IRAQ MONTHLY UPDATE: APRIL 2018       LIVELIHOODS

KEY FIGURES

245,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2018
249,641 currently registered
USD 226.8 million overall funding required in 2018
21 million (9.3% of total) required for Livelihoods

HIGHLIGHTS

In April, Emergency Livelihoods Sector actors continued to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees as well as Iraqi IDPs and host community members. Support for Syrian refugees included Facilitate apprenticeships for young women and men together with local businesses, but mainly sustainable livelihoods interventions that build capacity through vocational and entrepreneurship training, direct job placement through private sector partnerships, providing small business support. These types of interventions are based upon the 2018 3RP framework set by the Emergency Livelihoods Sector to ensure those in protracted displacement work toward securing long-term and sustainable access to employment or income generation. Existing small businesses inside and off camps have been supported and new businesses are being established to employ women and men in sectors such as food processing and production - including greenhouse growing and small factories, bakeries, small sewing factories, etc. Other skills trainings, such as sewing, mobile maintenance, barbering and hairdressing, computer repair, etc., will allow participants to either find employment in hosting businesses, or employ these skills in home-based businesses.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Partners have reported various challenges faced by Syrian refugees trying to become self-sufficient and improve their livelihoods situation which can to facilitate integrated and sustainable income generation and build trust. As the figures for employment and unemployment show, it is a fact that the private sector is unable to absorb the large number of Syrian refugees who are unemployed. While many organizations are providing vocational and professional skills training, refugees are often reluctant to participate as they do not see a guaranteed path to employment. Based on communication with business companies, it was observed that businesses are not very keen to offer apprenticeship opportunities if there is no incentive offered because their resources get spent during the apprenticeship. An overall need for supporting Syrian refugees is funding; while other types of support are offered to refugees, little funding has been available for livelihoods initiatives.

ACHIEVEMENTS

680 individuals benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)
554 individuals participated in professional skills, vocational or business development training courses
31 individuals who benefited from job referral mechanisms (registered, job fairs, job portals, job newsletters, job centers)
228 individuals supported to establish or scale up businesses (micro-finance, small grants, etc.)

Syrian refugees participating in computer training at Swedish Academic Training center in Erbil, organized by IOM

Leading Agencies: UNDP, Ayser Al-Obaidi, ayser.al-obaidi@undp.org. Co-leading agency: DRC, Vladimir Jovanovic, cash.distribution.erbil@drciraq.dk