

REGIONAL MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE MONITORING UPDATE

MAY 2018

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



1.8 million people assessed for cash assistance in 2018 so far.



585,317 individuals reached with cash assistance in 2018 so far, 423,269 in May alone.

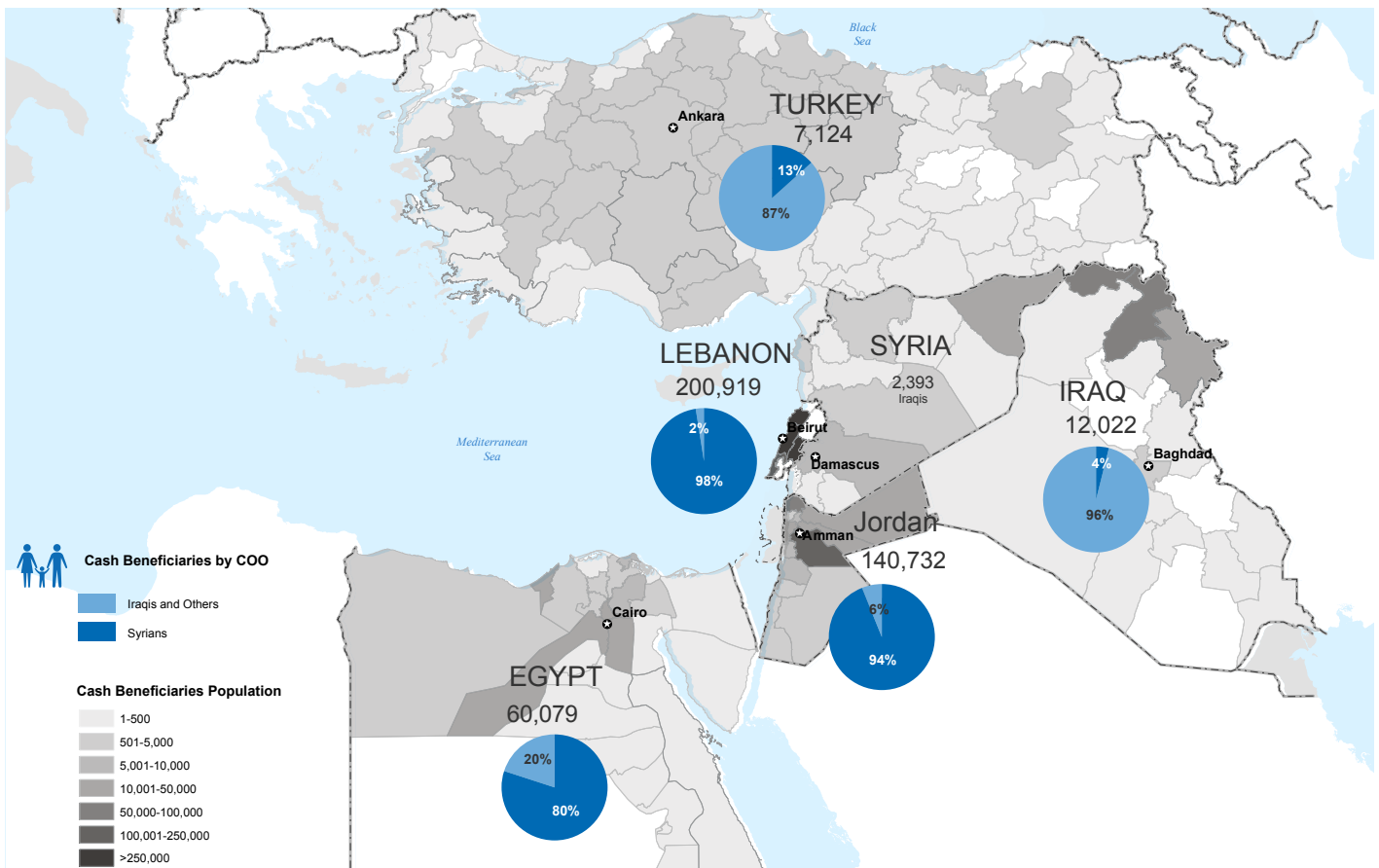


15 million distributed in May 2018, > USD 60 million so far in 2018.



USD 116 million is urgently required to continue providing cash assistance to nearly 87,000 Syrian refugee families (some 435,000 individuals) across the region throughout the second half of 2018.

BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY COUNTRY IN MAY 2018



REGIONAL INDICATORS

NEEDS

Total Number assessed in 2018	1.8 million ¹
Individuals assessed by Household visit in 2018	>300,000
Individuals assessed by Household visit in May	75,283
Number of appeals against non-inclusion	5,334
Number of appeals resulting in positive decisions	2,318

In May 2018, some 43 per cent of all appeals against non-inclusion resulted in positive outcomes indicating both the deteriorating situation of Syrian refugees (vulnerability increased since initial assessment) but also the ability of UNHCR's appeal process to re-evaluate cases on their merits, especially in light of a change of circumstances. **Of the 1.8 million people assessed in 2018, either through a household visit or a desk review, UNHCR has found 1.2 million individuals eligible for cash assistance in 2018. Hundreds of thousands more needs ongoing support to meet their most basic needs.**

RESPONSE

Individuals assisted with Cash in 2018	585,317
Individuals assisted with Cash in May	423,269
USD disbursed in 2018	> USD 60 million
USD disbursed in May	USD 15 million

UNHCR has assisted over 585,000 individuals so far in 2018, disbursing over USD 60 million. UNHCR cash assistance programmes in the MENA region are some of the largest and most advanced cash programmes in the world. They 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.

PROTECTION

Referrals to case management in May	8,324
Referrals from case management to cash assistance in May	1,903
Number of inquiries related to cash assistance in May	43,343
Number of updates to refugee records in May	109,852

The information UNHCR collects through its cash, protection and other assessments, serves as a critical platform, enabling strong engagement and advocacy with governments and municipalities on a wide range of protection-related issues. It also allows for immediate referral to specialized protection services. **Across the region over 8,000 referrals to case management were made by UNHCR during cash assessments during the month, a 25 per cent increase compared to April. Moreover, some 2,000 individuals were referred to broader case management services from**

cash assessments. This highlights the regular interface between UNHCR's cash assistance programme and protection services. In May alone, about 10,000 cases were identified for further assistance. On the other hand, UNHCR's continuous registration and the updating of almost 110,000 records during the month of May, enabling in dynamic decision-making on eligibility for assistance and appeals based on the latest available family composition and vulnerabilities.

COVERAGE

People not reached due to underfunding	> 1.5 million
Critical funding needs	> 116 million
Number assisted by partners	2 million

Cash assistance support to vulnerable refugee families in under threat due to chronic underfunding, particularly in Lebanon and Jordan where over 80 per cent live below the poverty line. **UNHCR urgently needs USD 116 million** needed or cash activities will stop completely from June onwards preventing **87,000 refugee families (some**

435,000 individuals) from meeting their most basic daily needs including rent and accessing essential services like health care and education. This is not the entire funding gap but represents the most urgent cash assistance funding needs identified by UNHCR across the region.

¹ Includes 1,478,655 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 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

Lebanon

Annual vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees (VASyR)

On 4 May the data collection of the annual vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees (VASyR) and refugees of the other nationalities (VARON) was completed. Teams visited 4,467 Syrian refugees and 476 refugees of other nationalities across the country. A total of 136 enumerators, hired through UNHCR implementing partners, conducted the household visits under the supervision of focal points from the leading agencies. The VASyR is an annual exercise led by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF carried out in order to identify situational changes and trends, and forms the basis for eligibility. Since the first assessment in 2013, the VASyR has been an essential tool for partnership and for shaping planning decisions and programme design. It is the cornerstone for support and intervention in Lebanon.

Jordan

Cash Assistance to Access Essential Health Care Services Project (CAEHS)

Cash Assistance to Access Essential Health Services (CAEHS) is a sector specific cash assistance provided for vulnerable, pregnant women for safe deliveries and emergency lifesaving procedures with the objective of assisting Syrian women living in urban settings. In Jordan, UNHCR and partners use cash as a part of a wider programme of referral services for refugees to access health care.

The value and targeting criteria for the transfer depend on the type of delivery medically indicated. The program also uses existing systems of vulnerability identification. The amount of cash provided is pegged against the rates of the Ministry of Health. CAEHS has been successfully integrated into the Common Cash Facility since April 2016. Since the beginning of the year a total of 1,549 cases were assisted under the CAEHS programme.



The strong coordination, including with national institutions, an advanced banking system, and the existence of a cash programme for basic needs that allow for complementary programmes provide an ideal environment for implementing this programme through cash. The initiative is ongoing since 2015. Initially, Syrian refugees were eligible for the subsidized rates for Ministry of Health services. In early 2018, there was change by the Government of Jordan and beneficiaries now have to afford higher rates for the same services, thus significantly driving up the cost of health care for refugees, and also therefore driving up the cost of the programme.

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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