

REGIONAL WINTER ASSISTANCE 2016-2017

PROGRESS REPORT - Syria and Iraq situations

As of 31 December 2016



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

As temperatures dipped below freezing in the Middle East during December, UNHCR expedited and nearly completed its winter support for millions of Syrian and Iraqi internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees in the region. The first snow of the winter accompanied by strong winds and rain was especially harsh in Turkey, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, bringing further misery to millions of IDPs and refugees, the majority of whom are living in vulnerable conditions in urban areas in substandard housing and informal settlements.

UNHCR has provided winter assistance to more than **3.24 million Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees** (69% of the planned beneficiaries). Assistance included seasonal cash assistance to meet the winter needs of the vulnerable refugees, core relief items specific to winter, and shelter insulation support, provided in coordination with government agencies, partners, community outreach volunteers, and the broader inter-agency response platforms. UNHCR also started post-distribution monitoring exercises in most of the countries to understand the impact of the programme.



Syrian and Iraqi
IDPs and refugees

Planned beneficiaries

4.72 million



Total budget

USD 347 million

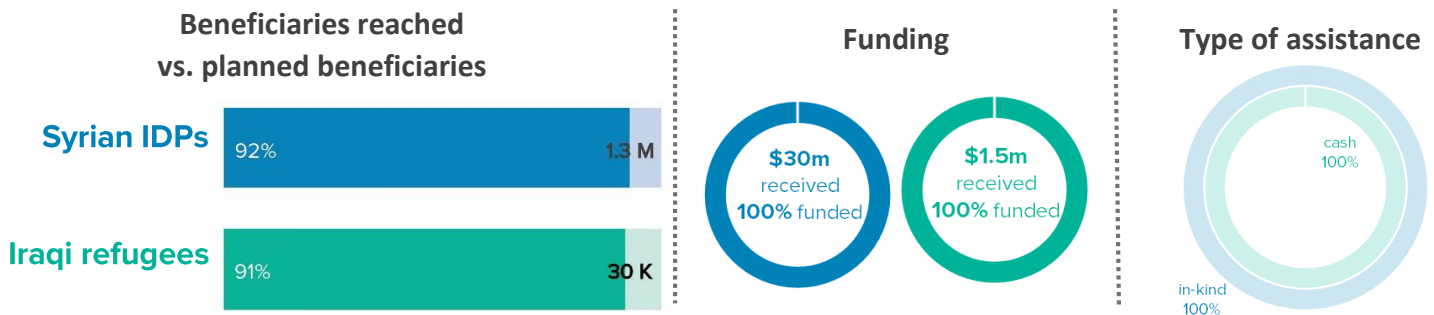
Beneficiaries reached

3.24 million



Um Ahmad, a displaced woman from east Aleppo, heats water to prepare milk for her newborn baby with help from her daughter at Jibreen collective shelter. Given the bitter winter conditions, UNHCR and partners are focusing on providing the displaced families in collective shelters with the means to keep warm. © UNHCR/Bassam Diab

SYRIA

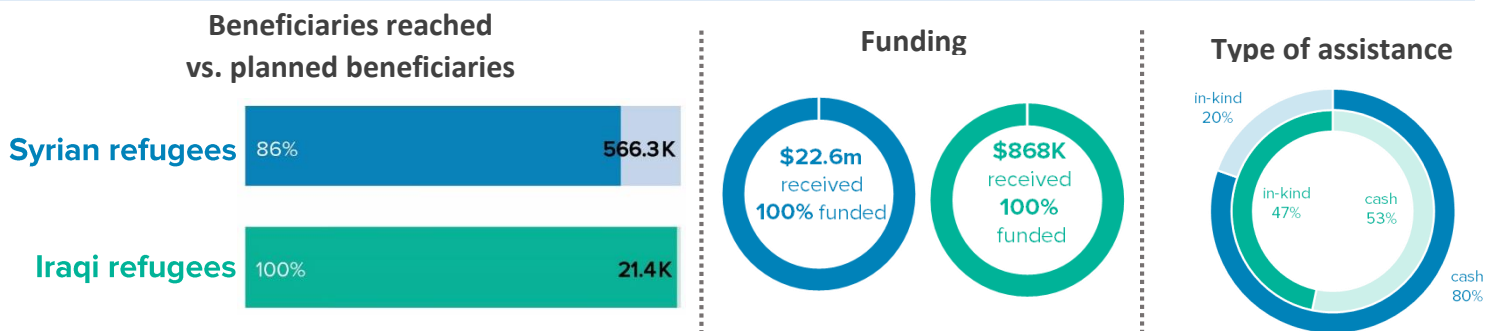


UNHCR, as part of its Whole of Syria winter programme, has reached over 1.19 million IDPs with winter assistance in Syria. Of these, nearly one million IDPs were reached by UNHCR operations from Damascus and 195,000 IDPs through cross-border operations in Syria managed from Turkey and Jordan. Though the initial targets have been largely met, additional winter response measures continue due to the harsh weather conditions and in response to the urgent needs of newly displaced IDPs and affected host communities, particularly in Aleppo.

In Aleppo city, and after the evacuation, UNHCR and partners provided high thermal blankets, winter clothes, and sleeping bags to over 300,000 people. UNHCR teams and outreach volunteers are conducting field visits on a regular basis to identify and respond to the urgent needs of newly displaced families from eastern Aleppo residing in the collective shelters. In Jibreem collective shelter, which accommodates over 4,000 IDPs, UNHCR has stepped up winterization activities with insulation of doors and windows, and provision of carpets and stoves.

UNHCR has also provided winter assistance to more than 250,000 people in Homs Governorate, over 200,000 people in Rural Damascus, and nearly 100,000 people in Damascus Governorate. Furthermore, UNHCR has provided 27,371 Iraqi refugees with a one-off winter cash assistance of USD 48 per person to cover specific needs, such as winter clothing and fuel for heating.

TURKEY



UNHCR has so far provided cash assistance to nearly 400,000 Syrian refugees (80,300 families) and over 11,000 Iraqi refugees (2,280 families) living in urban areas through the one-off cash assistance programme via debit cards issued by the Turkish postal service (PTT). In December alone, 411,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees were assisted with cash assistance. Refugee families received a card carrying a one-time value between USD 200 and USD 300 depending on the family size. As of 31 December, equivalent to USD 20.8 million has been delivered through cash assistance. Distribution of cash assistance will continue in January 2017 targeting nearly 80,000 Syrian refugees (16,000 families) and 16,000 non-Syrian including Iraqis (3,300 families). A post-distribution monitoring exercise will be conducted by partners after completion of the activities and tools for the exercise will be harmonized with those developed under the relevant inter-agency forum.

For refugees living in camps, winter packages consisting of winter clothes, high thermal blankets and heaters were provided to 95,640 Syrian refugees and 10,000 Iraqi refugees between 29 November 2016 and 06 January 2017. 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 the distribution in collaboration with AFAD.

LEBANON

Beneficiaries reached vs. planned beneficiaries

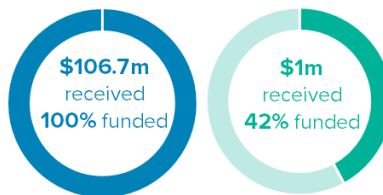
Syrian refugees



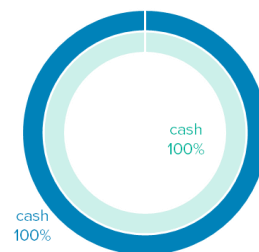
Iraqi refugees



Funding




Type of assistance



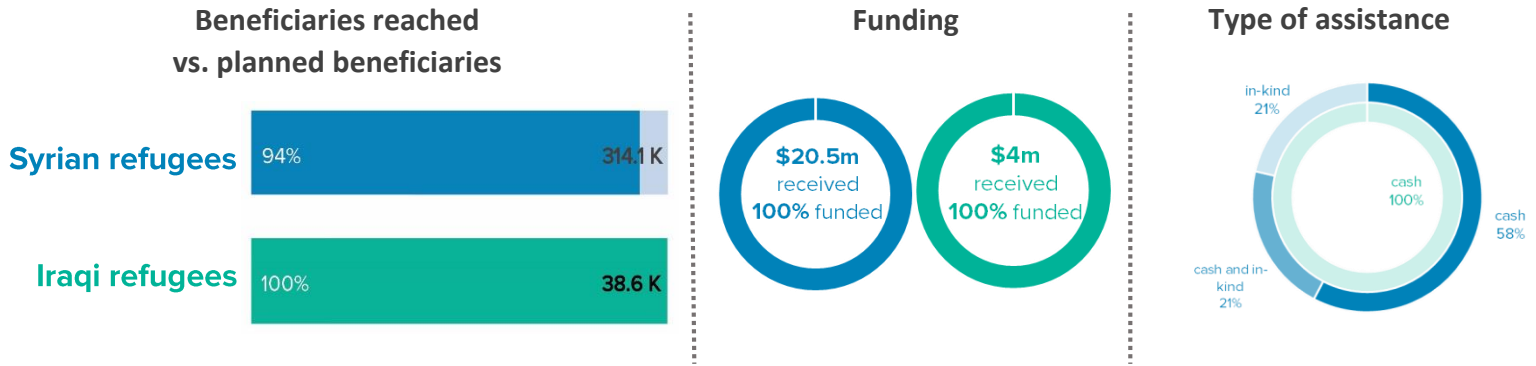
Seasonal cash assistance for the months of January, February and March was uploaded by the end of 2016, with a total of 762,440 Syrian refugees and 11,400 Iraqi refugees receiving cash assistance by December. USD 147 has been provided to vulnerable households, while severely vulnerable refugees already receiving monthly multi-purpose cash assistance received an additional USD 75 to enable families to buy fuel and other winter essentials. UNHCR also provided winter core relief items to 47,900 Syrian refugees, as well as 2,000 vulnerable Lebanese. Some 8,420 households in Aarsal (89% of the target of 9,458 households) received fuel cards to purchase heating fuel. Weatherproofing shelter kits consisting of timber, plywood, plastic sheet, toolbox, and insulation foam were also distributed - 2,502 kits for substandard buildings and 24,074 kits for informal settlements.

Post-distribution monitoring, based on a sample of some 1,200 individuals, has shown that the large majority of refugees (90%) understand why they have been selected for winter assistance, with 91 per cent being very satisfied with the location of the distribution site. However, some also expressed frustration, because of the waiting time in some distribution centres, the distance to travel for receiving their cards, and mistreatment at overcrowded sites. This is being further analyzed for follow-up. There were no reports of anyone having to pay money or provide any favour to be included in winter assistance.



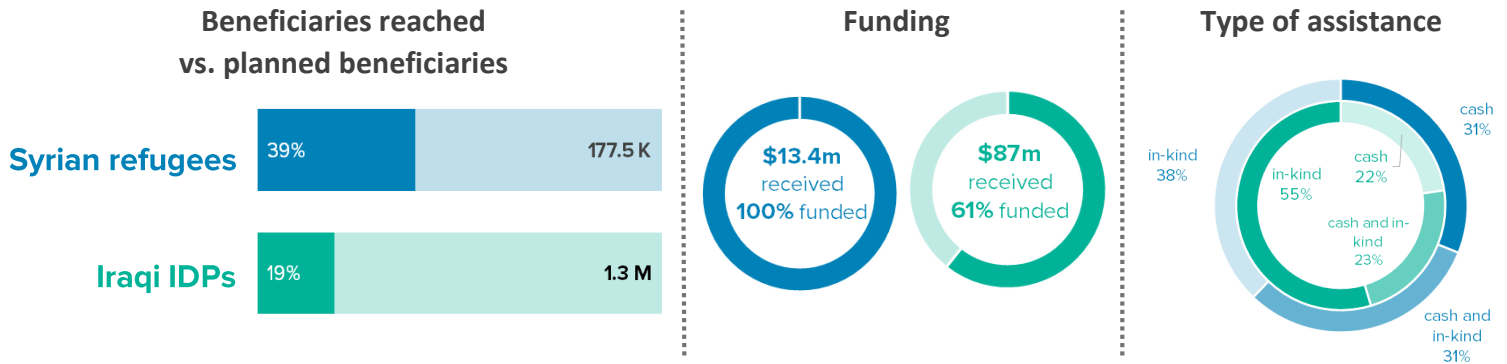
Fatima, a 37-year-old Syrian refugee discards water at her temporary home located in an informal settlement outside Zahle, in Lebanon. Cold weather regularly brings snow and sub-zero temperatures across mountainous regions and the Beqaa Valley. This can have a huge impact on vulnerable refugee families, many of whom live in ill-equipped and poorly heated or insulated tented settlements. © UNHCR/Diego Ibarra Sánchez

JORDAN



In December, cash assistance was provided to 56,404 refugee families (41,733 Syrian families and 14,671 non-Syrian families) living in urban areas through the use of the Common Cash Facility system that uses iris scanning technology for identity authentication. In Zaatari and Azraq camps, cash assistance has reached 23,589 families and in-kind assistance including heaters, high thermal blankets and other winter specific core relief items are being distributed on a case by case basis following the first targeted distribution in November. Extra gas rations for winter will continue until the end of February in Azraq camp. During November and December, 23 Community Centres in urban locations were provided with 42,000 high thermal blankets for distribution to refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.

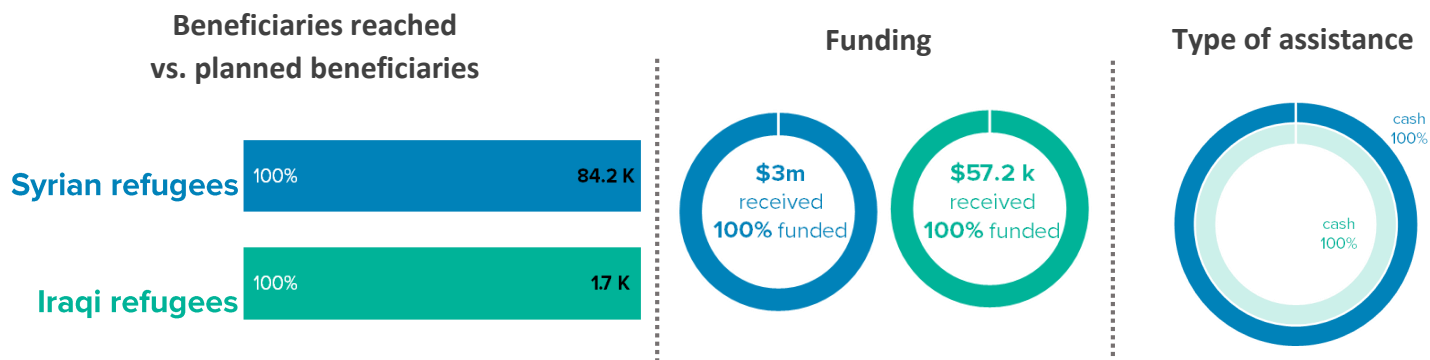
IRAQ



Since the start of the winter programme in October, UNHCR provided winter assistance to over 254,000 IDPs and more than 69,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq. Assistance included cash to support families to meet their winter needs, and provision of winter kits (six blankets, a stove, a plastic sheet, a water jerry can, and a kerosene jerry can), and kerosene for a period of four months per family. In camps, refugees and IDPs also received a full tent insulation kit including a tent inner liner and insulated mats. Implementation of the programme has been carried out through UNHCR teams, partners, and in coordination with Clusters and local authorities.

In coordination with partners, distribution of winter assistance has been stepped up reaching out the newly displaced vulnerable people from Mosul and others areas, and those living in mountainous locations and areas affected by harsher winter conditions. UNHCR has reached around 90 per cent of the beneficiaries it planned at the outset of winter. UNHCR has since increased the number of beneficiaries to be targeted in the coming months in response to the evolving situation and pressing needs of persons fleeing Mosul and other locations. UNHCR is also preparing to conduct a post-distribution monitoring exercise together with its partners.

EGYPT



By early December, 84,249 Syrian refugees and 1,695 Iraqi refugees 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 working on social media campaign with information to refugees on how to stay warm. Post distribution monitoring combined with small survey will be conducted in January to verify if refugees were able to use the winterization assistance to cover winter expenses.

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

SECURE DONATION

WINTER EMERGENCY

Refugees are struggling with winter. Will you help to keep them warm?

Donate Warmth

Winter threatens refugees and displaced families in the Middle East.

As winter sets in, many Syrian and Iraqi mothers are unable to keep their babies warm, dry and healthy during the bitter cold. They need our urgent support and protection to help them survive freezing temperatures, rain and storms.

Fears are growing among families living in tents, shacks and unfinished buildings in the Dabaay refugee camp.

I would like to warm refugees with:

Item	PRICE	SELECT ITEMS
High thermal blanket to warm a refugee family at night	US\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fuel for 2 families to heat their shelter for the winter	US\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>

With millions of vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi refugees and internally displaced people in the region still in need of assistance this winter, UNHCR on 23 December 2016 launched a public appeal for contributions to its winter programmes that aim to protect refugees and vulnerable host communities in neighbouring countries from the cold months that lie ahead.

Through the campaign's online platform - <https://donate.unhcr.org/gu-en/winter> - individuals can make contributions starting from USD 50 to help UNHCR provide refugees and vulnerable host communities with essential items to survive the cold season.

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.

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