

REGIONAL MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE MONITORING UPDATE MID-YEAR REPORT - JUNE 2018

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



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



621,543 individuals reached across the region in the first half of 2018, with over USD 78 million distributed.

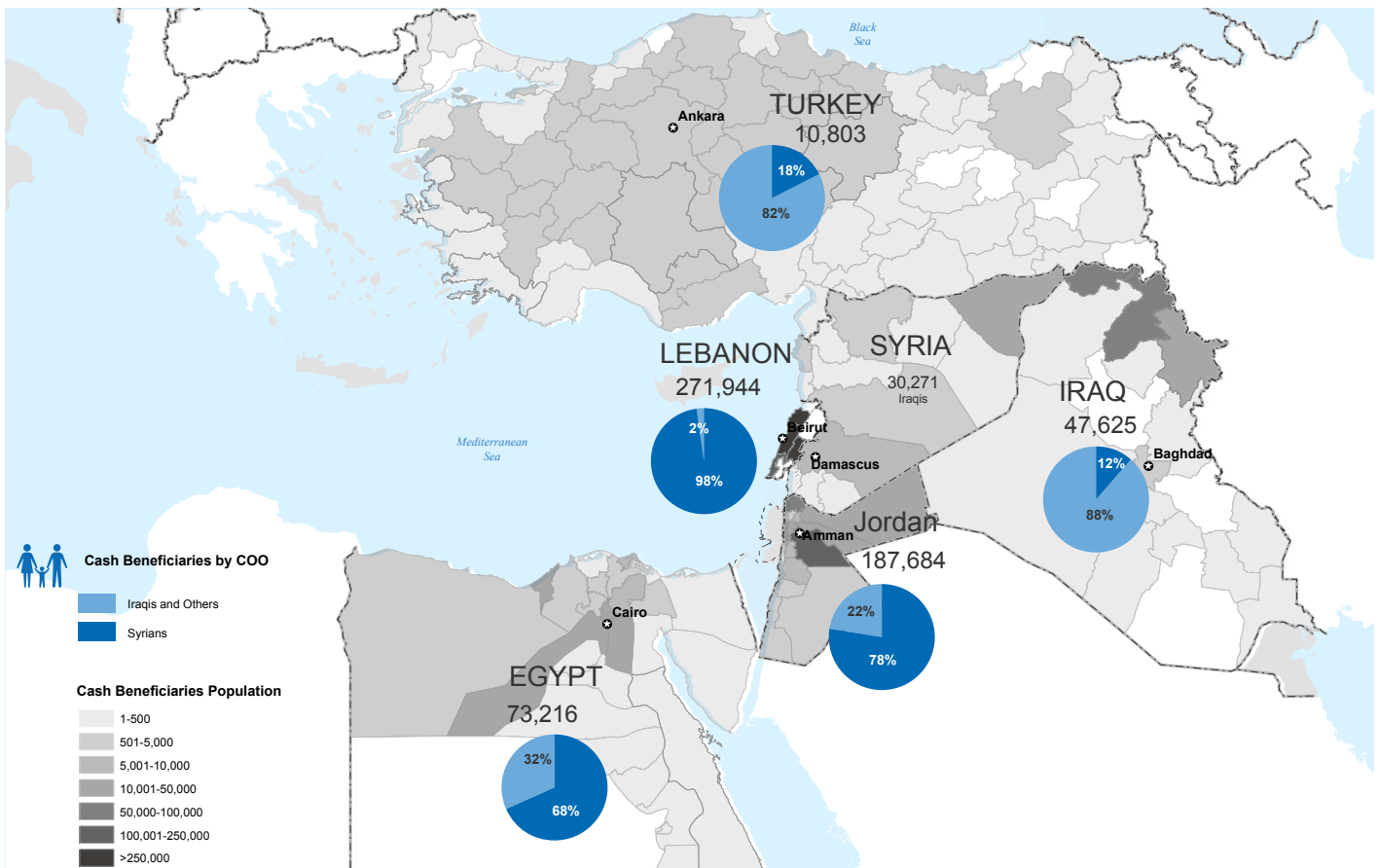


Over 85 per cent of Syrian refugees in Jordan live below the poverty line;¹ the figure is over 75 per cent in Lebanon.²



USD 116 million urgently required for cash assistance to 87,000 Syrian refugee families (435,000 individuals) in the second half of 2018.

BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY COUNTRY JAN-JUNE 2018



1 UNHCR Jordan Factsheet, June 2018.

2. "The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR)" UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, 2017.

REGIONAL INDICATORS

NEEDS

Total Individuals assessed in 2018	1.8 million ³	The vulnerability of Syrian and Iraqi refugee and internally displaced populations and their host communities as a result of prolonged displacement has gradually worsened over time. In Jordan, over 85 per cent of Syrian refugees live below the poverty line, 48 per cent of all are children, and four per cent are elderly. Compounding this, recent changes to Government regulations in February 2018
Persons assessed by household visit - 2018	>313,000	
Persons assessed by household visit - June	10,000	
# found eligible for cash support in 2018	1.2 million	

mean that Syrian refugees are no longer able to access the non-insured Jordanian rate for health, and now pay 80 per cent of foreigner rates, an increase in real terms of two-to-fivefold to access services, putting healthcare beyond many people's reach. In Lebanon, three quarters of Syrian refugees now live on less than USD 4 per day, putting them below the poverty line with dwindling resources to meet their most basic needs. Borrowing money for food, health expenses and rent continues to be extremely common, with almost nine out of every 10 refugees in Lebanon in debt.

RESPONSE

Assisted with cash in June	>450,000	UNHCR cash assistance programmes are one component of a much broader and integrated network of activities which aims to provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable. UNHCR has found 1.2 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 620,000 individuals so far in 2018, disbursing more than USD 78 million .
Assisted with cash in 2018	>621,000	
USD disbursed in 2018	78 million	
USD disbursed in June	15 million	

PROTECTION

Referrals to case management	2,654	The recently commissioned <i>Multi-Purpose Cash and Sectoral Outcomes: A Review of Evidence and Learning</i> highlighted the critical importance of the interlinkages between cash assistance and sectoral support found that: "Protection needs to be seen as a cross-cutting issue and protection outcomes need to be considered across all sectors. Multi-purpose cash can have positive protection outcomes within specific sectors, but also for cross-cutting issues such as gender, age and disability.
Referrals from case management	1,469	
# of inquiries related to cash assistance	22,912	
Number of updates to refugee records	92,909	

Multi-purpose cash programmes need to be integrated into an overall protection approach, which remains the core of UNHCR's work." The report also highlighted the need for "complementarity between multi-purpose cash and protection programming and services to maximize positive protection outcomes and reduce risks."

COVERAGE

Syrian refugees not receiving assistance due to lack of funds	435,000	Cash assistance support to vulnerable refugee families is under threat due to chronic underfunding. UNHCR urgently needs USD 116 million in the second half of 2018 to fund cash activities for some 87,000 refugee families (some 435,000 individuals) who depend on this support for 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 across the region.
Critical funding needs	>USD 116M	
# assisted by partners	2 million	

³ 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

The Grand Bargain at two years old

May 2018 marked the second anniversary of the Grand Bargain agreement, under which UN, civil society organisations and donors committed to, in sum: increase the use of cash; invest in scalable delivery models; build an evidence base to assess costs, benefits, impacts, and risks; and, ensure better coordination, delivery, and monitoring and evaluation. [The Grand Bargain annual independent report](#) published in June 2018 and reporting on the status of commitments, notes that the cash commitment (encompassing all of the above sub-commitments) made particularly good progress. The report states that some 89 per cent of signatories reported increased routine use of cash, the highest rate of reporting against any individual commitment. UNHCR, for its part, has been prioritizing the expansion of cash-based interventions in the MENA region. As evidence of this, in 2017 the Syria and Iraq situations 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).



Furthering the “One Refugee Approach” through cash-based interventions (CBI) in Egypt

As part of the “One Refugee Approach”, UNHCR Egypt has taken steps to align assistance provided to Syrians and to refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities (including Iraqis), starting with alignment of delivery mechanisms. From 1 July 2018, all eligible adult refugees and asylum-seekers receive cash assistance from UNHCR through the Egypt Post Office. Furthermore, a gradual alignment of cash transfer values has commenced starting with refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities with households ranging from one to three members. Separately, a baseline survey led by UNHCR was conducted from March 2018 with 1,800 randomly selected refugee and asylum seeker households from Syria and other nationalities as part of the annual vulnerability assessment exercise - Egypt Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees (EVAR). The findings will support UNHCR and partners better understand the characteristics of the refugee population and identify factors that contribute to their vulnerabilities. It will also inform selection processes and improve transparency.

Innovative collaboration with other partners in Iraq

UNHCR is engaged in a joint monitoring exercise with WFP to assess food security and vulnerability of Syrian refugees in camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). This exercise follows a joint vulnerability assessment (JVA) undertaken in mid-2017 as a baseline for developing a more refined targeting methodology. Meanwhile, UNHCR is using data from last year’s JVA to inform the development of a multi-dimensional vulnerability score to assist operations in better targeting their cash – and other forms of – assistance.

Upgrades in the efficiency of CBI software in Syria

As part of a comprehensive review of cash assistance processes, UNHCR Syria is developing a new software application for cash-based interventions. The software, tested during the June assistance cycle, is an improved, user-friendly, web-based application to manage the assistance cycle, expediting all steps, minimising the chance for error, and enhancing accountability. The system is integrated with UNHCR’s global registration system (proGres) and the Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) and is usable by field offices in real time, eliminating the need for offline processing.

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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