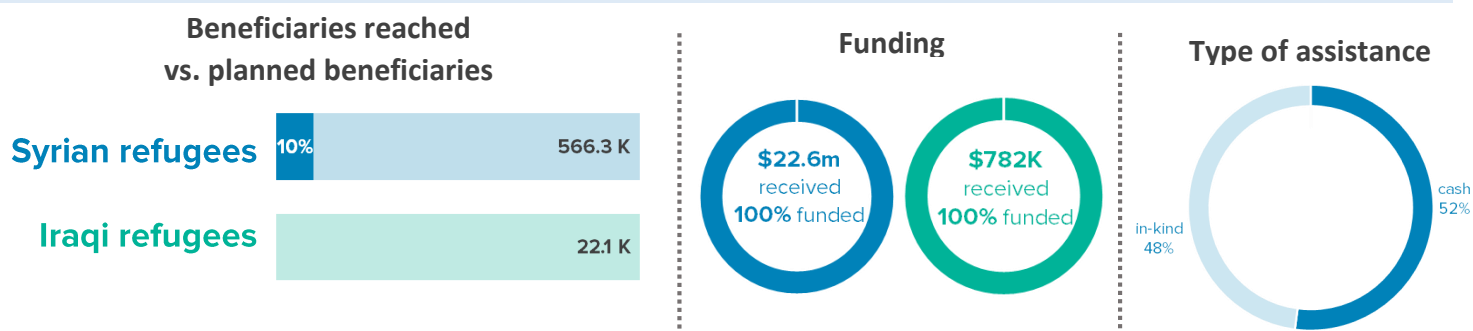


The winterization programme in Syria began in September and priority has been given to newly displaced vulnerable families, those living in hard-to-reach and besieged areas, and those with specific needs and vulnerabilities. In November, UNHCR as part of its Whole of Syria winter programme, provided assistance to 1.03 million Syrian IDPs (80% of the planned beneficiaries of 1.3 million) in several governorates across Syria, including newly displaced within Aleppo, with high thermal blankets, sleeping bags, plastic tarpaulins and winter clothing kits. Of these, 838,092 individuals were reached by UNHCR operations inside Syria and 195,000 individuals by UNHCR cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey. As more Syrians are displaced in Aleppo, UNHCR is also rehabilitating temporary shelters to provide displaced families some warmth and privacy, particularly in Jibreen. Furthermore, UNHCR has provided 5,250 Iraqi refugees with a one-off winter cash assistance of USD 48 per person to cover season-specific needs, such as winter clothing and fuel for heating.



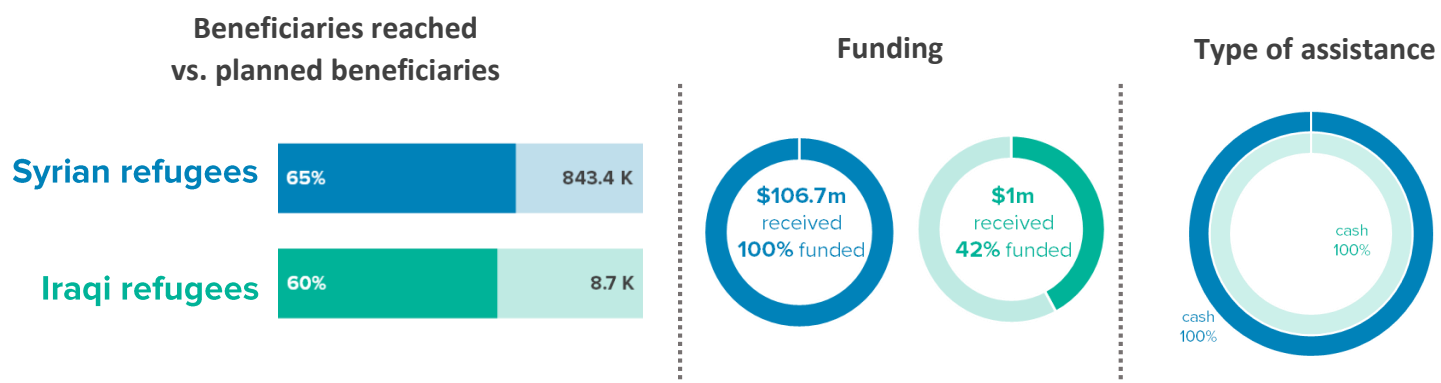
UNHCR, with humanitarian agencies in Aleppo, is delivering a comprehensive response to meet the needs of the newly displaced in Aleppo. ©UNHCR/Al-Namaa

TURKEY



In Turkey, UNHCR assisted more than 27,000 refugees in camps with winter packages consisting of winter clothes, high thermal blankets and heaters, and 30,000 refugees living in urban areas with one-off cash assistance. The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) is ensuring the distribution of winter items across the 23 camps in south-eastern Turkey and UNHCR is monitoring these distributions in collaboration with AFAD. UNHCR's one-off cash assistance programme via debit cards issued by the Turkish postal service (PTT) started on 25 November and refugee families are receiving a card carrying a one-time value between USD 200 and USD 300 depending on the family size. The debit cards have wide acceptance in commercial establishments, allowing refugees to buy a variety of goods or services across the country. The programme is covering 50 (out of Turkey's 81) provinces hosting the largest number of refugees and most severely affected by winter conditions. In order to inform and communicate with refugees who will benefit from the winter support programme, UNHCR is running a fully automated SMS system, a dedicated website and call centres administered by UNHCR partners. UNHCR also produced a leaflet that is being handed out along with the PTT debit cards on how to use the cards.

LEBANON

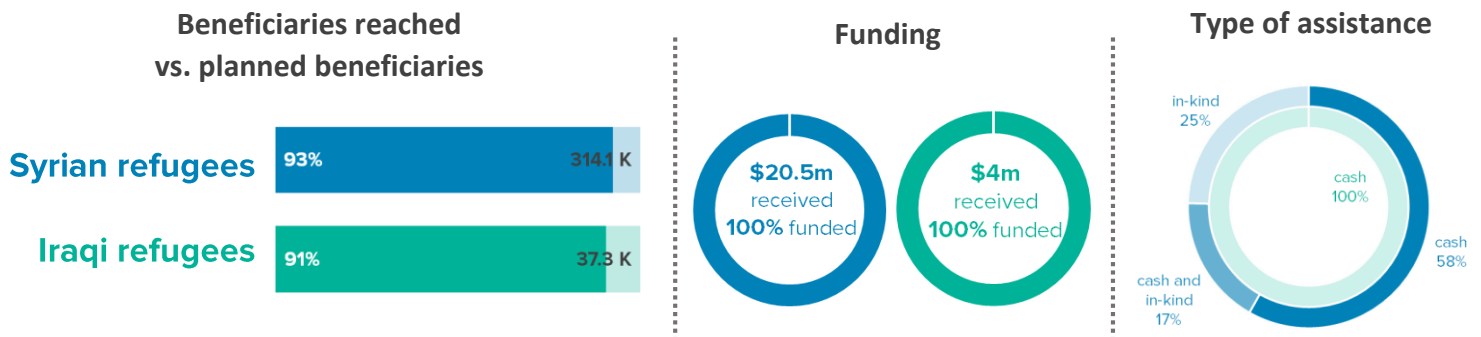


UNHCR has so far assisted a total of 554,090 vulnerable refugees across Lebanon with seasonal cash assistance of which 548,870 were Syrian refugees and 5,220 Iraqi refugees. Cash assistance of USD 147 is provided to vulnerable households and for those already receiving monthly multipurpose cash assistance, UNHCR is providing an additional USD 75 per month to help families meet the extra expenses for a period of five months. UNHCR intends to provide winter cash assistance to nearly 30,000 new common card holders. In the Bekaa, one of the coldest regions in the country, 2,210 high thermal blankets have been pre-positioned at municipalities in the case of extreme weather conditions. In Arsal, where families rely on fuel cards to purchase heating fuel, more than 10,000 fuel cards have been distributed to 3,353 families (planned beneficiaries 9,548 households), covering the needs from November to January.



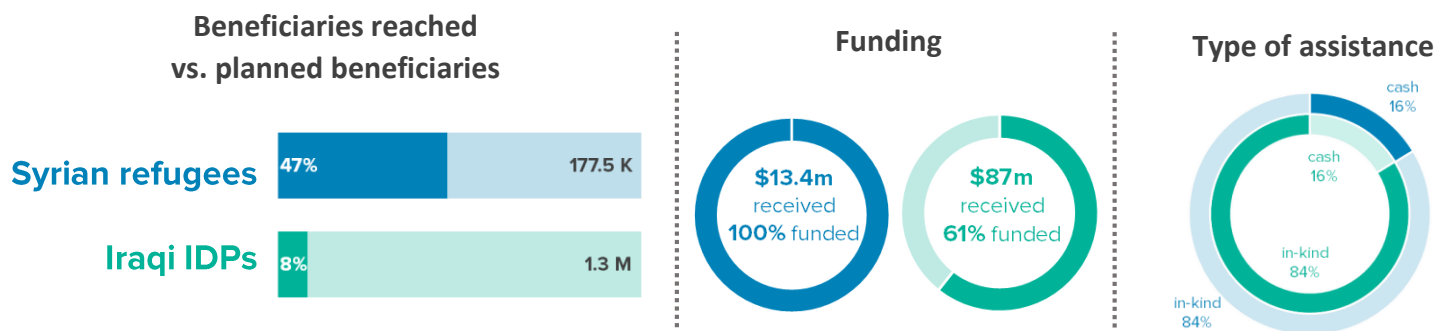
UNHCR staff hands the winter assistance card to Thanaa in Sour, South of Lebanon in November. Thanaa's family is one of the 168,000 Syrian refugee families that will be receiving UNHCR's winter assistance to keep warm and dry during this winter season. © UNHCR/Nisreen Jaafar

JORDAN



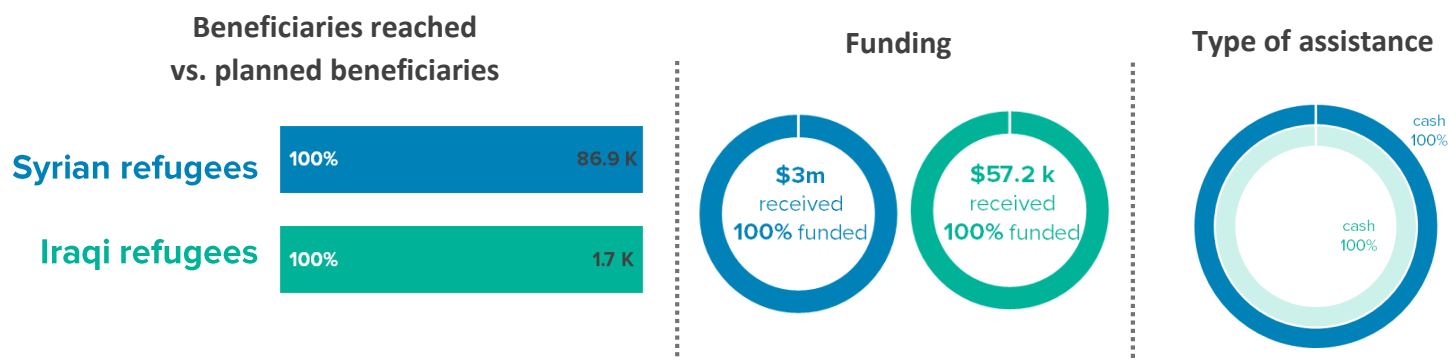
In November, UNHCR started its largest winter response in Jordan reaching a total of 290,660 Syrian refugees and 33,845 Iraqi refugees. Winter support in the camps is provided through cash, as well as in-kind assistance including gas stoves, heaters and gas cylinders, high thermal blankets, shelter repair and maintenance support. In November, cash for winterization and cash for gas were provided to a total of 7,682 and 16,616 families respectively. In Azraq, gas cylinders and heaters were distributed to around 6,000 families. UNHCR also distributed 35,768 high thermal blankets benefitting some 4,500 families. For refugees living in urban areas, cash assistance was provided to 48,694 refugee families (39,024 Syrians and 9,670 non-Syrians) through the Common Cash Facility system based on iris scan technology. Special attention was paid to female-headed households, the elderly, people living with disabilities, children at risk, people with a medical condition and protection needs. UNHCR also distributed over 42,000 high-thermal blankets to community centres to support the winter needs of vulnerable refugees and members of the host communities. Distribution of winter assistance also started in the north-eastern Jordanian border in November.

IRAQ



In Iraq, UNHCR is accelerating the distribution of winter assistance to the most vulnerable IDPs and Syrian refugees including families recently displaced in the current Mosul offensive and those living in the coldest parts of the country. In November, UNHCR provided winter support to nearly 110,000 IDPs, of which 17,760 were reached with cash assistance and 91,554 with core-relief items. UNHCR, in coordination with its partners, is also stepping up assistance to displaced Iraqis and residents in newly retaken towns and villages east of Mosul. UNHCR distributed 4,745 kits of blankets and quilts to families in Namrud, Hamdaniya district, and Shura, Mosul district, to help them protect from cold weather. UNHCR plans to provide winter assistance to 1.2 million newly-displaced Iraqis. Furthermore, in November over 82,000 Syrian refugees were reached with cash assistance or winter household items comprising of blankets, heating stove, plastic tarpaulin, jerry cans for kerosene and water and tent insulation kits. Cash assistance and kerosene are also provided.

EGYPT



In November, all 88,595 refugees planned for winter assistance (86,900 Syrians and 1,695 Iraqis) in Egypt received the one-time cash payment of USD 38 per person. For Syrian refugees this was distributed through the Post Offices across the country, while for Iraqi refugees and other nationalities, it was provided through ATM cards. UNHCR is closely monitoring the distribution through regular meetings with partners as well as by conducting a post-delivery monitoring exercise.

Contacts:

Clare Askew, Programme Officer, askew@unhcr.org, Tel: +962 6 5100460 Ext: 2304

Nini Gurung, Associate Reporting Officer, gurungn@unhcr.org, Tel: +962 6 5100460 Ext: 2114