2016 Winterization Cash Support for Syrian Refugees

39,024 Syrian refugee families supported

$21 million USD distributed in 2016

19% First time receiving cash assistance

Figure 1: How Winterization Cash Assistance Works

1. Refugees are registered and irises captured.
2. Donors provide funding.
3. Home visits are conducted to assess vulnerability.
4. Families on the UNHCR cash waiting list are selected for winterization assistance.
5. Text messages inform beneficiaries when the cash is available for withdrawal.
6. No card. No pin. Beneficiaries are identified by their iris and withdraw money from an ATM.
7. UNHCR conducts post-distribution surveys to measure the impact of the winterization programme.

WINTERIZATION SUPPORT

Over 48,000 families identified as eligible for monthly UNHCR cash assistance through vulnerability, including those on the waiting list to receive assistance, received one-off winterization support totalling more than $21 million USD. Families received either the full package (Tier 1) or partial package (Tier 2). The full package aims to cover the cost of purchasing a heater, gas bottle, gas refill, gas refill contingency, and blanket. The partial package aims to cover the cost of purchasing a gas refill, a gas refill contingency, and blanket.

Figure 2: Full package (T1) and partial package (T2) in Jordanian Dinar (JOD) By Family Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>JOD 3 and under</th>
<th>JOD 4</th>
<th>JOD 5</th>
<th>JOD 6</th>
<th>JOD 7 and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 and under</td>
<td>277 (T1)</td>
<td>317 (T1)</td>
<td>325 (T1)</td>
<td>365 (T1)</td>
<td>453 (T1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>155 (T2)</td>
<td>195 (T2)</td>
<td>200 (T2)</td>
<td>240 (T2)</td>
<td>250 (T2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3: Percentage of survey respondents by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PDM SAMPLE

A random sample of 310 families on the waiting list, with an average family size of 4.8 people, were interviewed. The sample population reflected the geographic distribution of monthly cash assistance waiting list beneficiaries.
FINDINGS

Winterization Needs: Nearly all refugees reported requiring winter support. As temperatures touched freezing, already severely vulnerable refugees found themselves badly unprepared for the cold weather. Damp walls, water leaks, and damage to the interior of apartments led to many suffering weather-related illnesses.

For the majority of families, UNHCR’s winterization cash assistance met their basic needs for the winter. Nineteen percent received support for the first time. Of the one-third of respondents who stated that their needs were unmet, 88% indicated that the cash amount was not enough to counter winter hardship (Figure 5).

Market Availability: Almost all respondents (95%) were able to find items to protect them from the cold at local markets. A slight majority reported that shops were located close to their homes (55%). Fifty six percent found that prices were higher than in other seasons.

Figure 4: Needs met by winterization support (Syrian)
Use of Winterization Support: The vast majority (88%) of beneficiaries used the cash assistance for winter-related items with heating accounting for the majority of expenditure (60% gas cylinders, gas refills, and heaters). A fifth of the assistance was spent on warm clothes and sturdier shoes and just over one in ten families used the support for something other than winterization including health-related expenses, debt repayment, cooking fuel, and food.

Figure 5: Main use of winterization cash support (Syrian)
2016 Winterization Cash Support for Non-Syrian Refugees

9,670 Non-Syrian refugee families supported
$4.9 million USD Distributed in 2016
8.4% First time receiving cash assistance

WINTERIZATION SUPPORT
Almost 10,000 non-Syrian families eligible for assistance or on the waiting list, or waiting for their status as refugees to be determined, received winterization support totalling almost $4.9 million USD.

PDM SAMPLE
A random sample of 150 families, with an average family size of 4.2 people, were interviewed. Thirty-five percent of respondents were female and 65% male. The sample population reflected the geographical distribution of cash assistance waiting list beneficiaries.

FINDINGS
Almost all non-Syrian refugees stated that they were in need of winterization support (99%) and seventy-nine percent reported using the assistance for winterization. However, less than half (45%) found the assistance sufficient to meet their needs. For a majority of families, the accumulation of unpaid rent and debt meant that the amount received was insufficient to cover these pressing expenses in addition to winterization needs.

Similar to the Syrian respondents, the non-Syrian respondents found needed winterization items in the market (95%) and a majority found the prices for winterization items to be higher compared to other times of the year (66%).

99% Were in need of winterization support
79% Used the assistance for winter
95% Winterization items were available in the market
66% Prices were higher than other seasons
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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For More Details on UNHCR’s Cash-Based Interventions in Jordan, please contact:
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