



In 2014, more than 870,000 people have been provided with specific assistance to help them through the winter

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

Most of the refugee hosting countries were wrapping up their **winter assistance** programmes for refugees and others in need during March. In Iraq, tent insulation kits were distributed and worn tents were replaced, and a total of over 66,000 people have now been assisted there with seasonal relief items since the start of the year. In Jordan, the distribution of winterization NFIs was completed (reaching almost 90,000 people this year) and post distribution monitoring, lessons learnt and best practice collation will begin. More than 142,000 people in Jordan have benefited from cash assistance for winter. In Lebanon, some 527,500 people have now received winterization assistance (99.5 per cent of the target) through a mix of cash and goods distribution, while around 15,000 blankets were distributed during March alone in Turkey.

While winter is drawing to a close, **basic household needs** still remain high for many refugees. It has been noted in some areas that more recent newcomers are in general more vulnerable than those who arrived in the past because they have already used up more of their savings and assets in Syria.

Reaching **refugees living outside of camps** with basic household items and assistance remains a challenge in many operations where there are both camp and non-camp populations. In Turkey, some 246 families in Kirikhan and surrounding villages were reached with blankets, mattresses, pillows and carpets, while in Adiyaman assistance, including stoves and coal, was provided to almost 100 families. In Iraq, more than 7,000 individuals outside of camps were reached with standard core relief items.

Regular or urgent **cash assistance** has been provided to more than 150,000 people in Jordan, while more than 54,000 people in Egypt have received cash assistance.



Children posing with stocks of core relief items in Gaziantep, Turkey. UNHCR 2014

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

2,606,281

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Refugee Population Planning Figure, end-2014

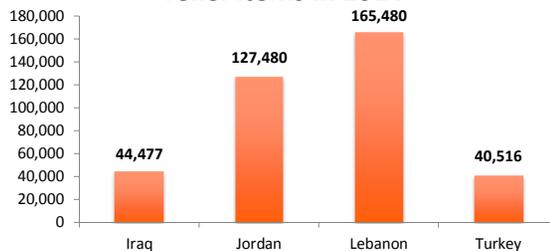
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Refugees often arrive in neighbouring countries with little else than their family members, some clothes and limited personal belongings. The distribution of basic household items such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and cooking stoves to refugees is therefore essential. Refugees in the region also struggle to meet their basic needs and gain access to essential services including for health and education. As the situation is prolonged, it is estimated that 780,000 households will need additional support to cover basic needs.

Recent assessments of refugees living in host communities have found that the income versus expenditure gap caused by limited livelihood opportunities, rising rent and service prices induces increased use of negative coping strategies as the crisis continues. These negative coping strategies, particularly eating less diverse quality foods, taking on debt and sending adolescent boys to work, are becoming more and more prevalent as households spend their savings and sell their remaining assets.

Winter in many parts of the region is harsh, and refugee response partners coordinate the implementation of far-reaching winterization programmes to address the needs of the most vulnerable amongst those who have fled their homes due to the continuing conflict in Syria. Priority is given to those living in sub-standard shelters and in areas with severe climatic conditions, as well as the most vulnerable who may have the most difficulties to cover their accommodation, utility and heating or fuel costs.

Individuals provided with core relief items in 2014



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

278,869 individuals provided with core relief items to meet basic needs



872,095 individuals assisted with seasonal relief items or cash for the winter



118,938,815 USD injected into the local economy through the monetization of assistance



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. There are currently 2.6 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 24% funded.