NOTE
The figures and information contained in this document are in draft form and subject to amendment as the 3RP country chapters are finalized.
The situation in Syria continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. Globally, Syria remains the main country of origin of refugees, making up a quarter of all refugees in the world. Syrians have found asylum in 127 countries, but the vast majority fled to the neighbouring countries – Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

These countries and communities have generously hosted refugees, and in the process, made an invaluable contribution to regional and international stability. This has come at an unprecedented cost, however, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities, overstretching basic social services, and reversing years of hard-won development gains. Today, several host country governments continue to confront heightened economic and financial challenges, whilst undertaking difficult reforms.

Over the last five years, the international community has strived to assist both affected populations and host governments. The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), co-led by UNHCR and UNDP, remains the cornerstone of this support, bringing together over 270 partners into a unified plan, driving innovation in policy and programming and successfully channeling over USD14 billion in funding.

As we enter 2020, there are over 5.6 million Syrian refugees across the region. Supporting refugees and the communities hosting them remains extremely challenging, with many individuals facing acute needs and vulnerabilities. Some 70 per cent of Syrian refugees live in poverty, while unemployment and uneven access to basic services, such as education, persist. Many in host communities, living side-by-side with refugees, face similar problems.

This year’s 3RP offers a US$5.4 billion comprehensive plan in support of national priorities. This includes working together to ensure that refugees have continued access to asylum and international protection, that basic needs of refugees and affected host community members can be met in safety and dignity and that those with specific needs receive specialized services and support. 3RP partners strive to build resilience at all levels, ensuring increased opportunities for self-reliance, and helping to strengthen the capacity of national and local institutions to more effectively address current and future needs.

The 3RP community is also looking to the future. Underpinned by the strong co-leadership between UNHCR and UNDP, the 3RP will continue to strengthen the refugee and resilience response and took to play its part in advancing the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a way that leaves no one behind. Enhanced collaboration with bilateral partners, International Financial Institutions and the private sector will remain critical in forwarding these aims.

As in previous years, we remain grateful for the generosity and support of our donors who allow the 3RP to reach vulnerable people across the region. With the crisis entering its tenth year, our message to the international community is that we need you to stay the course and show continued support and solidarity with the Syrian people, host communities and host countries until durable solutions are realized and a political solution to the Syria crisis is found.

Mourad Wahba
Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States

Amin Awad
UNHCR Director for the Middle East and North Africa Bureau and Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Syria and Iraq situations
Regional Strategic Overview 2020 - 2021

**Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (RPR)**

**KEY FACTS & FIGURES**

- **70%** of people in need in the region are women or children.
- **99%** of Syrian children born in the region have some form of identity document.
- **93%** of Syrian refugees across the region reside within the host community, mainly in urban areas; 7% reside in camps.
- **800,000** children out of school across the region.
- Poverty rates for Syrian refugees vary across the region, but exceed **60%** in some countries.
- **Turkey** hosts the highest number of Syrian refugees in the world, while Lebanon and Jordan have among the highest concentration of refugees per capita in the world.
- The **Challenges** include economic opportunities, legal uncertainty, mobility, and negative perceptions.

**RESPONSE SUMMARY**

**POPULATION**

- **TOTAL 5,638,197** registered Syrian refugees as of December 2019.
- **5,417,588** projected registered Syrian refugees by December 2020.
- **7,341,877** estimated total of Syrians as of December 2019.
- **4,495,290** directly targeted members of impacted communities in 2020.

**REGIONAL STRATEGIC OVERVIEW 2020 - 2021**

**RESPONSE**

**FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

**NOTE:** All figures are in USD. The “Total requirements 2020” figure does not include the requirements of the government under the JRP, LCRP, and other national responses.

**NOTE:** This does not include regional funding requirements and some other country-level requirements which have not yet been allocated a sector.

**Component**

**Resilience**

**Refugee**

**Resilience Component**

**Refugee Component**

**USD 5.4 b required**

**USD 2.6 b required**

**TOTAL REQUIREMENTS 2020**

**COUNTRY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Refugee Component</strong></th>
<th><strong>Resilience Component</strong></th>
<th><strong>Total Requirements</strong></th>
<th><strong>Estimated Total Needs 2021</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TURKEY</td>
<td>456,300,000</td>
<td>532,000,000</td>
<td>1,498,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEBANON</td>
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<td>2,674,429,087</td>
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<td>JORDAN</td>
<td>913,505,965</td>
<td>161,397,715</td>
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<td>IRAQ</td>
<td>273,220,275</td>
<td>86,732,037</td>
<td>359,952,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>123,153,002</td>
<td>20,323,203</td>
<td>143,476,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGIONAL</td>
<td>92,970,742</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>95,970,742</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL 5,216,982,177**

**2,214,896,427**

**5,431,888,594**

**TBC**

**NOTE:** The “Total requirements 2020” figure does not include the requirements of the government under the JRP, LCRP, and other national responses.

**REGIONAL SECTOR REQUIREMENT BREAKDOWN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sector</strong></th>
<th><strong>Requirements 2020</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHELTER</td>
<td>USD 234 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>USD 255 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td>USD 460 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIVELIHOODS</td>
<td>USD 610 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROTECTION</td>
<td>USD 676 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOOD SECURITY</td>
<td>USD 854 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>USD 880 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASIC NEEDS</td>
<td>USD 1.1 b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** This does not include regional funding requirements and some other country-level requirements which have not yet been allocated a sector.

**TREND OF REGISTERED SYRIAN REFUGEES**

- 276,533 individuals in refugee camps.
- 95% of the population
- <5.3 million in total
- Urban and rural areas

**TOP REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES**

- **Islamic Republic of Iran**
  - 978,400 individuals
- **Pakistan**
  - 1.4 m individuals
- **Turkey**
  - 3.5 m individuals
- **Lebanon**
  - 1.0 m individuals
- **Uganda**
  - 1.4 m individuals
Regional Strategic Overview 2020 - 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt continue to generously host over 5.6 million refugees as of the end of 2019. There was no major influx of new refugees into these host countries during the year as borders and admission practices remained closely managed. However, some 17,500 Syrians were displaced into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq as a result of an increase in hostilities in north-east Syria as of 1 December. While no country saw a substantial decrease in registered Syrian refugees, others saw modest net increases, primarily as a result of new registrations, particularly new-borns.

Since the beginning of 2019, there has been a relative increase in the number of spontaneous voluntary refugee returns to Syria. As of 1 December, over 90,000 Syrian refugees have spontaneously and voluntarily returned to Syria, an increase of over 60 per cent compared to the same timeframe in 2018. These figures are based on government sources and direct observation by UNHCR. The actual number may be significantly higher. To date, Aleppo and Daraa are the two main governorates of origin for refugee returnees, followed by Rural Damascus and Homs.

Return intention surveys conducted in early 2019 in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan found that 75 per cent of Syrian refugees hoped to return to Syria one day. However, 69 per cent of respondents did not foresee a return to Syria in the following 12 months. The key issues highlighted as influencing return intentions included safety and security, livelihoods opportunities, access to shelter and access to basic services. Meanwhile, gender analysis of returns has shown that women and girls confront disproportionate risks.

Resettlement remained an important yet limited option in 2019, continuing the downward trend of previous years. Some 23,000 people Syrians have been referred for resettlement as of 1 December, representing a 70 per cent reduction from 2016. The global decrease in the number of resettlement places available and a shifting of resettlement opportunities to other global priority situations are the primary drivers for the decrease, even though resettlement needs of Syrians in the host countries in the region remain high.

Against the backdrop of an evolving context in Syria and across the region, 3RP partners expect a fluid situation throughout 2020. Nonetheless, for the purposes of 3RP planning, it is projected that the registered Syrian refugee population in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt will remain approximately at current levels, with some modest increases due to new registrations as well as further spontaneous voluntary returns expected.

Despite the generosity of host countries and communities, Syrian refugees continue to face challenges across the region. Some 70 per cent of Syrian refugees live in poverty, while unemployment and uneven access to education and other basic services persist. As more refugees remain in poverty, protection risks such as early marriage, sexual and gender-based violence, child labour, and exploitation are liable to worsen, while the use of negative coping mechanisms may rise.

Vulnerabilities among host communities also remains significant. At the same time, host countries continue to contend with a range of economic and social challenges. Economic growth remains slow in some countries and unemployment remains a major concern, reaching 25 per cent in Lebanon andhovering above 10 percent in other host countries. Recent trends in youth unemployment are particularly worrisome: In Turkey, joblessness among people aged 15-24 has been on the rise, reaching a record 27.1 per cent in July 2019. In Jordan, youth unemployment stood at 40.1 per cent for the first quarter of 2019. Poverty rates, according to national measures, also remain high, with a third of the population living in poverty in some countries. Female unemployment tends to be higher in some countries due to multiple gendered barriers in accessing the economy.

Turkey and elsewhere, sustained support is required to respond to the increase in demand for basic services. Notwithstanding the generous and continuous international support provided through the 3RP, and other international and bilateral channels, the funding environment for the Syria refugee and resilience response remains challenging undetermined, particularly mobilizing resources at the scale necessary to systematically tackle socio-economic challenges in host countries and ensure continuous support to the strengthening of national and local service delivery systems and the expansion of job and other economic opportunities, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Poverty Rates in the Host Countries in 2019

- Lebanon: 33%
- Jordan: 15.7%
- Iraq: 17.9%
- Egypt: 32%

UNHCR recorded
90,817 self-spontaneous
returns in 2019

Resettlement Needs
10% of Syrian refugees are in need of resettlement and meet resettlement criteria.

0.5% of Syrian refugees will be submitted for resettlement - only one in 20 of those in need.
During the second half of 2019, 3RP partners undertook a consultative regional process to define new regional strategic directions. This process was launched in recognition of several factors, including many of the previous strategic directions are now firmly embedded in the response, the importance of focusing on collective impact, and the opportunity to further harness global frameworks, such as the Global Compact for Refugees and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in line with national priorities.

The regional strategic directions set the overall high-level parameters for the regional response and articulate the impact which 3RP partners strive to make. These directions are interlinked and interdependent, with progress on each essential to the positive outcomes towards the others. Under the overall regional strategic direction framework, each country has developed its own specific strategic directions and objectives based on its context, as outlined in the country overviews.

The 3RP acknowledges the response of other non-government actors which operate outside 3RP structures but who are also significantly working to meet the needs of affected people across the region. This includes international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, development actors, and other international organizations such as the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). At the regional and country level, relevant coordination continues to be undertaken to promote complementary efforts, avoid duplication, and ensure impact of programming.

The 38P has brought more than 270 humanitarian and development partners together under a single, coordinated response which addresses both emergency needs and the longer-term resilience capacities of vulnerable women, men, youth, boys and girls among refugee and host communities.

All programming is encouraged to adopt and promote the key tenets of a Resilience Approach. The 3RP has put the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) and New Way of Working into practice, including through joint-programming as outlined in the box below. 3RP partners have strived to link emergency assistance to meet basic needs with actions to increase self-reliance and self-sufficiency of vulnerable populations through market-based skills training and employability, income generation opportunities and entrepreneurship programs. 3RP partners also work together with government, national and local institutions to strengthen existing service delivery systems, to identify vulnerabilities and address needs and risks, including social tensions associated with increased demand for services, and improve capacities to manage future shocks.

Furthermore, and consistent with the new UN Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies, 3RP sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms provide conducive platforms to mobilize humanitarian and development partners to employ shared, holistic analyses of vulnerabilities and collective, context-specific resilience-building outcomes across affected populations, areas, sectors and institutions. The inter-sectoral results and M&E frameworks in Lebanon and Turkey response plans are important examples of work in this direction.

During 2020-2021, 3RP partners are committed to strengthening the Resilience Approach in their work, ensuring that programs leave no one behind and continued implementation of the HDPN nexus.

• In Jordan, FAO, WFP and UNDP are working together on a programme to improve economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and Jordanian host community families in rural and semi-rural areas. With an emphasis on youth and women's empowerment, the programme focuses on the development of climate-smart agriculture practices, efforts to improve rural urban market linkages, vocational trainings and saving and loans mechanisms.

• In Lebanon, UNHCR and UNDP have been working together to improve community security and access to justice. Partnering with both Lebanese ministries and municipalities, this programme supports broader stabilization efforts while enhancing legal aid services for the most vulnerable refugee and host community members, particularly females.

• In Iraq, Jordan and Turkey, UN Women, in conjunction with local partners, implements the ‘Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities’ programme that promotes protection and empowerment of women through access to livelihood opportunities, ungendered protection services and support to national justice structures.
PROTECTING PEOPLE

The 3RP places protection of people at the center of its planning, design, implementation and monitoring of its interventions to ensure that no one is left behind. This approach informs advocacy and support for access to protection, protection from refoulement, registration, strengthening of the protection space, protection from violence and exploitation, case processing, facilitation of referrals and identification of possible solutions. Across the five host countries, efforts to protect people of concern are addressed through community-based approaches and strengthened identification mechanisms.

Obtaining civil documentation remains at the core of protection efforts to enable access to education, healthcare and employment as well as to register other important life events, such as marriages and births. Promoting gender equality in nationality laws is also vital for the prevention and reduction of people at risk of statelessness, particularly where women and girls, men and boys live in an environment where risks are reduced.

3RP partners also seek to strengthen zero-tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse through awareness and capacity-building, communication with affected communities, and community-based complaint mechanisms. Protection sensitive programming is pursued across the 3RP and thus contributes to each of the strategic directions.

Children make up half of the displaced population and face myriad violations of their rights. Psychological and social distress and violence are inherently linked, and often result in over-reliance on negative coping strategies. Increasing access to primary, secondary and tertiary education is also key to building their ability to better protect themselves and increase self-reliance. Mental health and psychological and social support are also intrinsically linked to the protection response.

National systems are supported for the prevention, mitigation and response to sexual and gender-based violence, by mainstreaming it across all interventions, so that more women, girls, men and boys live in an environment where risks are reduced.

35 %

in 2012

to

1.8 %
as of early 2019.

INTERLINKED PROTECTION SERVICES

Legal assistance
Training on protection including child protection and SGBV
Community-led initiatives
Awareness raising or information campaigns
Parenting programmes
Outreach activities
Empowerment opportunities
Child protection and psychosocial support programmes

Children like Najla received protection support when she arrived in Jordan. She also received a small support grant to build her own self-reliance. Today Najla has built a soap making business which provides her and four other women (two Syrian, two Jordanian) with a vital income, and which recently began exporting its first orders to China.

INTERLINKED PROTECTION SERVICES

Resettlement / humanitarian admission
Specialized child protection services
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) response services

3RP partners have significantly reduced the percentage of Syrian children born in the region without any form of identity documents from approximately

Syrian Refugee Resetlement

TARGETS AND SUBMISSIONS

Refugees continue to require access to territory, international protection, and support in countries of asylum. Given the protracted nature of the crisis, opportunities for durable solutions are urgently needed so refugees can look to the future with hope and dignity.

RETURN

All refugees have the fundamental right to return to their country of origin at a time of their own choosing. Refugees’ free and informed decisions are the guidepost for the 2020 3RP response. As spontaneous voluntary returns are likely to increase and given the need of refugees in the return process, 3RP partners will continue to strengthen relevant support in this area, such as information provision (housing, land and property amongst others), counselling, voluntariness confirmation, regularization of documentation in order to contribute to return that is voluntary and occurs in safety and dignity. In tandem, 3RP partners will continue to support return preparedness, centred on the intentions and concerns of refugees.

RENEWAL

As many Syrian refugees may remain in host countries for the near future, expanding local opportunities and enhancing self-reliance as a precursor to solutions remains critical. While scale and scope of such activities remain context specific, it can include advocacy for a supportive legal framework and enabling environment, increased access to job opportunities, bridging the gap between the skills of refugees and local market demands through training and certification opportunities and recognition of education and skills, with due consideration to gender dimensions.

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS

Regional Strategic Overview 2020 - 2021
Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP)
SUPPORTING
DIGNIFIED
LIVES

The crisis continues to impact protection and socio-economic well-being of vulnerable girls, boys, women and men due to a range of factors. Addressing the multiple deprivations facing refugees and vulnerable host populations and supporting enabling conditions and opportunities for all to lead a dignified life is a priority for all 3RP partners across a range of sectors, including protection, agriculture, food security, basic needs, health, education, shelter, WASH and social cohesion and livelihoods.

To allow families to meet their basic needs, the 3RP will maintain a high level of monetized assistance and, in the process, remain a strong leader in fulfilling Grand Bargain commitments. This will be complemented by a wide range of specialized interventions to meet specific needs, including interventions like social protection programmes. Moreover, significant strides have been made in primary school education and nutrition, and enhanced targeting has improved the ability to identify and support the most vulnerable refugee households across the region.

3RP partners’ efforts to promote self-reliance and self-sufficiency remains central to all programming, including through expanding impoverished and vulnerable populations’ access to sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities. 3RP partners remain focused on creating economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities in the region, building on the commitments made by Governments and donors. In that regard, 3RP partners have also made strides in expanding refugee access to work documentation. To date, Jordan and Turkey have issued 146,000 work permits and 114,000 permits respectively that allow refugees to work.

For refugees in camp settings, shelter and WASH support will continue at scale, to help improve living conditions, upgrade accommodation access to clean water and improved sanitation.

3RP partners support to municipalities, mostly in the south-east, has increased from USD 8.3 million in 2018 to USD 24.3 million in 2019 against USD 8.3 million in 2018. This has included supporting the expansion of the National Assistance Fund (NAF).

SUPPORT TO NATIONAL SERVICES

Turkey

3RP partners support to municipalities, mostly in the south-east, has increased from USD 8.3 million in 2018 to USD 24.3 million in 2019 against USD 8.3 million in 2018. This has included supporting the capacity of key municipal services such as water and waste management, as well as municipal management systems for strategic planning and coordination.

Building on the centrality of the Resilience Approach, partners remain committed to enhancing local and national capacities to ensure the sustainable impact of the 3RP response. Sustainability is bolstered when programs are aligned with national plans and priorities and 3RP partners work in close coordination and partnership with institutions at all levels—local, sub-national, national, and regional.

ENHANCING LOCAL & NATIONAL CAPACITIES

Enhancing local and national capacities across the region is one of priorities of the 3RP—broadening the capacity of institutions and systems to provide protection and essential socio-economic services; fostering the conditions for durable solutions; and increasing opportunities for impacted communities to realize dignified lives. In that way, this strategic direction is both an end in and of itself as well as inextricably linked to the other strategic directions.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC CHALLENGES FACING REFUGEES IN ACCESSING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

EGYPT
- Residency permits
- Residency card
- Mobility
- Government capacity
- Security
- Access to credit

IRAQ (KRI)
- Legal uncertainty
- Mobility
- Closed jobs and quotas
- Negative perception

JORDAN
- Residency permits
- Mobility
- Closed jobs and quotas
- Negative perception

LEBANON
- Language
- Negative perception
- Mobility

TURKEY
- Residency permits
- Mobility
- Closed jobs and quotas
- Negative perception

Thuraya offers free catch-up classes for children in need at her home in Mabroud, due to a scarce water supply she could host only a limited number of students. 3RP partners helped the community in Mabroud through building a water well and a water treatment room. Now Thuraya can host lots of new students.

Iraq

Between 2018-2019, 3RP partners strengthened resilience through 36 municipal infrastructure projects, including the rehabilitation of roads, sewage systems, water wells, and electrical works. Capacity building in crisis recovery was conducted for relevant authorities.
3RP & THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES (GCR)

The Global Compact on Refugees that the General Assembly endorsed last December, was shaped largely by experiences in this region and with Syrian refugees. And it is grounded in a commitment to responsibility sharing. The Compact on Refugees, March 2019

Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, March 2019

On 17 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), after two years of extensive consultations led by UNHCR with Member States, international organizations, refugees, civil society, the private sector, and experts.

The GCR is a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, which recognizes that sustainable solutions to refugee situations cannot be achieved without more robust solidarity and multilateral cooperation. It provides a blueprint for governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that host countries and communities receive the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives. Globally, it constitutes a unique opportunity to transform the way the world responds to refugee situations, benefitting both refugees and host communities.

The 3RP is often considered as a model and blueprint for the GCR. Much of the global discussions around taking a more comprehensive approach to engaging host governments and communities and others in responses to large movements of refugees has centred on the response to the Syria crisis and the design and implementation of the 3RP.

At the policy level, the 3RP has consistently highlighted the responsibility borne by host countries in allowing Syrians access to their municipalities. It reflects the experience of the Syria region and with Syrian refugees. And it is grounded in a commitment to responsibility sharing.

The Governments of Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq are all committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. However, the protracted Syrian crisis unavoidably affects host countries’ ability to deliver on this ambitious agenda. In this regard, it is important to consider how the 3RP and country response plans can be leveraged to advance the implementation of the SDGs, tailored to national priorities.

Consistent with the 2030 Agenda’s overarching principle of leaving no one behind, and bringing together humanitarian and development approaches, the 3RP and country response plans strive to reduce vulnerabilities and provide sustainable opportunities and solutions for all women, men, boys and girls affected by the crisis. In line with other key implementation principles of the 2030 Agenda, the 3RP also fosters national ownership, fulfillment of human rights, multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovation, integrated approaches, as well as the development of strong accountability and monitoring frameworks.

The 3RP aims at strengthening the resilience of refugees and host communities (“Resilience for All”), and as such offers an immediate contribution to the achievement of SDG Target 1.5: “By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.”

Inherently, 3RP interventions contribute to a wide range of SDGs and targets. 3RP partners work together towards ensuring an effective and equitable access of both refugee and host communities to education, health, sanitation and other key socio-economic goods, services and infrastructures as well as to sustainable livelihood opportunities (SDG 1 to 11). In some countries, interventions already seek to address broader sustainable development challenges such as environmental and ecological vulnerabilities (SDG 15), while ongoing efforts to expand protection, strengthen capacities of national and local institutions, and promote social cohesion and stability in affected communities are of direct significance to SDG 16.

Looking ahead, the establishment of explicit linkages between the 3RP, country response plans and the SDGs, including integrating SDG-relevant indicators (disaggregated by sex, gender, affected populations and areas) in monitoring & evaluation frameworks would help leverage and track 3RP partners’ specific contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. In line with the 3RP key principles, such a process of alignment should be nationally-owned and driven, aligned and at pace with host countries’ own efforts to integrate the SDGs in their national development plans and strategies and define their SDG priorities. This should be supported by renewed commitments to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus and bridge humanitarian and development funding streams to cover critical gaps in the delivery of ‘SDG services’ at national and local levels.

ALIGNMENT BETWEEN 3RP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND GCR OBJECTIVES

GCR OBJECTIVE 1
Ease the pressures on host countries

- National actors in the lead, supported by 3RP partners
- A plan that directly targets the most vulnerable host communities
- Direct and indirect support to national authorities and local municipalities
- Advocacy at all levels for international community to increase support

GCR OBJECTIVE 2
Enhance refugee self-reliance

- Promoting refugee access to the employment markets
- Programmes that offer vocational training, job placement and entrepreneurship skills
- Providing assistance in ways that encourage choice and dignity, such as cash-based interventions

GCR OBJECTIVE 3
Expand access to third-country solutions

- Managing the resettlement process for over 120,000 Syrian Refugees since 2013
- Encouraging increased resettlement places for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees.
- Advocating and implementing ‘complementary pathways’; such as scholarships and student visa

GCR OBJECTIVE 4
Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

- Providing support in a way that secures current and future capacities for possible, safe, dignified and voluntary return to Syria.
- Forging close linkages between the 3RP and the Humanitarian Response Plan on joint analysis.
KEY REGIONAL ASPECTS OF THE RESPONSE

No Lost Generation

Following a positive external evaluation of the No Lost Generation (NLG) initiative in 2019, partners will advocate for specific changes in three key areas in 2020: addressing barriers for children to (re-) engage and continue their education; protection and empowerment of girls and young women; and tackling the exposure to and impact of violence on children, adolescents and youth.

NLG partners will continue to support access to formal primary, secondary and tertiary education as well as accredited non-formal education and vocational training. An estimated 1.2 million school-age Syrian children in 3RP countries were enrolled in formal and non-formal education as of December 2018. The same year saw a 58 per cent increase in tertiary education scholarships provided. However, around 800,000 children remain out of school – and many of those in school are at risk of dropping out or not learning.

Child protection partners will continue efforts to strengthen national and local child protection systems, providing coordinated services to the most vulnerable children, adolescents and youth, and advocating for improved access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. NLG will continue to promote linkages between education and child protection systems to create safe, protective education environments and tackle negative coping mechanisms including child labour and child marriage.

Palestine Refugees from Syria

Palestinian refugees continue to face high vulnerability and significant humanitarian and protection needs. This includes over 438,000 Palestine refugees inside Syria, and more than 45,400 who are currently reported in Lebanon and Jordan, while 3,000 are estimated to be in Egypt and under 1,000 in Gaza.

Many Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) who have been able to reach Jordan and Lebanon face a precarious and marginalized existence due to their uncertain legal status and limited social protection mechanisms, making them highly reliant on assistance provided by UNRWA to meet their basic needs; however, over the last two years, the Agency’s ability to provide this support has been impacted by decreasing funding levels. In Lebanon, PRS are effectively denied access to most public services and barred from working in several syndicated professions, and many live in fear of refoulement and arbitrary detention and are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. In Jordan, PRS struggle with limited coping mechanisms and many of them continue to face protection challenges due to their precarious legal status.

The realities of protracted displacement have led the international community to place a greater emphasis on leveraging national social protection systems to address the vulnerabilities of both refugees and host communities. 3RP partners, in collaboration with line ministries and other national actors, have made strides in enhancing linkages between 3RP programming, social assistance and national systems. This includes promoting access to paid work and social security, the use of common platforms and tools, the joint piloting of programs with national stakeholders, and promoting the use of innovation, such as digital systems and biometric authentication. This reflects commitments towards the SDGs, the GCR and other global initiatives, and towards pursuing more sustainable solutions for refugees, alongside efforts to secure the sustainability of the response.

In 2019, 3RP partners extended further support towards more harmonized frameworks and systems for delivery, alongside improved targeting efforts amongst both national and refugee populations. 3RP partners have also supported the introduction of mechanisms for risk preparedness to enhance prevention capacities for long-term resilience. In Lebanon and Jordan, for example, 3RP Partners’ in-country humanitarian experience in building transparent, effective and efficient cash-based transfer programmes for refugees is being transferred to host governments to best support their vulnerable populations.

In 2020, 3RP partners will continue to seek opportunities to address needs and underlying vulnerabilities of refugees and host communities within national social protection frameworks. It will seek to leverage their cumulative experience to strengthen the capacity of national social protection providers, including through policy development, entitlement approaches and supporting underlying national social protection systems.

NEW URBAN AGENDA (NUA)

The New Urban Agenda (NUA), sets a new global standard for sustainable urban development, which will help rethink how we plan, manage and live in cities. The Agenda provides guidance for achieving the SDGs. Through the NUA, world leaders are committing to ensure that all citizens have access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination and that the rights of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons are fully respected regardless of their migration status. As 95 per cent of Syrian refugees reside in urban areas, 3RP partners will be supporting national governments and local authorities implement the Agenda, with technical and financial partnerships and assistance from the donor community.
ASSESSMENTS & TOOLS

The 3RP response is built on conducting protection and assistance needs assessments, analysing data, and determining priorities and response modalities based on the evidence gathered. A wide range of assessments take place throughout the year, including sectoral, inter-sectoral, thematic, and agency-specific assessments. At country level, inter-sectoral working groups ensure, to the extent possible, a harmonized approach so that all the assessments in a particular country come together to build consensus around the key needs, with due regard given to specific needs of groups, such as children, women, female-headed households, elderly, people with disabilities and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex (LGBTIQ) people.

As the crisis has become more protracted, and vulnerabilities have deepened, 3RP partners have responded with more in-depth assessments and evaluations that provide more granular detail over larger sample sizes. This includes charting how specific and inter-sectoral needs have evolved, as well as evaluating certain aspects of the response to ensure that it remains effective and coherent.

For example, several countries have developed intersectoral M&E frameworks, while in Turkey, an intersectoral Social Cohesion Framework that aims at aligning and prioritizing 3RP activities based on an evaluation of the ongoing support to fostering social cohesion.

At the regional level, the UNHCR-UNDP Joint Secretariat, and individual organizations have assessed policy and programming topics from a regional perspective. Some examples of recent assessments and evaluations are highlighted below, while a full range of assessments is available at: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria

THE 2019 VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (VAF) FOR JORDAN

- Some 40 per cent of individuals surveyed have debts of more than 100 JOD per capita
- 76 per cent of respondents are below the Minimum expenditure Basket (MEB - what a household requires in order to meet basic needs)

THE MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ANALYSIS (MSNA) OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ (KR-I)

- Lack of sustainable sources of income / employment as main reported need
- Over three quarters of households (79%) reported being in debt at the time of interview for this assessment

THE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON (VASyR)

- 78% of interviewed refugees aged 15 and older did not have legal residency
- Despite improvements in 2018, 73% of Syrian refugees remain below the poverty line
- Some 30% of refugee households resided in shelters not meeting humanitarian standards
- 5.5% live in dangerous conditions
- 55% of Syrian refugees are below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket, unable to meet survival needs of food, health and shelter

THE COMPREHENSIVE VULNERABILITY MONITORING EXERCISE 3 (CVME3) IN TURKEY

- 20.8% of refugee households are headed by women
- Only 34% of refugees live in good quality housing
- 303,000 registered refugees did not have enough water for drinking and cooking
- 1.6 million refugees lived under the poverty line, including 215,000 in extreme poverty

ANNUAL VULNERABILITY SURVEYS

THE 2018 EGYPT VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR REFUGEES (EVAR)

- 88 per cent of refugees are severely or highly vulnerable
- The percentage of Syrian refugees with insufficient access to food has increased, where 70.3 percent were vulnerable to food insecurity in 2018 compared to 63.6 percent in 2017
- 81.4 percent of Syrian refugees were spending less than the minimum threshold required to cover food and non-food needs

WHY GENDER MATTERS IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON RETURNS TO SYRIA

- Early regional trends suggest that female refugees may be returning at larger rates than male refugees due to structural factors, and gendered demographic trends should be monitored
- The legal framework in Syria puts women at a disadvantage in accessing their housing, land, and property rights upon return, compared to men, given gendered differences in the law
- Less attention is paid to Syrian women and girls’ fear of persecution including arrest, detention, and or violence

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY ISSUES OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

- The housing rental market in Lebanon that responds to refugee needs relies on informal—often insecure—arrangements for both landlords and tenants
- It is vital to approach the housing question at least primarily from the perspective of better housing and land policies
- Area-based approaches continue to be appealing, particularly in congested urban neighborhoods to help relieve the challenges

The Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) is a quantitative approach to assess the resilience capacity of households. Using four pillars (social safety nets, access to basic services, adaptive capacity, and assets), RIMA provides information on how households cope with shocks and stresses while supporting the establishment of policies and programmes which are better able to build resilience especially amongst those most vulnerable. The RIMA is underway in Jordan and the analysis will be available in 2020, with the potential to expand to further 3RP countries.

1 There were also 800,000 IDP returns in 2017 and 2018
2 The intention survey from March 2019 shows that 5.9% of Syrian refugees intend to return to Syria

The Syria crisis has displaced 5.7 million refugees into host countries.

The percentage of Syrian refugees who are female is steadily increasing from 33% in 2013 to 40% in 2019.

Children represent 46% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

The Syria crisis has impacted 10 million people in Syria and 6.5 million people in neighboring countries.

One out of four children is out of school.

2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic

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The 3RP represents a coordination mechanism, strategy document, response tool, funding appeal and partnership platform at the regional level and in each of the host countries. Regional coherence is pursued to promote regional strategies where appropriate, ensure consistency of response in and between countries, and to promote common tools, standards and innovation. The graphic below outlines how the 3RP is conceptualized and implemented.

The foundation of the 3RP response model is based on strong national leadership, with national actors as the principal responders, supported by UN Agencies, international and national NGOs, and other partners. It is for this reason that the 3RP is made up of five country chapters, which are nationally-led in design and implementation. While the exact modalities of identifying national priorities, planning, coordination, and response vary by country, the 3RP and its partners use every opportunity to place national leadership and capacities at the forefront of the response.

In terms of programming, the 3RP is conceptualized as having two interconnected components that inform the overall response. The refugee component addresses the protection and humanitarian assistance needs of refugees living in camps, settlements and local communities. The 3RP resilience component addresses primarily the resilience, stabilization and development needs of impacted and vulnerable communities and aims to strengthen the capacities of national actors to lead the crisis response.

As an integrated humanitarian and development plan, the 3RP is co-led overall by UNHCR and UNDP, who take the primary responsibility for the leadership and coordination of the refugee and resilience component respectively. 3RP partners bring their expertise to bear across the various sectors, including as sector leads or co-leads according to the various country modalities.

THE 3RP MODEL

COUNTRY LEVEL

FIVE COUNTRIES

COORDINATION MECHANISMS

across country context

ONE REGIONAL PLAN

REFugee + Resilience

REGIONAL SECTOR OVERVIEW

While the 3RP generally promotes inter-sectoral frameworks and implementation at the country level, the 3RP also maintains a regional sectoral overview to promote regional strategies and coherence, as well as for regional reporting and tracking purposes. There are eight regional sectors, as summarized on this page, although countries establish national coordination mechanisms and sectors, according to their country context and the specific needs of refugees and host communities therein.

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Turkey

Turkey’s Law on Foreigners and International Protection and its Temporary Protection Regulation provide for a strong legal framework for the stay, registration, and access to services for Syrians in Turkey. The registration of Syrians under temporary protection by the Ministry of Interior’s Directorate General of Migration Management continues, as do spontaneous and self-organized returns of Syrians under temporary protection who are processed under voluntary return procedures as regulated by the legal framework. Currently, over 98 per cent of Syrians under temporary protection live in urban and rural areas, with less than 2 per cent residing in the seven remaining Temporary Accommodation Centres.

The Government of Turkey leads the response and has shouldered the bulk of the financial burden of hosting Syrians under temporary protection. As the situation remains protracted, Turkey is calling for increased and sustained international responsibility-sharing, in line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, to address the continued needs of Syrians under temporary protection and of host communities.

Turkey continues to provide Syrians under temporary protection with access to services in national systems. 3RP partners provide support to the Government of Turkey alongside other actors, such as international financial institutions. Since 2015, the 3RP has contributed to the mobilization of US$ 3.6 billion, particularly in support of public services and also mobilized support for municipalities, who are at the forefront of the response.

People with specific needs, including women and children at risk, continue to be a priority. 3RP partners have worked to support the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services to provide targeted protection assistance, including in the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, psychosocial support and access to legal and other specialized services, such as safe spaces and shelters.

3RP partners continue to support the Government of Turkey in meeting the most pressing needs of Syrians under temporary protection and vulnerable host community members and through cash and in-kind assistance. The multi-purpose cash assistance scheme, Emergency Social Safety Net, has benefited over 2 million vulnerable Syrians under temporary protection to cover essential needs like food, rent and utilities, since its inception in 2016.

The 3RP partners support the Ministry of Health through a network of Migrant Health Centres that provide primary health services that alleviate the pressures placed on hospitals and increase access to healthcare by reducing language barriers and increasing human resource capacity.

The 3RP partners support the Ministry of National Education in promoting the inclusion of Syrians under temporary protection in the national education system, with more than 640,000 Syrian children of school age enrolled in formal education and over 33,000 students attending tertiary education. This is among others done through the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education programme.

The Regulation on Work Permits of Foreigners under Temporary Protection adopted in 2018, grants Syrians under temporary protection the right to apply for work permits and access to formal employment, with the aim of promoting self-reliance. In addition, Syrians under temporary protection can work in seasonal agriculture or animal husbandry within the scope of work permit exemptions. Support provided by 3RP partners on the implementation of this policy includes employment creation, increased employability for Syrians and host communities and support to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

Finally, 3RP partners in Turkey also support the Government’s efforts on harmonization to strengthen social inclusion and promote self-reliance.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

1.2b required

NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

In accordance with Turkey’s comprehensive legal framework for international and temporary protection, registration and verification by the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) provides access to public services for Syrians and the respective government authorities lead in the provision of these services. The Turkish Government, particularly relevant line ministries, are fully involved in the preparation of the 3RP and have to formally approve the document.
Lebanon

Lebanon continues to host the highest number of displaced per capita in the world, showing tremendous commitment to displaced Syrians and vulnerable populations within its borders. As of November 2019, the Government of Lebanon (Gol) estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million Syrians who have fled the conflict in Syria (including 918,874 registered as refugees with UNHCR, along with 27,700 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) and a pre-existing population of an estimated 180,000 Palestinian refugees from Lebanon (PRL) living in 12 camps and 156 gatherings.

The assistance made possible by donor contributions and implemented by Government, humanitarian and development partners under the LCRP, along with the exceptional hospitality of Lebanese communities, has brought substantial, much-needed support across all sectors and has prevented an even greater deterioration of living conditions for the poorest groups. Achievements under the LCRP and through government, include: support to critical infrastructure such as water and waste management; helping local municipalities address livelihoods and service provision; extensive cash assistance bringing life-saving support to the poorest groups while boosting the local economy; support to health centers and hospitals; and substantial advances in helping the government enrol greater numbers of children in public schools every year.

Notwithstanding, the conflict in Syria has significantly impacted Lebanon’s social development and economic growth, caused deepening poverty and humanitarian needs, and exacerbated pre-existing development constraints in the country. Amid the unfolding economic crisis, poverty levels amongst displaced Syrians and Lebanese are on the rise, aggravated by a series of emergencies, from natural disasters to evictions, and this has crippled their ability to cope with the crisis. It has also increased social tensions, noting that competition for jobs and access to services remain among the primary drivers of tension at the local level, compounded by the recent implementation of more restrictive measures on refugees. In a nationally representative survey, the proportion of Lebanese respondents stating that relations are ‘negative’ or ‘very negative’ increased by 10 per cent from July 2018 to August 2019.

The first half of 2019 was marked by an increase in the number of identity controls and arrests, mostly due to the lack of legal residency. Despite the importance of legal stay documents, the percentage of displaced Syrians aged 15 years and above having legal residency continues to show a downward trend, from 27 per cent in 2018 to 22 per cent in 2019. On other fronts, progress is more tangible. The rate of official birth registration of refugee children at the Foreigners’ Registry level continues to show a positive development, increasing to 30 per cent of births of children born in Lebanon registered in 2019, compared with 21 per cent in 2018. Further progress is expected in 2020.

The LCRP, a joint plan between the Government of Lebanon and its international and national partners, aims to respond to these challenges in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner through longer-term, multi-year planning to achieve the following strategic objectives: ensure the protection of displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese and Palestinian refugees; provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations; support service provision through national systems; and reinforce Lebanon’s economic, social and environmental stability.

Syrian Refugee Population
918,974

Syrian Refugee Population

Directly targeted members of impacted communities in Lebanon in 2020
1,005,000

The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) is developed by a national steering body convened by the Minister of Social Affairs and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) under the overall guidance of the Government’s Inter-Ministerial Committee on Displaced. The LCRP is the Lebanese chapter of the 3RP. Under the auspices of a LCRP Steering Committee, line Ministries lead each of the ten sectors, with the support of the UN coordinating agencies, ensuring linkages with national plans and priorities. The political situation in Lebanon currently means that the LCRP Steering Committee has not met on the 2020 plan, although technical work has continued, including with line ministries.
Jordan

Jordan is host to 1.3 million Syrians, of which 650,000 are registered with UNHCR, making it the second largest per capita refugee hosting country in the world. While Jordan is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention, it still warrants a favorable protection environment for Syrian refugees conducive to safeguarding key fundamental human rights through national frameworks. Jordan actively supports and implements global mechanisms in place for responding to the Syria crisis, while also adhering to the principles and priorities outlined in the 2030 Agenda, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the World Humanitarian Summit.

The Government of Jordan continues to lead the response to the Syria crisis through the Jordan Response Plan (JRP), a robust framework that brings together key stakeholders from the Government, Donors, UN Agencies, I/NGOs and Civil Society.

The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), which is aligned with the Refugee Coordination Model, provides a framework for the JRP to build upon the Refugee and Resilience pillars using a sectoral approach. The Government of Jordan, in collaboration with UN Agencies, Donors and other members of the humanitarian and development communities, redesigned the JRP by harmonizing sectors and introducing cross-cutting themes, such as protection, resilience, gender-age and environment. Furthermore, the JRP 2020-2022s aligned with the SDGs as well as the areas in need of support outlined in the GCR, which calls for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation. It also foresees a more integrated approach in building resilience across all sectors, focusing on bolstering national capacities and the resilience of national systems to reach vulnerable groups - addressing both acute and chronic needs of vulnerable refugee and host communities alike. The approach is intended to strengthen the humanitarian-development ‘nexus’, including through further localization and ‘leaving no-one behind’.

Another major new development, endorsed by the Government, is the gradual implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (JCVA), which further reinforces the needs-based approach, in order to identify and address the needs of the most vulnerable populations residing in Jordan regardless of legal status.

The response in Jordan continues to be supported by the Inter-Agency Appeal. The outcomes realized by the sectoral response show success in various ways: 1) strengthening the national protection systems through targeted capacity development interventions to ensure that services are in line with global protection standards and foster social cohesion; 2) the implementation of the Education Strategic Plan whereby refugees have access to the formal initial steps towards refugee self-reliance under the Livelihoods sector which, through the issuance of work permits and the right to establish home based businesses, allows access to formal economic opportunities in Jordan; 4) the Ministry of Health announced the rollback to the subsidized non-insured Jordanian rate for Syrian refugees as a result of the joint advocacy by the Health Sector, UN Agencies and Donors and 5) digital financial inclusion through the provision of a customized platform for cash transfers to refugee owned mobile wallets. Syrian refugees are likely to remain in Jordan for the foreseeable future, thus it is vital that the International Community continues to support host countries like Jordan, who in turn continues to extend its generosity to refugees while fostering its own development momentum.

Syrian Refugee Population

654,192

520,000

Directly targeted members of impacted communities in Jordan in 2020

The Government, through the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), remains the driver of the Jordan Response Plan (JRP), the Jordan chapter of the 3RP. The JRP is closely linked to national priorities. A secretariat housed in MOPIC ensures overall coordination of the response, while UNHCR maintains a linked inter-sectoral coordination mechanism for the refugee component. UN Agencies and NGO partners support the government’s efforts.
Iraq

Due to developments in north-eastern Syria (NES), the number of Syrian new arrivals into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) increased in 2019. Since the start of military operations in October, as of 1 December 2019, some 17,500 Syrians entered the KR-I, while only 6,731 Syrian new arrivals were registered with UNHCR over the first 9 months of 2019.

The number of Syrian refugees in Iraq is expected to slightly increase to 255,000 individuals by the end of 2020 due to the developments in NES, and to increase to 245,000 individuals by the end of 2021 as is expected that some of the new arrivals and the protracted population will spontaneously return to Syria, particularly if the situation stabilizes in NES. The main reasons for return for the protracted population remain family-related issues, lack of livelihood opportunities in the KR-I and medical reasons. Return intention surveys highlighted, however, that many Syrian refugees are likely to remain in Iraq for the medium term.

The profile of the Syrian refugee population in KR-I remained stable. More than 99 per cent of the Syrian refugee population resides in KR-I, with the vast majority of Kurdish ethnicity. Out of the protracted Syrian population, 40.2 per cent live in one of the ten refugee camps across KR-I and 59.8 per cent reside in the host community. The majority of the new arrivals reside in refugee camps in Duhok, while some have been able to join their families elsewhere in KR-I. Food assistance for Syrian refugees is targeted to those in-camp who are food insecure.

Despite the challenging political climate in Iraq, the economic climate and the increase in Syrian new arrivals, the protection environment in KR-I remained conducive in 2019, with no change expected in 2020. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and host community remained welcoming and accommodating towards the refugee population.

However, the absence of an effective legal framework for refugee protection in Iraq continues to preclude longer-term residency rights to stay and other legal benefits for Syrian refugees. The difficult economic situation has negatively affected the livelihood opportunities of Iraqis and Syrians refugees alike and has stretched existing public services and hosting capacities. Lack of access to sustainable employment and livelihood opportunities is the main self-reported vulnerability by Syrian refugees in the Comprehensive Joint Vulnerability Assessment conducted by UNHCR and WFP in 2018 which concluded in 2019. This vulnerability was also the root cause of protection issues, such as child labour and child marriage, and has also led to refugees seeking relocation to camps.

Given the protracted nature of the majority of the Syrian population in KR-I, the 3RP strategic direction will continue to aim at a gradual transition to longer-term solutions-oriented approaches with a focus on self-reliance, and inclusion of refugees and strengthening of public services and national systems. However, additional programming will be put in place to cater to the humanitarian and basic needs of the newly arrived population.
Egypt remains a destination country for Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers. As of November 2019, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Egypt has registered 252,570 refugees and asylum-seekers from 57 nationalities, and Syrian refugees remain the largest population among them. Despite the absence of a land border with Syria, 129,159 individuals (51% of the total refugee and asylum-seeker population) are from Syria, including 53,491 children (41% per cent of the entire Syrian refugee population). In 2019, the number of new arrivals of Syrians has decreased compared to previous years. From January to November 2019, 5,168 Syrians were newly registered with UNHCR.

Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Convention and is committed to abide by the non-refoulement principle. The protection environment for refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt remains conducive. Syrians are welcomed in the country and there is a favorable treatment by society and authorities alike. The Government of Egypt (GoE) continues to allow refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR to regularize their residency and grants six-month renewable residence permits. In July 2019, GoE moved to a new Emigration and Nationality Administration Office in order to improve the processing of residence permits. However, the lengthy process to obtain and renew residence permit remains a major challenge for many refugees. Syrian refugees mostly reside in urban areas alongside Egyptian communities across the country, and are mainly concentrated in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. They continue to have access to public education and health services on equal footing to Egyptians. Such sharing of public services and subsidies represents an added challenge for the Egyptian economy, which has already been facing difficulties over recent years.

The GoE is exerting all efforts to meet its 2030 Vision, which was launched in 2016 and follows the Sustainable Development Goals as a general framework for improving the quality of lives and welfare for the growing population (99 million Egyptians in 2019). The Government has embarked on an ambitious reform program and has implemented decisive measures to restore macroeconomic stability which are having a positive impact on the economy as market confidence is growing. Inflation has continued to recede throughout 2019 compared to 2018. However, continued price hikes of regulated goods and services are adversely affecting households, especially vulnerable groups.

Structural economic changes in Egypt significantly affect all aspects of the lives of refugees and asylum-seekers. As a result, many families are not able to meet their basic needs and are increasingly dependent on humanitarian assistance. Resilience activities are therefore crucial to support the GoE efforts to provide health services and education to Syrian refugees and further enhance the capacity of national institutions to absorb and respond to the increasing demand on public services.

With generous funding from donors throughout 2019, 3RP partners have been able to address some of the most pressing needs of over 140,000 Syrian refugees in Egypt in sectors of Health, Protection, Education, Basic Needs, Livelihoods and Food Security. While state institutions already play a key role in supporting Syrian refugees, further assistance is required to provide broad and quality services for both the refugee and host communities. In addition, livelihood and self-reliance among both refugees and Egyptian communities need to be promoted and expanded, as they are likely to face mounting difficulties to meet their basic needs during the next two-year period.

Syrian Refugee Population

129,159

Syrian Refugee Population

506,000

Directly targeted members of impacted communities in Egypt in 2020

3RP Partners work closely with their counterpart line ministries to ensure the response is complimentary and aligned with national efforts. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs retains overall oversight. For 2019, the Government of Egypt included financial requirements for the first time as part of the protection, health and education sectors and has continued this trend in 2020.