

Regional Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Monitoring Update

August 2018

Key Highlights



> 1.9 million people assessed for cash assistance in 2018 so far; 1.37 million found eligible.



667,726 individuals reached with cash assistance in 2018 so far ¹, over 453,000 in August alone.

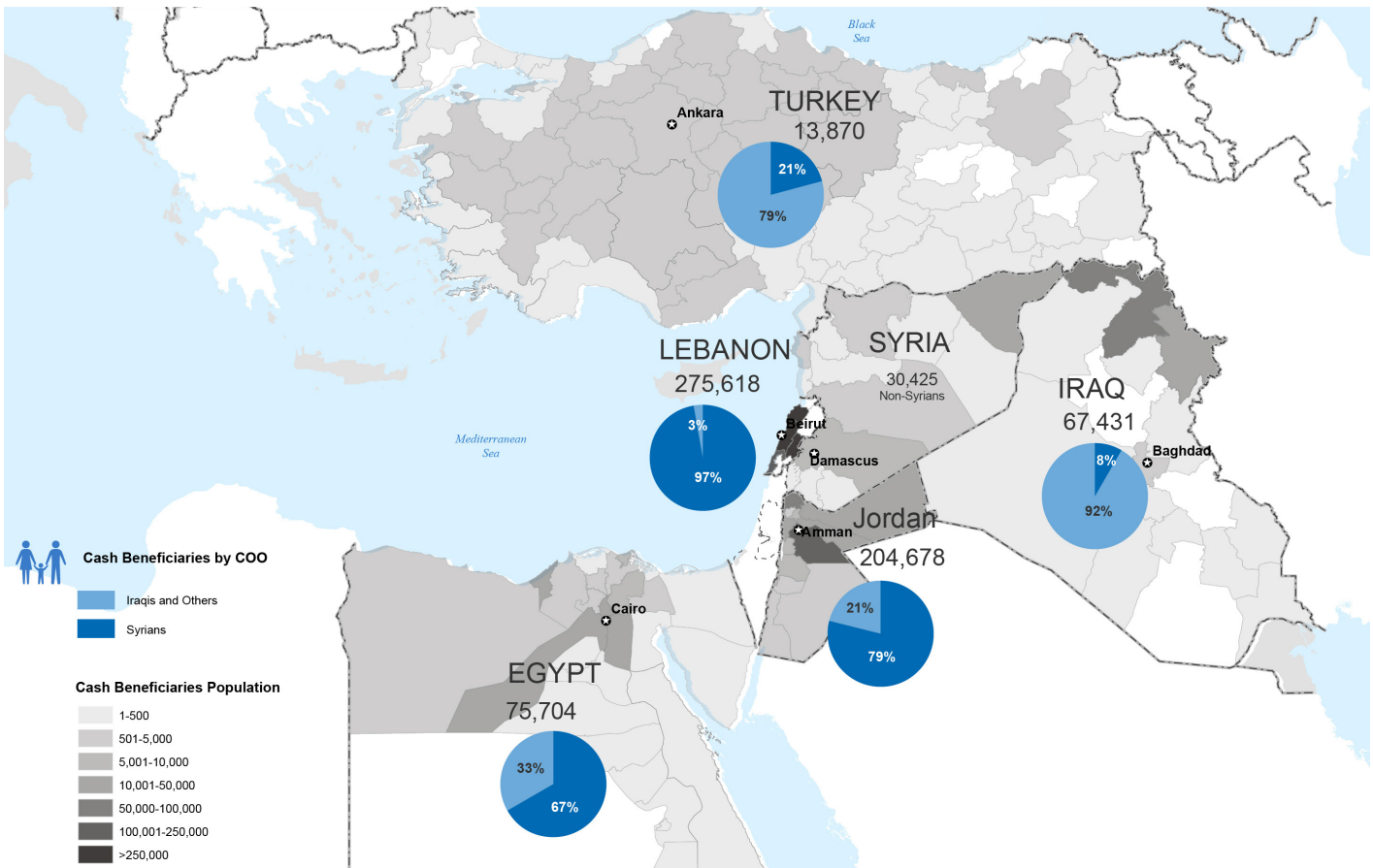


USD 16 million distributed in August 2018, USD 112 million so far in 2018.



USD 44 million urgently required to provide cash assistance to 456,000 Syrian refugees across the region.

Beneficiaries reached by country so far in 2018



¹ Includes some winter assistance which took place in January and February 2018



Regional Indicators

Needs: The vulnerability of Syrian and Iraqi refugee populations and their host communities as a result of prolonged displacement has gradually worsened over time. In Lebanon, 91 per cent of Syrian refugee households have some form of debt, an increase of 24 per cent since 2014.² The majority of refugees live in urban areas and in poverty. UNHCR uses multisector data collection via household assessments and data analysis to determine the most vulnerable refugees in need of cash assistance. Each country uses its own household-level vulnerability assessments that look at data on welfare as well as protection needs of

individuals and households. Household visits are used to collect sector-related indicators in addition to other financial information (for example income, rent, debt amounts).

Total Number assessed in 2018	1.9 million³
Individuals assessed by Household visit in 2018	380,000
# found eligible for cash assistance in 2018	1.37 million
Number of appeals against non-inclusion	2,689
Number of appeals resulting in positive decisions	70

Response: UNHCR has found **1.37 million individuals eligible for cash assistance** in 2018 but has been only able to reach at most around 450,000 per month due to funding constraints. In total, **UNHCR has assisted over 667,000 individuals so far in 2018, 489,598 Syrians and 178,128 Non-Syrians**, disbursing over USD 112 million. Hundreds of thousands more need ongoing support to meet their most basic needs. UNHCR's cash programmes encompass much more than

just cash distribution, they are one component of a much broader and integrated network of activities which aims to provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable.

Assisted with Cash in 2018	667,726
Assisted with Cash in August	453,261
USD disbursed in 2018	USD 112 million
USD disbursed in August	USD 16 million

Protection: As well as providing for refugees' most basic needs, cash assistance enables refugees to deal with shocks and changes in circumstances without resorting to negative coping mechanisms. In Turkey, for example, UNHCR assisted some 25,000 Syria refugees with cash for relocation to assist them to move to urban settings following the planned closure of their temporary accommodation center. The amount provided was calculated based on the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) which is what a household requires in order to meet their basic needs, and was also intended to cover moving costs including transportation. The initiative, which had an overall cost of around USD 4 million, has

provided a much needed boost to relocating families and UNHCR is conducting outreach activities to ensure that they have a smooth transition into their new communities.

All Figures For August:

Referrals to case management	461
Referrals from case management to cash assistance	1,339
# of inquiries related to cash assistance	13,602
# of updates to refugee records	133,891

Coverage: Cash assistance support to vulnerable refugee families in under threat due to chronic underfunding. As of the end of August, **UNHCR's response to the Syria Situation is only 31 per cent funded, with a gap of USD 1.36 billion** while the response to the Iraq situation is **only 13 per cent funded, with a gap of USD 505 million**. Without urgent funding, UNHCR's activities to support vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi refugees and Internally Displaced Persons will be severely restricted, leaving these vulnerable populations

unable to meet their most basic daily needs including rent and accessing essential services like health care and education.

Number assisted by partners	1.7 million
Syrian refugees not receiving assistance due to lack of funds	456,000
Critical funding needs for cash assistance	> 44 million

² Final report of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, 2017

³ Includes 1.5 million Syrians in Lebanon who are ranked and scored using a desk formula to measure their socio-economic vulnerability within the overall population. This process occurs once a year (most recently in August 2018) and as such all Syrians in Lebanon are considered assessed already. This figure is according to Government estimates, including registered Syrian refugees, unregistered Syrian refugees as well as Syrians residing in Lebanon under alternative legal frameworks.

Highlights across the region

The Impact of Cash: Education grants empowering refugees in Egypt



Syrian refugee Samar speaks to a UNHCR staff member about her experience with applying to and receiving the UNHCR education grant. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa

Samar, a Syrian mother of five has been living in Egypt since she fled the crisis in Syria in 2013. Leaving behind her beloved home in Damascus, Samar sought to sew back together the pieces of her children's lives in their country of asylum. "I put my daughters to school right away," she said. Samar has been a diligent recipient of the UNHCR's education grant for three years now. As a result, her eldest daughter was able to complete her secondary education. "She hopes to study mass communication or law as an undergraduate student," she stated. Her youngest daughter, on the other hand, is a bright third-grader who has passion for art.

UNHCR's cash-based interventions, when coupled with education programmes from UNHCR and partners, have become a powerful tool to address barriers to access education in a variety of contexts, and contribute to the mitigation of negative coping mechanisms. The education grant was designed to contribute to school fees, uniforms, books, stationary and transportation to facilitate the learning process for children.

Pilot inclusion of Syrian refugees in Jordan's national social safety net

Discussions between the Government of Jordan, the World Bank and bilateral donors following the World Bank's recent USD 500 million concessional loan to Jordan, have resulted in the establishment of a 'pilot' Syrian refugee project under the Government of Jordan's National Aid Fund – to be financed by donors. UNHCR is involved in a coordinated effort with the World Bank, UNICEF and WFP to strengthen the National Aid Fund's capacity to expand its Jordanian beneficiary caseload, as well as the pilot a Syrian caseload. Once implemented, the inclusion of Syrian refugees into Jordan's national social safety net program would represent a positive development following on from similar developments in the region such as the EU-supported Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme in Turkey.

Donors: UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the cash assistance programme for the 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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