



1,048 persons in the camps are assisted by the sector

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

Mercy Corps organized business and life skills training for 18-25 year old Syrian refugees on March 30. The training will reach a total of 500 refugees and will continue throughout April.

Save the Children International (SCI) is conducting a Food Security and Livelihoods needs assessment in the 3 governorates and in non-camps settings. IOM continued to provide small business set up support and vocational training for total of 147 refugees in Darashakran camp.

DRC has performed job placements for 41 beneficiaries both Syrians and locals in Erbil. Beneficiaries have been placed for two months in various businesses, such as gas stations, shopping malls, restaurants, to gain experience and hone their skills.



Job placement course by DRC

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

An ability to secure sufficient income is one of the key needs, with assessments showing that Syrian refugees in Iraq are not financially self-reliant, and struggle to find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Up to 86 per cent of Syrian refugees say they have insufficient household income, 15 per cent report lacking food security, and up to 27 per cent saying they are unable to access sufficient food for their families through the local market.

As the Government and host communities in KR and Anbar extend their generosity in hosting Syrian refugees, the rising numbers in 2013 is impacting services and economies in local communities.

While Government policy allows registered refugees to work, difficulties in finding employment outside of the informal sector (where 80 per cent of refugee households reporting having someone employed) are a reality, as is competition within and between the host and refugee populations in the community.

For refugees living outside of camps (more than 60 per cent of the population), financial difficulties are exacerbated by competition for rental housing potentially driving up costs and leading to overcrowding and occupancy of substandard accommodation like unfinished buildings, tents and crowded apartments.

These difficulties in sustaining livelihoods mean that interventions that strengthen labour markets and increase vocational training opportunities, to the benefit of both refugee and host communities, should be a priority. An Age and Gender Diversity approach to these interventions is required to overcome some of the barriers, including cultural ones that might particularly restrict women's access to livelihood and self-reliance activities.

REFUGEE POPULATION IN IRAQ :

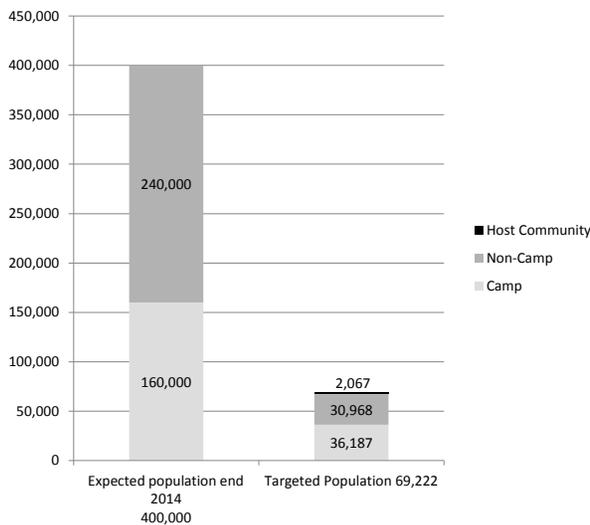
219,579

Current Refugee Population

400,000

Expected Refugee Population by end-2014

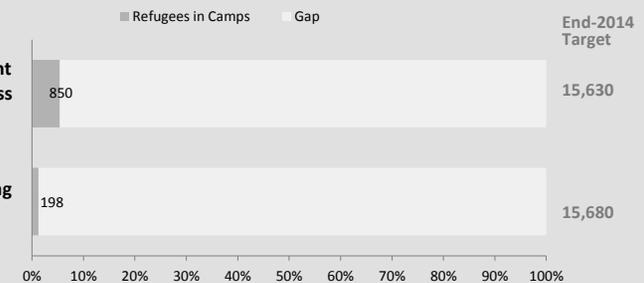
Total targeted Population VS. Total Population End 2014



PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS:

Number of individuals participating in employment assistance, income generation activities or business development projects

Number of individuals participating in vocational training or skills development programs



Targets based on expected population of 400,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq by end-2014. There are currently 219,579 refugees.