

2021-2022 Regional Winterization Programme Progress Report

September - December 2021

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria

This winter, UNHCR estimates that **3.5 million** IDPs and refugees are in need of winterization assistance in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. For many, this is the 11th consecutive winter in displacement.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions received for its winterization programme which have facilitated timely provision of assistance across the region, allowing vulnerable IDPs and refugees to be prepared for the harsh winter season.

Distribution of winterization assistance is ongoing across the region and as of 31 December 2021, UNHCR had reached some **2.6 million vulnerable Syrians, Iraqis, and refugees of other nationalities.**



3.5 million vulnerable people in need of winterization assistance¹

including

2.8 million Syrians

370,000 Iraqis and refugees of other nationalities²

175,000 members of the host community



Over 2.6 million people reached with winterization assistance as of 31 December **(76%)**



Distribution of winter items for IDP families in Al-Mintar District, Syria. Photo by ©UNHCR/ E.Kabbas

¹ UNHCR's target of reaching 3.3 million people with winterization assistance (*UNHCR Regional Assistance Plan 2021-2022*) was revised upwards in line with the availability of funding.

² This includes refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria covered under the Iraq situation. In Egypt and Iraq, UNHCR estimates that an additional **102,000 vulnerable refugees of other nationalities** are in need of winterization assistance. They are included within the overall planning figure of 3.5 million.

UNHCR's winterization strategy focuses on three broad areas of intervention:



Provision of seasonal cash assistance for vulnerable families to meet their additional needs during the winter months.



Provision of core relief items specific to winter such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping bags and winter clothes.



Winterization of shelter including shelter weather-proofing and repairs, improvements to drainage systems and other infrastructure in camps and informal settlements.

- The winterization programme is implemented through UNHCR's own staff, government agencies, partners, and community outreach volunteers in coordination with the broader inter-agency response platforms.
- The provision of seasonal cash assistance complements and does not overlap with the provision of core relief items and shelter assistance for winter.

SYRIA

SYRIANS

PEOPLE OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 December)



Individuals

917,500 individuals targeted *
493,150 individuals reached (54%)

Type of Assistance

In-kind

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



Individuals

25,722 individuals targeted
15,933 individuals reached (62%)

Type of Assistance

Cash and in-kind

* This includes 842,500 people to be reached with assistance from inside Syria and around 75,000 people in north-west Syria to be reached through the Turkey cross-border operation.

- UNHCR's winter programme in Syria started in September 2021 and is planned to be completed by February 2022. By end-December 2021, UNHCR had provided winter core relief items (CRIs) to over 493,150 Syrians (111,000 families) out of a total of 842,500 people planned to be reached this winter (59%). This includes assistance to some 293,650 returnees and 199,500 IDPs. CRIs included mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, sleeping bags and plastic sheeting. UNHCR is also providing winterization assistance in the form of unconditional multi-purpose cash grants to refugees inside Syria. UNHCR implemented the winterization grant programme directly through a financial service provider. Implementation started in November 2021 in all Syrian governorates and will be finalized in early 2022. As of end-December, 11,152 refugees (4,251 families) had received their assistance, with a total of \$1.7 million disbursed. In addition, 4,781 asylum-seekers received winter CRIs.
- The UNHCR cross-border operation from Turkey finalized preparations to start the provision of winter CRIs to around 75,000 Syrians (15,000 families) in north-west Syria in January 2022. CRIs included mattresses, blankets, and plastic sheeting. UNHCR also provided around 250,000 people (50,000 families) in north-west Syria with high-thermal blankets in 2021. In addition, in 2021, UNHCR supported vulnerable people to prepare for the harsh winter weather through site improvement projects in IDP settlements across north-west Syria. These projects included ground insulation for family tents, road gravelling as well as the construction of drainage and sewage networks with particular care for stormwater management. Internal drainage systems for flood mitigation were also installed in areas at risk of flooding. In total, 23,520 tents insulations were completed, benefitting over 118,650 people in 193 IDP sites. Under the site improvement project, a total of 55 kilometres of roads, 49 kilometres of drainage and sewage lines, and the installation of almost 580 solar streetlights were implemented, benefitting over 53,050 people in 28 IDP sites. For additional information on the response to the heavy snowfall in northern Syria in January 2022, please refer to UNHCR's [flash update](#).

LEBANON

SYRIANS

PEOPLE OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED



Individuals

1.2 million individuals targeted
1.2 million individuals reached (100%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

(as of 31 December)

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



Individuals

8,900 individuals targeted
7,146 individuals reached (80%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

LEBANESE HOST COMMUNITY



Individuals

174,800 individuals targeted
29,336 individuals reached (17%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

- UNHCR started the disbursement of winter cash assistance to eligible refugees and asylum-seekers in Lebanon in October 2021. The winter cash assistance package aims to assist families for a maximum of five months to mitigate the socio-economic shock that harsh winter conditions generate on families. UNHCR used the most updated vulnerability criteria to deliver winterization assistance to those most in need. To avoid any delays in the provision of assistance, UNHCR is working simultaneously on the validation of beneficiaries receiving assistance, ATM card and pin distribution, and loading of winter assistance onto ATM cards. UNHCR is transferring assistance in several tranches from October 2021 to February 2022. As of end-December 2021, over 1.2 million refugees (258,909 families) have received one or more cash transfers.
- As the economic deterioration in Lebanon has led to a considerable increase in the number of Lebanese families falling under the poverty line, UNHCR is providing winter cash assistance to around 174,800 vulnerable Lebanese (46,000 families) throughout the country to cover winter-related needs for three months. As of end-December 2021, 29,336 Lebanese (7,720 families) have benefitted from winter cash assistance.



UNHCR and partners continue to provide winter assistance to refugees in Bekaa, Lebanon. Photo by ©UNHCR/ Houssam Harii

JORDAN

PEOPLE OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 December)

SYRIANS



Individuals

403,662 individuals targeted*
367,851 individuals reached (91%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

IRAQIS AND REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



Individuals

46,800 individuals targeted
37,697 individuals reached (81%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

- UNHCR's winterization assistance in Jordan started in October 2021. A first batch was released to families on the monthly cash assistance list, a second batch to families receiving one-time winter cash assistance, and a third batch to those receiving COVID-19 cash assistance. Subsequently, in November and December 2021, the winter assistance was delivered to all other eligible families. The staggered approach gave families sufficient notice time and helped reduce overcrowding at ATMs to ensure social distancing in adherence with COVID-19 norms. In total between October and December 2021, UNHCR provided winterization assistance to around 367,850 Syrian refugees and 37,701 refugees of other nationalities in Jordan.
- The beginning of the winterization assistance coincided with the Government of Jordan's announcement that two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine or a negative PCR test would be mandatory to access public places such as ATMs, banks, and malls. UNHCR organized extensive information campaigns to increase awareness of the new COVID-19 measures and to ensure that people of concern could withdraw winterization assistance without interruptions.



UNHCR helps refugee families in Jordan with cash assistance this winter. Photo by ©UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

IRAQ

PEOPLE OF CONCERN PLANNED VS REACHED

(as of 31 December)

IRAQIS



Individuals

286,260 individuals targeted
99,620 individuals reached (35%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

SYRIANS



Individuals

218,888 individuals targeted
214,648 individuals reached (98%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES



Individuals

41,738 individuals targeted
35,467 individuals reached (85%)

Type of Assistance

Cash

- UNHCR started distributing winter cash assistance in Iraq in October 2021. As of end-December 2021, UNHCR provided winter cash assistance to a total of 214,648 Syrian refugees, 35,467 asylum-seekers and refugees of other nationalities, and 99,620 Iraqi IDPs/returnees. Refugee and asylum-seeker families received a one-time cash grant and were selected based on socio-economic vulnerability criteria. Iraqi IDP and returnee families also received a one-time cash grant. Iraqis living out of camps were selected based on a comprehensive household assessment tool and scoring methodology; those living in camps were selected based on enrolment in UNHCR's assistance tracking tool, ASSIST.
- For refugees and asylum-seekers, the assistance was provided through a financial service provider via the IrisGuard biometric (EyePay) authentication mechanism, while for IDPs and returnees assistance was provided through mobile money transfers using verified e-wallets. Refugees whose iris had not been registered or who had other impediments underwent face-to-face verification and a mandatory document check during the registration process for their e-wallets.



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