

REGIONAL WINTER ASSISTANCE PROGRESS REPORT

UNHCR Regional Winter Progress Report: Syria and Iraq Situation

1 Sep - 1 October 2015

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



Lebanon, 4 month year old baby and mother from Syrian refugee camp in Bekaa Valley, on 10 January 2015. UNHCR/ A. McConnell

UNHCR's regional winter plan for the Syria Situation will address the winter needs of **2.5 million Syrians** (1.6 million refugees and 920,000 million IDPs), requiring **170 million USD**, out of which **137 million USD** was gratefully received in contributions by the end of September. To-date, the Regional Syria Situation winter plan is **81 per cent** funded.

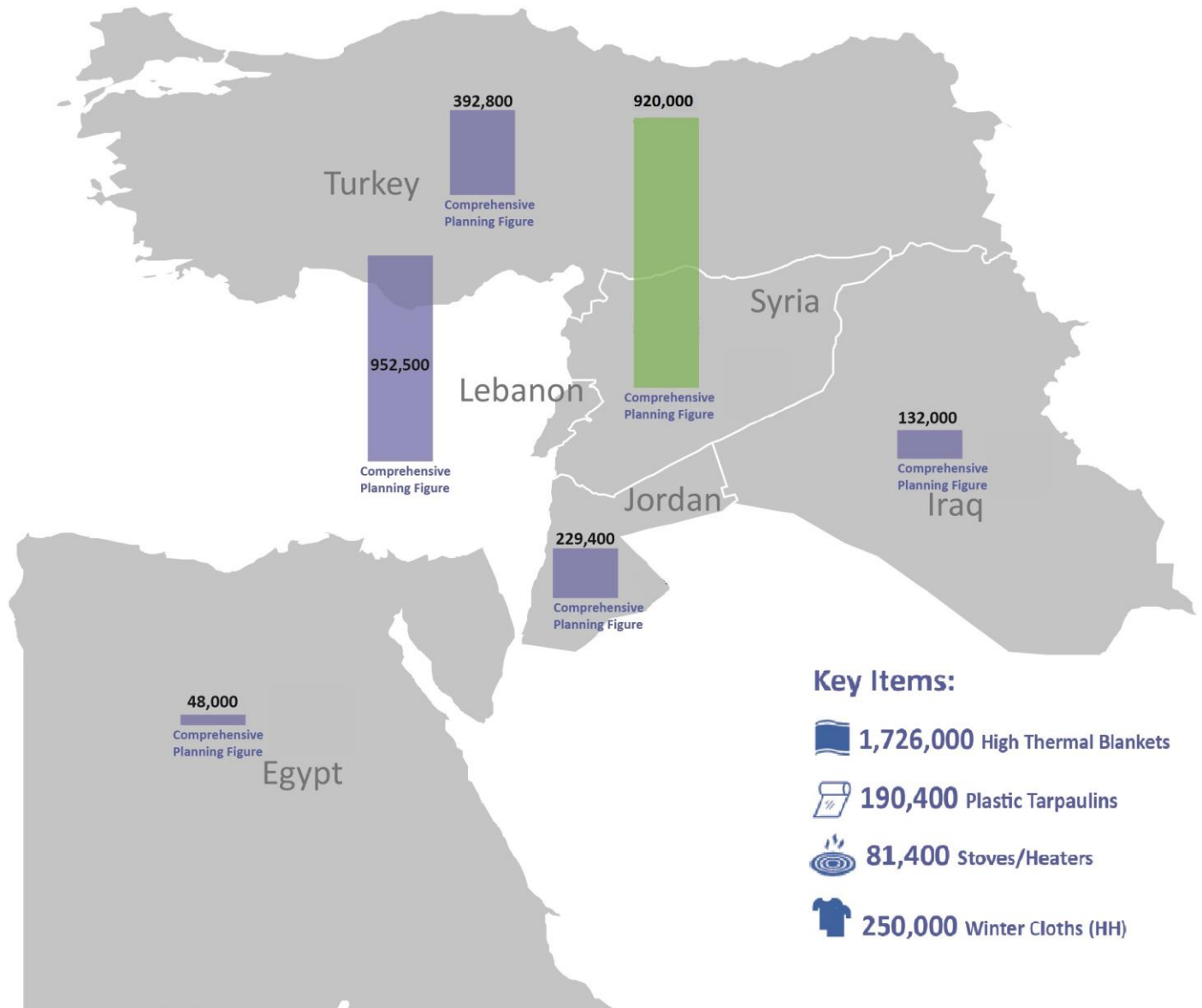
UNHCR's winter plan for the Iraq Situation will reach **700,000 Iraqis** (almost 100,000 refugees and close to 600,000 IDPs), requiring **66 million USD**, out of which **30 million USD** was gratefully received in contributions by the end of September. To-date, the Regional Iraq Situation winter plan is **45 per cent** funded.

Regionally, for both situations, **4 per cent** of the winter assistance has been distributed, including: shelter insulation kits; with a further **44 per cent** of winter core relief items in stock, including: high thermal blankets, plastic tarpaulin, stoves, kerosene jerry cans and winter clothing; with a further **39 per cent** of winter core relief items currently in the pipeline. Resulting in **13 per cent** of all winter core relief items remaining to be sourced.





The comprehensive shortfall therefore for the Syria Situation is currently **33 million USD**, with the comprehensive shortfall for the Iraq Situation currently at **36 million USD**.

SYRIA SITUATION

MAPPING THE REFUGEE AND IDP PLANNING FIGURES FOR UNHCR WINTER ASSISTANCE



Key Items:


-  **1,726,000** High Thermal Blankets
-  **190,400** Plastic Tarpaulins
-  **81,400** Stoves/Heaters
-  **250,000** Winter Cloths (HH)


Key Facts



 **11.66** million
Total Refugees and IDPs

 **1.75 (43%)** million
Refugees Comprehensive Planning Figure

 **1.25 (16%)** million
IDPs Comprehensive Planning Figure

 **73,426 (2%)**
IDPs and Refugees reached

SYRIA SITUATION

EGYPT

UNHCR Cairo plans to distribute winterization grants during the second week of December to some 48,000 persons. Coordination meetings will start during the second week of October with other counterparts to agree on assistance criteria. The distribution of winterization grants will be implemented directly by UNHCR through the Post Office. UNHCR will monitor closely the provision of winter assistance through regular meetings with partners as well as conducting a post-delivery monitoring exercise during the month of December and January 2016.

IRAQ

UNHCR continues to coordinate with the sector partners and local authorities in preparation for an integrated winter planned response for Syrian refugees.

UNHCR aims to distribute multi-purpose cash assistance during the winter months to Syrian refugees. Syrian refugees may receive their cash assistance through either cheques or an electronic cash card similar to the system UNHCR will use for IDPs.

UNHCR will begin distribution of winter Core Relief Items (CRIs) beginning 1 November. All winter items have been procured to arrive at UNHCR warehouses between mid-October and mid-November in time for distribution across Iraq. Partners are prepared to deliver winter supplies in a timely manner in all governorates.

JORDAN

The Winterization Task Force, chaired by UNHCR and NRC, was reactivated in June 2015 at which point the Task Force agreed standards for the response. At present, the Task Force is refining its methodology for prioritization and various organizations within the Task Force are conducting needs assessments in the months leading up to winter.

The cash package amount has changed since the initial development of the plan, in accordance to the amounts set by the Winterization Task Force. As a result, full packages now amount to JOD 297 (US \$420) while half packages will be JOD 195 (US \$276).

Implementation of shelter activities has already commenced as proper insulation is critical in order to stay warm during the winter months. As a result, as of 20 September, concrete flooring has been laid in 3,126 shelters in Azraq and 823 shelters in urban areas have received upgrades to ensure adequate insulation prior to the start of winter.

As a result 14 per cent of the overall comprehensive figure in need of shelter assistance has now received UNHCR support.

LEBANON

The initial plan has been revised and scaled up to now reach 952,500 individuals, 86 per cent of the Syrian refugee population, to more adequately respond to vulnerability findings among refugees in Lebanon. UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF conducted annual Vulnerability Assessments for Syrian refugees which found that 70 per cent of refugee households are living below the poverty line (3.84 USD/person/day). In addition the UNHCR winter Post Distribution Monitoring 2014/2015 found that 'cash for winter' can address temporary and seasonal basic assistance of families during the winter period. Therefore the plan has been updated and cash beneficiaries are divided into three groups:

- a. Severely and highly vulnerable families who have been identified by the inter-agency household assessment and not received any type of cash assistance to-date.
- b. Food assistance for eligible families living above 500 meters, including the monthly cash beneficiaries who will receive an additional grant to cover winter expenditure, such as fuel.
- c. Food assistance for eligible families living below 500 meters, including the monthly cash beneficiaries who will receive an additional grant to cover winter expenditure, such as fuel.

The 2015-2016 winter support plan is crafted to address the needs of families in a holistic approach. The main aim of the intervention is to reflect the actual needs while trying to reach the largest number of families. The interagency estimates that 200,000 economically vulnerable families (Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian) are exposed to cold and hence in need for basic assistance and shelter improvement/ weatherproofing activities. The interagency recommends monetizing as much as possible the basic assistance component. In areas where the cash modality is difficult to implement (Arsal), fuel vouchers are preferred substitutes.

Based on the above, three cash for winter packages are proposed:

1. 175 USD X 4 months for all 'highly vulnerable' families identified through the ongoing household visits
2. 100 USD X 4 months for all food eligible families living above 500m
3. 66 USD X 4 months for all food eligible families living below 500m (66 USD being the difference in expenditures between winter and summer)

Along with cash assistance, the interagency recommends the distribution of basic core relief items such as stoves, high thermal blankets, and winter clothes. Shelter weatherproofing and heating fuel for schools will also provide essential support this year.

SYRIA

UNHCR Syria has revised their planning figure to 920,000 IDPs, from the initial figure of 1,250,000 IDPs, based upon capacity and time constraints.

The first batch of blankets and plastic sheets have arrived. In regards to the winter clothes, the vendor has been selected in early September and the procurement is in progress.

Cross-border from Amman, Shelter Non-Food Item (NFI) group met on 28 September to discuss planning and coordination in terms of the winter assistance implementation. At least two other members of the Jordan Hub Shelter NFI Sector Working Group are planning winter CRI distributions at this point in time. Cross-border from Amman aims to include a winter fuel pilot scheme for Southern Syria in November to December, in order to better comprehend operative support in regards to fuel assistance during the winter months. A coordination meeting took place on 28 September to delineate areas of operations which are still in discussion.

With the scaling down of an INGO from CRI distribution related activities, cross-border from Gaziantep has been discussing ways to maintain distributions trans-shipment through other possible partnerships, which would be able to continue into the winter months. Discussions have resulted in three new partners being identified.

TURKEY

Partners distributing CRIs and winter assistance to non-camp Syrian refugees attended the NFI Working Group meeting on the 28 September, in Gaziantep, while the Basic Needs Sector working group met on 22 September to discuss coordination of such matters as winterization plan, cash assistance, and distribution of CRIs.

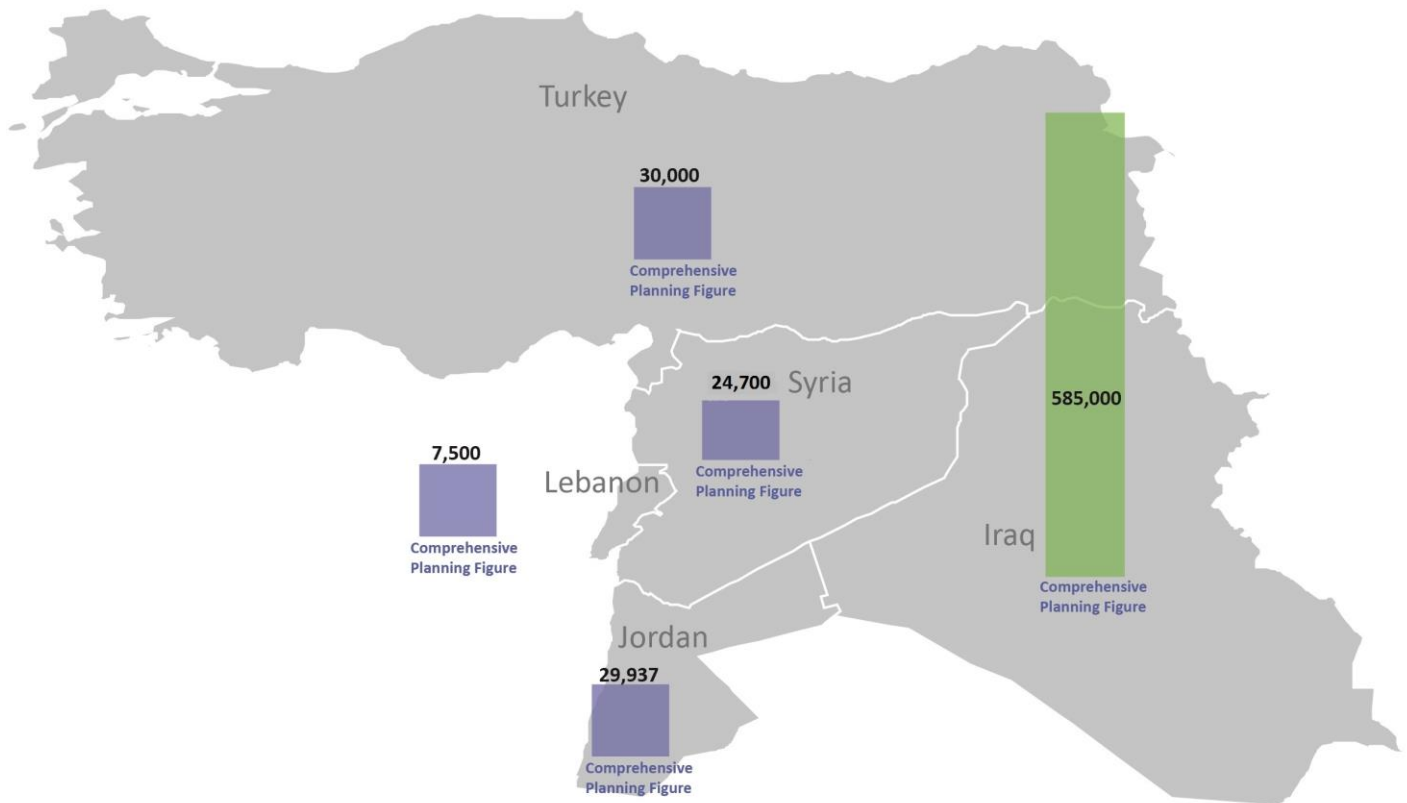
After further consultation with stakeholders, in addition to the winter CRIs, UNHCR Turkey has made changes to the initial plan to include the provision of one-off cash assistance as winterization package for non-camp Syrian refugees.

UNHCR has identified partners who will implement the winterization plan for non-camp refugees. Procurement of CRIs for winterization is implemented directly by UNHCR. UNHCR Turkey has adopted a phased approach to procurement. For the camp population, UNHCR will procure all blankets, 20,000 heaters and all winter clothes needed for the planning figures. With respect to non-camp refugees, UNHCR will procure all blankets and implement cash-voucher assistance programmes for 6,000 refugee families for winter assistance. Procurement of winter boots for both camp and non-camp populations and winter clothes for non-camp population remain a gap in the comprehensive plan at this stage.

With respect to camp populations, UNHCR releases the CRIs to the Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (AFAD) for distribution among refugees based on the needs that they identify. However, due to Government ownership of the data and the political sensitivity, AFAD does not share the beneficiary data with UNHCR. Though there is an understanding and trust between UNHCR and the Government, UNHCR will conduct ad-hoc monitoring visits to the camps during distribution of winterization packages, to ensure that fair, transparent and accountable measures are taken for targeting purposes.

IRAQ SITUATION

MAPPING THE REFUGEE AND IDP PLANNING FIGURES FOR UNHCR WINTER ASSISTANCE



Key Items



Key Facts



IRAQ SITUATION

IRAQ

UNHCR began winterization planning in July 2015, informing the development of the Shelter/NFI Cluster Winterization Plan for 2015/2016. UNHCR's winterized CRIs are in-line with the Cluster strategy, and UNHCR continues to coordinate with the Cluster and local authorities in preparation for an integrated winterization response.

UNHCR will distribute cash assistance to vulnerable IDP families across Iraq through an electronic cash card transfer system. Additional cash distributed during the winter months (November – February) will be part of UNHCR's winterization programme.

Families for cash assistance are identified and referred by UNHCR and partner protection monitors. Families are referred based on vulnerability criteria in-line with the cash working group's guidelines. Families referred for cash assistance are reviewed by a panel of UNHCR field, and protection staff, who only approve families who exhibit a vulnerability to which cash is an appropriate response during the winter months. After a family has been approved to receive cash assistance their payment details are shared with the payment company International Smart Card (ISC). ISC contacts the family through SMS to inform them of local offices where they can collect their cash card. IDPs may use the cash card to withdraw cash from ATMs or use it for payments in shops like a debit card.

Payment amounts are fixed based on the number of people in the household. Amounts range from 200 USD for a single person to around 600 USD for families of 10 or more people. Payments are received in Iraqi dinars, and are calculated based upon the minimum winter expenditure basket, for the winter season. Currently, UNHCR is in the process of approving families for cash assistance and referring the details to ISC for card distribution. Payments will begin soon after cards are issued. UNHCR will continue approving payments on a rolling basis.

UNHCR will begin distribution of winterization items by 1 November as planned. Requirements have been met through either current stock, or are in the process of being sourced from local and international suppliers. The majority of the items to be procured has been ordered to arrive at UNHCR warehouses between October and November in time for distribution across Iraq. Partners are prepared to deliver winter supplies in a timely manner to IDPs in all governorates.

Provision of kerosene to IDPs remains a challenge, with commitments from authorities not forthcoming. Many Iraqis rely on kerosene for heating, with kerosene being the primary heating source for camp residents. All Iraqis are entitled to free kerosene rations through the Public Distribution System, and UNHCR continues to advocate with the Government of Iraq to ensure that kerosene entitlements are distributed to all IDPs.

JORDAN

UNHCR Jordan's winter plan will assist 8,805 vulnerable families (29,937 persons) with winter cash assistance. The amount associated with the cash packages have changed since the initial development of the plan, in accordance to the amounts set by the Winterization Task Force. As a result, full packages now amount to JOD 297 (US \$420) while half packages will be JOD 195 (US \$276), per household. While all preparations for the selection of the additional cash assistance are ongoing.

LEBANON

Lebanon aims to assist 3,000 households (approximately 7,500 refugees) with high thermal blankets and cash assistance however, interagency discussions are ongoing and revisions may still be made to maximise the reach to Iraqi refugees, with winter support.

SYRIA

The first batch of blankets and plastic sheets have arrived in stock. In relation to the winter clothes, the vendor has been selected in early September and procurement is in progress. The first shipments are expected shortly. There is a change in price of the winter clothing kit, from an estimated 45 - 50 USD, which was based on the prices in 2014, to 19 USD per kit agreed with the vendor for 2015.

TURKEY

The distribution of CRI winter assistance is coordinated in the NFI Working Group meetings held on a monthly basis in Gaziantep. The Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (AFAD) manages the distribution of winterization packages in the camps. As for non-camp Iraqi refugees, UNHCR plans to implement either one-off cash assistance or CRIs for winterization or both, subject to availability of resources. UNHCR has identified the potential partner to implement the winterization assistance to Iraqi refugees.

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