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REGIONAL MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE UPDATE

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017



UNHCR 2017 REGIONAL MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE (MPCA) PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

IDPs and refugees reached (1 January to 31 December 2017)



* Figures subject to final country office confirmation and may change

Cash Distributed (1 January to 31 December 2017)

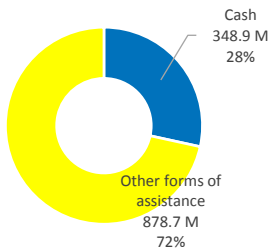


USD 331 million

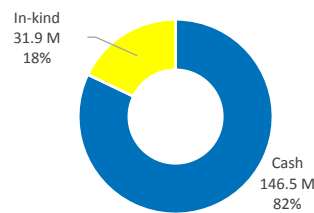
In 2017, the Syria and Iraq situation accounted for six of the ten largest UNHCR cash assistance programmes in the world (1. Lebanon, 2. Jordan, 4. Turkey 7. Egypt, 8. Syrian Arab Republic, 9. Iraq)

Cash vs. other forms of assistance (2017 Total budget and winter programme)

Total UNHCR Budget



UNHCR Winter Assistance Programme



Age and sex graphic of assistance



Minors 56%



Adults 41%



Elderly 3%

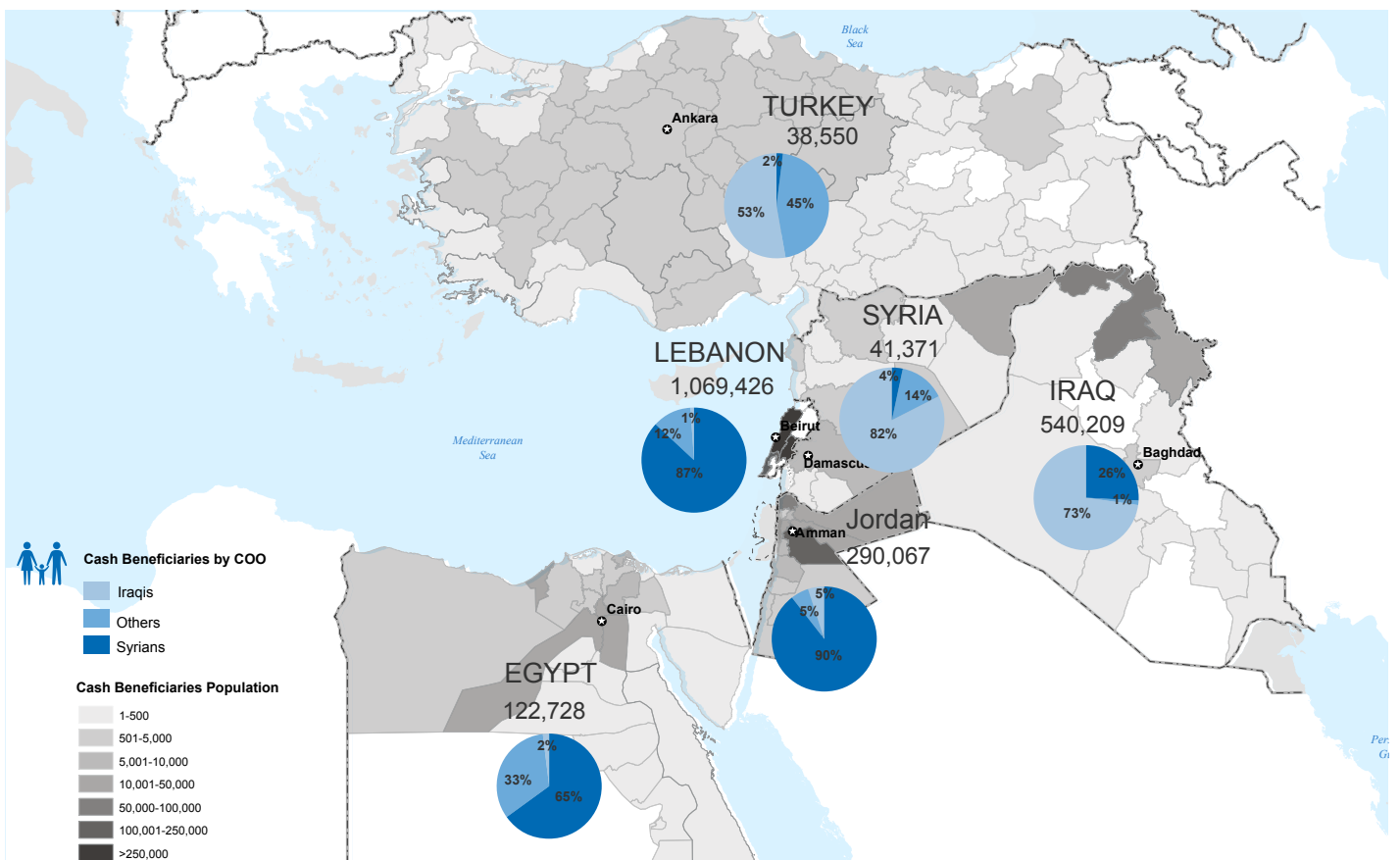


Male 48%



Female 52%

Beneficiaries reached with multi-purpose cash assistance by country



Process at a glance



Assessing families' needs:

A UNHCR partner staff conducts a household visit using a standard questionnaire which enables a wide range of information to be gathered on a family and their circumstances.



Determining eligibility:

Following the household visit, UNHCR and partners use vulnerability assessment frameworks to assign each household a vulnerability ranking, which is then used to determine assistance levels.

Families assessed in 2017

Jordan Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF)	56,260 refugee families
Iraq Protection Monitoring Tool (PMT)	16,534 Refugee families; 43,543 IDP families
Egypt Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees (EVAR)	26,585 refugee families
Lebanon Vulnerability assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR)	7,663 refugee families*

*As a result of use of predictive modelling using registration data, the number of home visits in Lebanon was reduced significantly.



Selection Processes: Based on their vulnerability scoring, the most vulnerable refugees are selected for cash assistance. The scoring criteria is aligned across all humanitarian organizations delivering cash to ensure that the most vulnerable people are targeted and selected according to common standards.



Enrollment: UNHCR's cash team enrolls the most vulnerable families in the beneficiary list. The level of assistance provided depends on household size, based on the basic needs component of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) for each country, which includes recurrent costs and non-food items. A food consumption component is calculated by the World Food Programme (WFP).



Waiting lists: There is often a gap between the number of persons assessed as vulnerable and the resources available, so those who rank highest in the vulnerability scoring are prioritized for immediate assistance and others are placed on a waiting list. In Jordan, the waiting list at the end of the year was 14,500 families, a significant increase from the 9,000 families at the start of the year. The increase is attributed mostly to the increasing vulnerability of many families.



Delivery mechanisms: Families are informed by SMS once their cash assistance is available. UNHCR CBI is delivered through a variety of means across the region including bank transfers, vouchers, and mobile money. In Jordan and Lebanon, beneficiaries can access their cash assistance by scanning their iris at iris-enabled ATMs.



Monitoring: Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) is done soon after the assistance to assess how the money was used and the short term impact, while outcome monitoring tracks longer term impact. Meanwhile, market assessments and other monitoring exercises are used to collect information on a wide range of issues, including price levels, coping mechanisms, access to basic services, and the quality of the cash distribution process.



Appeals process: A complaints and feedback outlet is also available via call centers. Meanwhile, those not found eligible for cash assistance or those removed from the beneficiary list due to a change in their vulnerability scoring can appeal and their case will be re-examined.



Coordination: Coordination is vital to ensure a collaborative approach between humanitarian agencies delivering cash assistance. In many countries this is done via interagency cash working groups. In Jordan, the Common Cash Facility ensures coordination of beneficiary payments and minimizes potential duplication. In Turkey, in order to avoid anomalies and potential community tension, UNHCR's monthly payments have been standardized with the amounts delivered by the World Food Programme (WFP) / Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN).

Innovation in 2017

- ◆ **In Lebanon**, UNHCR launched iris scanning as a form of biometric validation in selected pilot locations. In addition, with the operationalization of the new desk formula for socio-economic targeting, some 18,000 severely vulnerable refugee families in Lebanon were integrated into the beneficiary list while around 4,600 households were discontinued due to changes in their respective vulnerability categorization.
- ◆ **In Iraq**, UNHCR successfully delivered cash assistance using a 'mobile money wallet', working together with mobile phone companies. This flexible option allows access to vulnerable families in difficult to reach areas quickly and efficiently. In 2017 UNHCR also developed and rolled out the Assistance Information and Services Tracking System (ASSIST), a secure online information management system, used for targeting, referrals, and case management of IDPs.
- ◆ **In Turkey**, all UNHCR cash transfers are now delivered through one single financial provider (Turkey Post and Telecommunication office/PTT), through one single card ATM/debit card platform. CBI operations are supported by: a network of partners covering all provinces of Turkey; a platform for multilingual SMS messaging and call centers; dedicated web applications; and, a range of multilingual information materials.
- ◆ **In Jordan**, UNHCR initiated the revision of the Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) population survey. The revised framework will be applied to the entire Syrian refugee caseload, and will be made available to all humanitarian partners.



Jordan/ David Azia

Surveys & Assessments carried out in 2017

In addition to regular vulnerability assessments, Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM), and Outcome Monitoring (OM), a range of studies have been carried out on the impact of cash assistance. Some of those carried out in 2017 are outlined below:

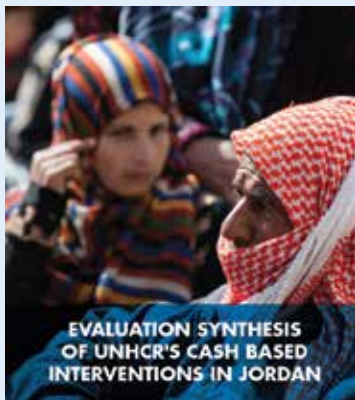
The report stressed that while refugee households remain highly vulnerable, cash assistance is broadly making lives better -available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/5a1d1b7b4.pdf>



The assessment found that three quarters of Syria refugee households IN LEBANON ARE LIVING IN poverty – available at:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/61312>



The evaluation noted that those receiving UNHCR cash assistance see tangible benefits in many aspects of daily life – available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/admin/jobs/59a3fd824/evaluation-synthesis-unhcr-cash-based-interventions-cbis-jordan.html>



The review highlighted that the Common Cash facility has reduced costs and increased efficiency – available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/59fc36b87.pdf>



The assessment outlined that Syrian refugees can and do have a positive impact on local markets – available at:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/assessment-jordanian-marketplace-2018>

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the cash assistance programme for Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees with unearmarked and earmarked funds as well as those who have contributed directly to the operations.

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