Since its inception in 2015, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for the Syria crisis has been at the forefront of responding to the impact of the crisis in the five main countries in the region hosting refugees from Syria. Over 270 humanitarian and development partners have come together within this framework to address the challenges facing 5.6 million refugees and 3.9 million vulnerable members of host communities, in support of national efforts.

The five neighboring countries have remained incredibly generous in hosting, and addressing the needs of large refugee populations since the start of the crisis - offering asylum and protection, making their public services available to refugees, and enabling more and more refugees to participate in the local economy - despite the toll it has taken on their own development trajectory.

3RP partners have made a significant and concrete impact in support of national efforts. They continue to be at the cutting edge of programme and policy innovation - from biometric registration and common cash systems, to livelihoods and resilience-strengthening approaches, to social cohesion and tension reduction interventions and working with and through municipalities and local organizations. 3RP partners have set a strong example globally in achieving results and synergies around the humanitarian-development nexus.

Some one million Syrian children have been born in the neighboring host countries over the last few years. Despite the generosity of host countries and communities, and the international community, these children are largely born into a situation where poverty rates are high, protection challenges such as early marriage and child labour are not uncommon, and an education is not always guaranteed. Host community members - who have welcomed Syrian refugees so graciously - face their own set of challenges, including those related to poverty, unemployment and access to quality services.

For 2019, 3RP partners have laid out a USD$5.5 billion comprehensive plan in each of the five countries to build on progress in helping to address these challenges. This Regional Strategic Overview presents the totality of these efforts across the countries, based on the eight regional strategic directions. Such support will include, for example, helping to address on-going protection challenges for refugees; providing more educational opportunities for children and young people; building and deepening resilience capacities; enhancing economic opportunities especially for women; and leveraging the expertise of 3RP partners to increasing the ability of national and local partners.

While refugees from Syria will continue to require protection and assistance in host countries in 2019, the protracted nature of the crisis means that more durable solutions are urgently needed so they can look to the future with hope and dignity.

The protracted nature of the crisis also means that we need to redouble our efforts to restore the development momentum of host countries who have responded generously since the start of the crisis. Strong support from bilateral partners, International Financial Institutions and the private sector will continue to be critical in that regard.

It is thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters that 3RP partners continue to make a real difference to the lives of so many people. Against the backdrop of pivotal political, economic and social developments in Syria and across the region, we urge you to continue to engage and support the 3RP as we work together to enhance the quality, efficiency, and impact of our support to those in need until voluntary return, in safety and dignity takes place.

Mourad Wahba
Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States

Amin Awad
Director of the UNHCR Middle East and North Africa Bureau and Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Syria and Iraq situations
# Regional Strategic Overview
## Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) 2019-2020

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**KEY FIGURES AND FACTS**

- **70%** of people in need in the region are women or children.

- Turkey hosts the highest number of Syrian refugees in the world, while Lebanon and Jordan have among the highest concentration of refugees per capita in the world.

- **85%** of registered Syrian refugees in Egypt are unable to meet their basic needs.

- **93%** of Syrian refugees across the region reside within the host community, mainly in urban areas; 7% reside in camps.

- **700,000** children out of school across the region.

- **13%** of Lebanese Households registered with the National Poverty Targeting Programme (MoSA NPTP database).

- **One million** Syrian refugee babies born in neighboring countries.

- In Jordan, **57%** of working age Syrian refugees are unemployed and **80%** of Syrian refugees outside of camps are below the poverty line.

### POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>REFUGEE</th>
<th>RESILIENCE</th>
<th>TOTAL REQUIREMENTS 2019</th>
<th>ESTIMATED TOTAL NEEDS 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>$128,482,343</td>
<td>$35,610,972</td>
<td>$164,093,314</td>
<td>$171,365,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>$186,302,587</td>
<td>$78,730,737</td>
<td>$265,033,324</td>
<td>$262,177,224</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
<td>$913,505,965</td>
<td>$161,719,737</td>
<td>$1,075,485,682</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>$1,014,697,230</td>
<td>$1,226,076,053</td>
<td>$3,240,773,283</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>$1,063,267,266</td>
<td>$589,436,895</td>
<td>$1,652,704,157</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>$130,835,257</td>
<td>$8,005,500</td>
<td>$138,840,757</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** $5,435,874,936 as of December 2018

### TOTAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE 3RP IN 2019

- **Refugee Component** USD 1.5 billion required
- **Resilience Component** USD 0.5 billion required

### REGIONAL SECTOR REQUIREMENT BREAKDOWN

- **BASIC NEEDS**
  - **USD 876 m** TOTAL
  - **USD 805 m** TOTAL

- **EDUCATION**
  - **USD 578 m** TOTAL

- **FOOD SECURITY**
  - **USD 368 m** TOTAL

- **PROTECTION**
  - **USD 274 m** TOTAL

- **LIVELIHOODS**
  - **USD 105 m** TOTAL

- **HEALTH**
  - **USD 311 m** TOTAL

- **WASH**
  - **USD 27 m** TOTAL

- **SHELTER**
  - **USD 267 m** TOTAL

**NOTE:** This does not include regional funding requirements and some other country-level requirements which have not yet been allocated a sector.

**REFUGEE & RESILIENCE COMPONENT FUNDING RECEIVED (end-year 2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>Refugee Component</th>
<th>Resilience Component</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>USD 488 m 20%</td>
<td>USD 630 m 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>USD 228 m 23%</td>
<td>USD 467 m 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>USD 1,217 m 21%</td>
<td>USD 768 m 27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>USD 2,288 m 37%</td>
<td>USD 2,370 m 37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>USD 2,374 m 38%</td>
<td>USD 2,370 m 38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>USD 3,748 m 39%</td>
<td>USD 3,748 m 39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** This does not include regional funding requirements and does not include fundings received under RRPs, since 2012.

### APPEAL VS FUNDING IN PREVIOUS YEARS

- **2018**: USD 5.3 billion required
- **2017**: USD 5.8 billion required
- **2016**: USD 5.4 billion required
- **2015**: USD 4.9 billion required
- **2014**: USD 4.3 billion required
- **2013**: USD 3.7 billion required
- **2012**: USD 2.9 billion required

**NOTE:** This graphic covers funding under the 3RP since 2015 and its predecessors, the Refugee Response Plans (RRPs), since 2012.
The Syria crisis remains the largest displacement crisis in the world, with over 5.6 million registered refugees and over six million people displaced within Syria. The situation evolved inside Syria during 2018. Large-scale fighting concluded in many parts of the country enabling some 1.2 million internally displaced people to return to their area of origin in the first ten months of 2018. Conversely, the security situation in other areas remained challenging, with large-scale internal displacement being reported throughout 2018.

The issue of refugee return gained increasing attention in 2018 following developments inside Syria and across the region. UNHCR recorded some 56,047 spontaneous refugee returns in 2018. These figures are based on government sources and direct observation by UNHCR. The actual number of returns may be significantly higher. These return movements occurred in a self-organized manner or with host government engagement in some countries. 3RP partner activities in respect of such spontaneous return movements included monitoring, counselling, assessments of the voluntary nature of return, and support with civil status documentation. Such engagement was guided by UNHCR’s Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy: Protection Thresholds and Parameters for Refugee Return to Syria (CPSS), released in February 2018.

Return intention surveys conducted in 2018 found that 76 per cent of Syrian refugees hoped to return to Syria one day. However, 85 per cent of respondents stated they do not have the intention to return in the next 12 months. Respondents across the region indicated that the main issues affecting their decision to return relate to physical risks, availability of essential services, including access to education, livelihood and job opportunities, conscription, and fear of punishment for having fled or refused to fight. Legal obstacles and challenges in reclaiming property or having access to civil status documentation were also highlighted as key issues.

Resettlement remained an important but relatively limited option throughout 2018. Some 28,000 refugees were submitted for resettlement in 2018, even though the number of vulnerable refugees who meet the resettlement criteria is much higher, at around 10 per cent of the total Syrian refugee population. Resettlement is likely to remain a limited option, particularly as the number of a resettlement places for Syrians is decreasing compared to previous years.

Given the current dynamics, it is projected that the registered Syrian refugee population in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt will remain high throughout 2019, in line with current figures. This will mean that the primary burden for the situation will continue to fall primarily on host countries and communities who have generously opened their countries for many years now.

However, despite their efforts, the conditions of refugee families across the region remains challenging. The welfare profile of Syrian refugees has not changed significantly over the past year, with current estimates for poverty rates continuing to exceed 60 per cent in some host countries. Poverty for refugees also manifests itself as low educational attainment, subpar health and nutrition outcomes, exposure to physical insecurity and natural hazards, and substandard living conditions. For instance, some 35 per cent of Syrian refugee children (5-17 years) still remain out-of-school across the region. Meanwhile, Palestine refugees affected by the Syrian crisis continue to face particular vulnerabilities.

The impact of the crisis on vulnerable girls, boys, women and men’s protection and socio-economic well-being is profound and will likely have long-term effects. As more refugees remain unable to meet their basic needs, protection risks such as early marriage, sexual and gender-based violence, child labour, indebtedness and exploitation may worsen. Childhood poverty in refugee populations is particularly damaging because it has been shown to contribute to intergenerational poverty.

While recent economic developments and outlook for countries across the region hosting the majority of refugees are somewhat contrasting, most have recorded persistently weak growth that has left per capita incomes near stagnant since 2008. While economic growth in countries in the sub-region was not high prior to the Syria crisis, this has been exacerbated by the effects of the crisis and growth is expected to remain relatively sluggish as a result of ongoing regional uncertainty, a slowdown in economic activity, global monetary conditions, and other economic pressures.

Host countries continue to face a range of related political, economic, and social challenges, including ensuring basic service provision and stimulating economic opportunity. Unemployment continues to hover above 10 per cent in most economies and was estimated at over 18 percent in Jordan in 2017. The recently published 2018 Arab Youth Survey also revealed that 31 per cent of youth in the Levant countries (Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq) identify creating new and well-paying jobs as the top policy priority for their countries to move in the right direction.

While the levels of social tension between refugees and host communities have remained relatively stable on a macro level across the region, the combined effects of these socio-economic conditions can lead to increased fatigue among host communities in some countries. This is despite the fact that assessments have pointed to the positive impact of refugees can have on the local economy and other spheres of life.

Against this backdrop, 3RP partners worked to address the protection and assistance needs of refugees and vulnerable host communities in 2018. This includes: the enrolment of over 1.2 million children aged 5 to 17 in formal education; the provision of support to over 130,000 individuals to access employment (training, internships, job placement and language courses); the provision of food assistance to over 2 million individuals; the engagement of over 1 million individuals in community-led initiatives; and, the disbursement of emergency cash assistance to over 450,000 households, giving them the choice and dignity to spend the money according to their most pressing needs. In addition, 3RP partners continue to work with host governments on the issue of work permits, in furtherance of the outcomes of the London conference in 2016.

The funding environment for the 3RP continues to be challenging amidst varied global and national economic challenges. Nonetheless, donors remain generous, with the total funding provided by donors to the 3RP in 2018 recorded at some USD 3.4 billion. Over USD 12 billion has been channelled through the 3RP since 2015. Outside the 3RP pledges, bilateral and multi-lateral donors have provided substantial support in the form of grants and loans to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt in 2018. In addition, 3RP partners are grateful for donors enabling the carry-over of funds received in 2018 to be used towards 2019.

The Regional Strategic Overview, Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) 2019-2020
INTRODUCTION

The 3RP offers a strategic, coordination, planning, advocacy, and programming platform for humanitarian and development partners to respond to the Syria crisis at the regional level and in host countries. While strategy, planning and programming are country-led processes, regional coherence is pursued to ensure consistency in response planning and implementation, to promote common tools, standards and innovation, and to enhance advocacy efforts at global and regional levels.

The 3RP comprises one regional plan, with five standalone country chapters. Eight regional strategic directions provide the high-level parameters for the response. Taken together, the strategic directions are designed to collectively enhance the protection of vulnerable persons affected by the crisis, create the conditions and opportunities for dignified lives, build the resilience of refugees and host communities, and strengthen the capacities of national authorities and responders.

In terms of programming, the 3RP is conceptualized as having two inter-connected components that inform the overall response. The refugee component addresses the protection and humanitarian assistance needs of refugees living in camps, settlements and local communities. The 3RP resilience component addresses primarily the resilience, stabilization and development needs of impacted and vulnerable communities and aims to strengthen the capacities of national actors to lead the crisis response.

As an integrated humanitarian and development plan, the 3RP is co-led overall by UNHCR and UNDP, who take the primary responsibility for the leadership and coordination of the refugee and resilience component respectively. 3RP partners bring their expertise to bear across the various sectors, including as sector leads or co-leads according to the various country modalities.

3RP STRUCTURE AT REGIONAL / NATIONAL LEVEL

The foundation of the 3RP response model remains strong national leadership, with national actors as the principal responders, supported by UN Agencies, International and national NGOs, and other partners. It is for this reason that the 3RP is made up of five country chapters, which are nationally-led in design and implementation. While the exact modalities of identifying national priorities, planning, coordination, and response vary by country, the 3RP and its partners use every opportunity to place national leadership and capacities at the forefront of the response.

Turkey

In accordance with Turkey’s comprehensive legal framework for international and temporary protection, registration and verification by the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) provides access to public services for Syrians and the respective government authorities lead in the provision of these services.

Iraq

The response is implemented under the overall leadership of the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), particularly the Ministry of Planning. Local government plays an importance role in the day-to-day coordination of the response, particularly in camp settings.

Lebanon

The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan is developed by a national steering body convened by the Minister of Social Affairs and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) under the overall guidance of the Government’s Inter-Ministerial Committee on Displaced. Line Ministries lead each of the ten sectors, with the support of the UN coordinating agencies, ensuring linkages with national plans and priorities.

NATIONALLY-LED PLANS ENSURE:

- Alignment with national priorities, both short- and long-term
- Streamlined coordination structures
- Capacity strengthening of national institutions
- Sustainability of interventions
INTERLINKED PROTECTION SERVICES

As the Syria crisis enters its eighth year, neighbouring countries have continued their generous hospitality for refugees. However, with border and admission practices remaining closely managed in several countries, many persons fleeing Syria face challenges to access safety and asylum and receive the protection and assistance they need. 3RP partners advocate for access to territory and freedom of movement, allowing for Syrian refugees to reach safety and to be re-united with family members already in host countries.

Many refugee households are contending with increasing socioeconomic vulnerabilities and resort to negative coping mechanisms, exacerbating the risks of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child labour, among others. The risk of SGBV persists and may even increase due to prolonged family separation, breakdown of community structures existing prior to the conflict, loss of financial and social assets, or overcrowded housing lacking privacy. Females face additional burdens including increased economic insecurity, severely limited work opportunities, and challenges in accessing assistance, such as mental health and psycho-social support, all of which have a significant impact on overall health and well-being.

In 2019, the 3RP aims to ensure that refugees’ protection needs are identified and addressed, including by ensuring age, gender and diversity inclusion in programming across all sectors to address these risks and help to realise durable solutions. This includes the integration and application of community-based protection for people-centric interventions and community empowerment initiatives. 3RP partners continue to work with host countries and partners to ensure that refugee children and youth can exercise their right to education.

Data collection and analysis continue to provide the necessary evidence for protection programming to target those most at risk, to expand multi-sectoral responses to address the full spectrum of refugees’ needs and strengthen the capacity of national systems to enhance access to essential services. Given the protracted nature of the crisis, increasing attention is being paid to updating civil status documentation and prevention of statelessness, as highlighted in the box on the right.

COMBATING STATELESSNESS

3RP partners continue to increase access to civil status documentation, which helps to prevent statelessness. These efforts are grounded in the realization that gaps in civil status and identity documentation, coupled with family separation, can leave forcibly displaced individuals, particularly children at risk of statelessness. They also recognize that, once statelessness occurs, it is often a complex issue to resolve. Refugee children who lack birth certificates also face immediate protection risks, including inability to access healthcare, education, and family unity. In response, the joint efforts of 3RP partners have significantly reduced the percentage of Syrian children born in the region without any form of identity documents from approximately 35 per cent in 2012 to 2.5 per cent in 2017. UNHCR has partnered with the League of Arab States (LAS) under the shared objective of achieving universal birth registration in the region. In 2018, these efforts culminated in the adoption of the LAS Declaration on Belonging and Legal Identity, which reaffirms the commitment of all LAS member States to ensure all children in the region are registered at birth and have a legal identity, while also calling for equal nationality rights for women and men in all LAS member States.

REGIONAL PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

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RESILIENCE: APPLICATION OF ASSETS AND CAPACITIES

Resilience is defined as the ability of individuals, households, communities and institutions to anticipate, withstand, recover and transform from shocks and crises, natural or man-made. A resilience-based response to a protracted crisis demonstrates that policymakers do things differently, including for humanitarian and development agencies to work together within an integrated response and for donors to establish multi-year financing to promote predictable responses.

3RP resilience programming has expanded in recent years. This is reflected in the funding requirement for the resilience component: an increase from 28 per cent of the total appeal in 2015 to 41 per cent in 2018. This increase reflects the growing importance of resilience programming among partners. For example, support to education, health and social services is increasingly moving from direct service delivery to strengthening national capacities/systems with the skills and knowledge required to respond to a crisis, and to anticipate and mitigate future crises while improving the quality of service.

Funding received for the resilience component has also increased from US$486 million in 2015 to US$582 million in 2017. This significant increase reflects the needs as well as the commitment of partners and donors to support resilience among refugees, host communities and local and national institutions. However, the resilience component remains critically underfunded in terms of the overall appeal.

Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) 2019-2020

REGIONAL PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

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4. ENHANCING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

The 3RP partners remain focused on creating economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities in the region, building on the commitments first made by Governments and donors—most notably at the London conference in 2016 and reiterated at the Brussels II conference in April 2018.

Providing sufficient economic opportunities had been a challenge facing the region even before the Syria crisis. Currently, host countries face added challenges associated with absorbing large numbers of refugees into their economies given limited trade, investment, and opportunities for economic growth, as well as high levels of unemployment and under-employment, as well as other country-specific conditions that limit refugees’ access to economic opportunities. Consequently, unemployment rates across the region amongst refugees and host community members remain relatively high. Also important is the lack of economic opportunities for youth which is nearly three times higher than that of overall population since the crisis began.

3RP partners - along with donors, International Financial Institutions and bilateral partners - are implementing a range of livelihood projects in order to boost the efforts made by the host governments. The interventions are aimed at: 1) regulatory improvements on work permits for increased refugee access to employment; 2) improving existing labour market conditions through information or skill upgrading; 3) improving the overall business climate and access to finance (including refugee entrepreneurs) to foster more entrepreneurship; and 4) expanding knowledge and research jointly - such as the UNHCR-UNDP Joint Secretariat - through filling knowledge gaps and exploring ways to improve programming and policy in the response.

3RP partners will continue working collaboratively through inclusive and comprehensive engagement with the host government and donors to strengthen and achieve the commitments to economic empowerment (including for women) and look to processes such as the Bonn Expert Meetings on Creating Jobs and Economic Opportunities and the outcomes of the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) Policy Options consultations to increase international solidarity in achieving the economic growth and job creation potential of host countries.

5. NO LOST GENERATION

The No Lost Generation (NLG) initiative is a commitment to action that brings together key partners, including humanitarian, donors and policy-makers to achieve agreed outcomes essential for the education, protection, wellbeing and future of children and young people affected by the Syria and Iraq crises.

At the regional level, NLG partners advocate jointly on the priorities for children and youth, amplifying the voices and perspectives of the younger generation affected by the conflict. Regular updates are shared on results and funding levels under three pillars: Education, Child Protection, and Adolescents & Youth, along with key policy changes required to secure positive results for children and young people in 3RP countries.

Syrian children and youth, along with the children in host communities, still face major constraints in accessing education at all levels. In this area, programming in the 3RP is aligned with the recommendations of the Brussels II Conference and aims to ensure access to sustainable, relevant and quality education opportunities at all levels through support to flexible learning strategies and multiple pathways, strengthening national inclusive education systems and improved multi-sectoral responses – including protection.

NLG child protection partners will focus on strengthening national and local child protection systems, as well as providing immediate and coordinated services to the most vulnerable children, adolescents and youth. An integrated framework to address child labour will continue to guide multi-sector efforts in this area, and an interagency regional accountability framework developed in 2018 will coordinate efforts to mitigate the risk and effects of child marriage. Recognising that the protection issues which affect children continue, and even intensify, as they move through late adolescence and beyond, NLG partners will also focus on mitigating and responding to these risks among youth.

NLG partners will continue and strengthen efforts to provide positive engagement opportunities to adolescents and youth, empowering them to achieve change as leaders and problem-solvers in their own communities and to contribute to resilience and social cohesion. A newly established Adolescent and Youth Hub will be used to grow and promote the evidence base on what works for young people affected by the crises in Syria and Iraq and a regional Adolescent and Youth Advisory “Majlis” will facilitate ongoing consultation with young people from different backgrounds to inform programming and advocacy.
The 3RP response model is built on partnership at every level: local, sub-national, national, and regional. Over 270 partners contributed to developing the 2019-2020 response. This includes those appealing directly in the 3RP, including national actors, United Nations agencies, international NGOs and national NGOs, as well as those appealing indirectly as implementing partners. The 3RP platform also engages municipalities, civil society groups, academia, charities and foundations which play a key role in shaping the response.

The 3RP places a strong emphasis on continued outreach and partnership in a number of areas. First, engaging local organizations in the response, including grassroots women’s organization, as they understand the local context and ensure that solutions are community-owned. Second, engaging the private sector and entrepreneurs, who can often offer technical expertise, insight and innovation not readily available in the humanitarian community. Third, young people and adolescents whose voice is critical if 3RP response programming is to be reflective of their needs and unlock their full potential. Fourth, by expanding knowledge and research jointly which enables humanitarian and development actors to fill gaps in understanding and improve programming and policy. Some examples of innovative partnerships are outlined on this page while more can be found in the 3RP country chapters.

**FOOD SECURITY INNOVATION**

Food Security partners are sprouting innovative solutions across the region to address deep-rooted issues. Through the HGrow project, Food Security partners in Jordan is testing various hydroponics solutions, a water-efficient and soilless cultivation technique, to ensure greater food security for vulnerable families living in challenging desert conditions. This includes moving from using an initial high-tech solar-powered container to designing small, DIY household units built with locally procured materials and at ten percent of the cost. The result is the production of fresh fodder for goats which improves milk production and meat quality, helping beneficiaries to support themselves on a daily basis.

**INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE**

At the heart of fostering partnerships is the goal of bringing innovative solutions to address social problems. In Beirut, seeking to provide livelihoods solutions to the most vulnerable, while addressing the city’s shortage of accessible recycling opportunities, 3RP partners joined forces with LiveLoveLebanon to create an innovative solution to both problems. A smartphone app was created to facilitate free pickups for those wishing to recycle. Participating beneficiaries that collect recyclables are paid a monthly stipend through the cash assistance system, withdrawing monthly salaries from ATM’s to cover food expenses or other basic needs.

**NUMBER OF PARTNERS - EVOLUTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2018</td>
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**3RP / SYRIA HRP COLLABORATION**

Closer linkages between the 3RP and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for inside Syria have been forged. This has included through developing joint contextual analysis and planning assumptions, as well as pursuing joint advocacy opportunities. These linkages will continue throughout 2019.

**MAIN TYPES OF OUTREACH**

- Targeted visits
- Outreach volunteers
- Community spaces & centres
- Community-led structures
- Community-led initiatives

**IMPACT BASED REPORTING**

With the resilience component receiving increased funding in absolute terms since 2015, it is critical to demonstrate impact and medium-to-long term results. In 2019, 3RP partners will work on revising mechanisms to better highlight progress against the resilience component and also measure and demonstrate impact.

**3RP REPORTING CALENDAR**

The 3RP recognizes the importance of reporting on the progress, challenges and impact in each country. This is vital for all stakeholders, but particularly donors who generously provide funding for the response. All 3RP partners report on their activities through a variety of inter-agency products. These products report on progress towards the country-level and regional-level indicator targets in all sectors, and are all available on the 3RP website www.3rpointer prise.org:

- 3RP Monthly sector dashboards
- 3RP Quarterly sector dashboards
- 3RP Mid-year progress report
- 3RP Annual report
8. DURABLE SOLUTIONS
FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Refugees continue to require access to territory, international protection, and humanitarian support in countries of asylum. At the same time, given the protracted nature of the crisis, opportunities for durable solutions are urgently needed so refugees can look to the future with hope and dignity. Noting the necessity of preserving and supporting protection space for refugees, and reaffirming that no solutions hierarchy exists, durable solutions for refugees from Syria are:

- Voluntary, safe, and dignified return to Syria
- Local solutions and opportunities
- Resettlement to a third country
- Access to a third country through legal means other than resettlement (complementary pathways)

Voluntary, safe and dignified return

All refugees have the fundamental human right to return to their country of origin at a time of their own choosing as codified in several international instruments, including Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (Art.13) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (Art. 12). Refugee repatriation should be based on a voluntary decision by refugees to return. It should not be coerced either directly or indirectly through changes of policies that restrict refugee rights or by limiting assistance to refugees in the country of asylum.

The Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy: Protection Thresholds and Parameters for Refugee Return to Syria (February 2018) sets out the framework for 3RP partners’ engagement on return.

For the 2019 response, 3RP partners have not planned to facilitate or promote return. However, as self-organized returns are likely to continue, 3RP partners have planned for the provision of support to ensure that any self-organized return is made in dignity, without incentivizing additional returns. Such support includes, inter alia, counselling and assessments of the voluntary nature of return, support in regularizing civil documentation; intention surveys; capacity building; data analysis; and, communications with communities. This is the same approach as undertaken in 2018.

In terms of larger-scale organized return, 3RP partners have been engaged in preparedness and planning since early 2017. Under established coordination mechanisms related to durable solutions at the regional and country level, planning for large-scale organized return will continue in 2019 to ensure necessary levels of preparedness, centered on refugees’ intentions and concerns.

Local solutions and opportunities

It is essential that the international community maintains a comprehensive approach to solutions. While some will return, many Syrian refugees are likely to remain in host countries for the medium term. Expanding local opportunities, in the context of durable solutions for refugees, is therefore a critical aspect. Such opportunities, from a solutions perspective, can include, inter alia, providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for refugees, which would mitigate the need to consider irregular movements to third countries, and bridging the gap between refugees’ skills and local market demands through supportive legal frameworks and more certification and recertification opportunities for recognizing education and skills. While the scale and scope of activities in this area is according to the local context in each country, more information on relevant 3RP partners activities is outlined in the other strategic directions, particularly enhanced economic opportunities, as well as in the sector overviews.

Resettlement to a third country

Resettlement as a solution is an important option which prioritizes the most vulnerable refugees. Through resettlement, the international community demonstrates responsibility-sharing in the most visible manner, while playing a part in preserving protection space in host countries. Resettlement is based on agreed global resettlement criteria. Advocacy for resettlement of Syrian refugees will continue to be essential, even though it may remain a limited option overall.

Other means of legal access to third countries

One of the prominent features of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is the call for expanded access to third countries through means other than resettlement. Important “complementary pathways” in the Syria context are family reunification, scholarships and student visas, and labour mobility.

2 This section refers to voluntary returns only. If returns cannot be considered voluntary, they are categorized as returns in adverse conditions.
In-kind transfers
• Vouchers
• Cash Transfers

PROTECTION
SOCIAL

Regional Strategic Overview
Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) 2019-2020

Transfers
protracted crisis response.
filling knowledge and policy gaps in outcomes collective, while more broadly
build on their comparative advantages.
spaces for synergies among partners to
communities. Co-led by humanitarian and
resilience of both refugees and host
refugee programming with resilience
respond to protracted crisis, combining
The 3RP was initiated in 2015 to better
alongside efforts to secure the sustainability
more sustainable solutions for refugees,
Global Compact on Refugees and other
commitments towards the SDGs, the
address the vulnerabilities of both refugees
national social protection systems to
place a greater emphasis on leveraging
the realities of protracted displacement
These approaches were highlighted at
the use of innovation, such as digital
with national systems. This includes
ministries and other national actors,
have made strides in enhancing linkages
with national systems. This includes
security, the use of common platforms
and tools, the joint piloting of programs
with national stakeholders, and promoting
the use of innovation, such as digital
innovation and responses.

One area of where 3RP partners
have focused is partnering with local
respondents and using and reinforcing
national and local systems. The upcoming
3RP report, “Localised Resilience in action: Responding to the Regional Syria Crisis,” analyzes the application of global
commitments on localisation in the context
of the sub-regional response to the Syria crisis, and how 3RP partners are delivering
on commitments through on-the-ground
innovation and responses.

In 2019, 3RP partners will continue to seek
opportunities to address the vulnerabilities
of refugees within national social protection
frameworks and leverage their cumulative
experience to strengthen the capacity
of national social protection providers.
This could include, for example, support
for improved targeting across vulnerable
national and refugee populations,
harmonized frameworks for delivery, and
improving prevention capacity through
the introduction of mechanisms for risk
preparedness.

Examples of agencies working to bridge
the gap have emerged. This includes
integrating refugees in Jordan’s National
Education Strategy as well as UN support
for strengthening capacity of national social
assistance programs. The 3RP community is
working towards documenting the refugee/
resilience model and successful examples
therein to further develop the response
and offer a resource for other contexts to
consider. Regional and country-to-country
learning on humanitarian-development
nexus policy and programming is planned
for 2019.

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This could include, for example, support
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national and refugee populations,
harmonized frameworks for delivery, and
improving prevention capacity through
the introduction of mechanisms for risk
preparedness.

Palestine refugees remain particularly vulnerable, facing
significant humanitarian and protection needs. Over 430,000
Palestine refugees remain inside Syria, while around 50,000 have
fled to Lebanon and Jordan. Further, some 3,000 are estimated to
be in Egypt and under 1,000 in Gaza.

Many Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) who have been able
to reach Jordan and Lebanon live in a difficult environment with
heightened protection risks including refoulement in some instances. While they are able to benefit from the regular
services provided by UNRWA, including access to basic schooling
and health care, alongside its humanitarian assistance, the
Agency’s ability to extend this support has been undermined by
the funding crisis faced in 2018.

Levels of humanitarian needs amongst Palestine refugees forced
to flee Syria remain extremely high. In Lebanon, the poverty rate
among families of Palestine Refugees from Syria is estimated at
89 per cent and almost 95 per cent are food insecure, whilst in
Jordan, 31 per cent of the 4,386 PRS households recorded with
UNRWA are female-headed, facing high levels of vulnerability.
The 3RP response in each country is built on conducting protection and assistance needs analysis and determining priorities based on the evidence gathered. In the 3RP countries, a wide range of assessments take place throughout the year, including sectoral, inter-sectoral, thematic, and agency-specific assessments. At country level, inter-sector working groups ensure, to the extent possible, a harmonized approach so that all the assessments in a particular country come together to build consensus around the key needs, with due regard given to specific needs of groups, such as children, women, female-headed households, elderly, people with disabilities and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex (LGBTI) people.

**REGIONAL: STATUS OF REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Gender discrimination and inequality places Syrian refugee women and girls at heightened risk of violence and exploitation, which is exacerbated by shifting gender roles and conditions in displacement. UN Women sought to assess the gendered impact of the Syria crisis, and to look at the status of refugee women and girls in Lebanon, Jordan, and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The aim of the three country studies was to gain a better understanding of the impact of displacement on gender dynamics, including women’s roles and responsibilities, women’s experiences of, and access to, humanitarian aid, and their experiences of violence. Studies were conducted with female Syrian refugees, and the resulting reports highlight the situation of women and girls living in displacement. Despite differences in context, similar themes emerged from the studies. These speak to women’s lives in displacement being characterized by economic insecurity, limited employment opportunities despite a desire to work, challenges in accessing aid, acute isolation, increasing levels of violence against women, and changing gender dynamics both in the private and public spheres.

**LEBANON: VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON**

The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) is an annual survey assessing the situation of registered Syrian refugee households to identify situational changes and trends. Among the key findings, Syrian refugees in Lebanon are spending less every year, reporting per capita monthly expenditures of USD 56, a drop of USD 6 compared to 2016 and USD 9 since 2015. This is a sign that households have fewer resources. Three quarters of Syrian refugee households had expenditures below the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), unable to meet basic needs of food, health, shelter and education. Even more worrying, 58 per cent of households had a per capita expenditure below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), meaning they were living in extreme poverty, unable to meet survival needs—an increase of five percentage points over 2016. Some 36 per cent of refugee households in Lebanon have no working member, with the need to take care of children and adults in the household, as well as a lack of skills and/ or experience among the barriers cited. The assessment concluded that the limitations on access to the labour market and consequent lack of income opportunities have made it difficult for refugees to meet their basic needs without external assistance. In addition, two thirds of Syrian refugees have continued to adopt crisis and emergency coping strategies, such as selling household goods, productive assets and housing or land, or withdrawing children from school.


**IRAQ: JOINT VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT**

WFP and UNHCR carried out a Joint Vulnerability Assessment (JVA) of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) in mid-2018. Among the key findings, households were found to use different coping mechanisms, which vary across the governorates and across levels of vulnerability. The study concluded that more than half of Syrian households in all governorates experienced a lack of food or of money to buy enough food to meet the needs of their household members. In addition, a quarter of Syrian refugee households in Erbil and Sulaymaniya used consumption coping strategies irrespective of their food security status. Eating less preferred food, limiting portion sizes and reducing the number of meals were the most commonly used coping mechanisms. In Erbil and Duhok, it was widely observed that vulnerable families experienced asset depletion and indebtedness, and needed to resort to a set of coping mechanisms that negatively impacted their lives and the community at large.


**TURKEY: 3RP SUPPORT TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE TURKEY RESPONSE**

The report examines the complementary efforts of partners of the 3RP response in Turkey in supporting public institutions and municipalities in the refugee response to the Syria crisis, to increase their capacities to cope with the crisis. Through tracking funding flows and investments made to and through public institutions on a regular basis, results show that 68 per cent of funding received in 2017 was allocated to or through public institutions. Building on this, in the first half of 2018, the proportion of assistance going to public institutions or through them reached 98 per cent of the funds, emphasizing the importance which 3RP partners attach to supporting governmental efforts. This includes less than 17 different ministries and public institutions, in addition to 60 municipalities.


**EGYPT: VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN EGYPT 2016**

Through conducting the Egypt Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR) in 2016, results show that 85 per cent of registered Syrian refugees are unable to meet their basic needs. In order to meet these needs, 64 per cent of households are forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms as a way of generating income. This result comes after an increase in the cost of living, particularly food commodities, services, electricity and gasoline. Through the implementation of EVAR, it has been observed that the protracted nature of the Syria crisis calls for more investment in local institutions and the strengthening of their capacities to understand the needs and challenges of the displaced and local populations. The study also emphasizes the importance of targeted assistance in the areas of food, health, education, basic needs, and livelihoods, along with community-based interventions to enhance outreach and strengthen service delivery systems in the most impacted governorates.


**JORDAN: ASSESSMENT OF THE JORDANIAN MARKETPLACE**

The Syrian refugee crisis impacted all sectors of the Jordanian market. The arrival of upwards of 655,000 refugees transformed Jordan’s communities and marketplace. The crisis closed traditional trade routes and shored investors confidence in the economy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that the Jordanian economy lost one percent of GDP per year of the crisis due to the loss of exports and investment. UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council, in coordination with the Basic Needs and Shelter Working groups, embarked on this Market Assessment to better understand how the Jordanian market functions and how the market has responded in the past five years to the Syrian refugee crisis. With the number of Syrian refugees entering Jordan stabilized, this report reassesses market conditions and the continued appropriateness of cash-based interventions.

Available at: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/marketsassessment2018finalreport.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/marketsassessment2018finalreport.pdf)
REGIONAL / SECTOR RESPONSE

**PROTECTION SECTOR**
- Number of girls and boys participating in structured, sustained child protection or psychosocial support programmes
- Reach in previous years
- 2013: 108,806
- 2014: 79,833
- 2015: 149,588
- 2016: 78,833
- 2017: 428,532
- 2018: 501,084

**FOOD SECURITY SECTOR**
- Number of beneficiaries reached with food vouchers or cash assistance for food
- Reach in previous years
- 2013: 1,204,086
- 2014: 1,568,770
- 2015: 2,336,895
- 2016: 2,748,080
- 2017: 2,814,351

**EDUCATION SECTOR**
- Number of children (5-17 years, girls and boys) enrolled in formal general education
- Reach in previous years
- 2013: 304,816
- 2014: 398,611
- 2015: 466,332
- 2016: 503,848
- 2017: 1,004,217
- 2018: 1,352,125

**HEALTH SECTOR**
- Number of consultations for target population in primary health care services
- Reach in previous years
- 2013: 1,394,000
- 2014: 2,000,000
- 2015: 3,667,826
- 2016: 3,338,682
- 2017: 2,549,625
- 2018: 2,760,886

**LIVELIHOODS & SOCIAL COHESION SECTOR**
- Number of individuals assisted to access wage employment opportunities
- Reach in previous years
- 2013: 168,000
- 2014: 784,333
- 2015: 636,559
- 2016: 636,552
- 2017: 585,569
- 2018: 784,231

**BASIC NEEDS SECTOR**
- Number of individuals receiving unconditional, sector-specific or emergency cash assistance
- Reach in previous years
- 2013: 491,000
- 2014: 784,333
- 2015: 636,559
- 2016: 636,552
- 2017: 585,569
- 2018: 784,231

**SHELTER SECTOR**
- Number of individuals outside of camps receiving assistance for shelter or shelter upgrades
- Reach in previous years
- 2013: 314,900
- 2014: 2,119,800
- 2015: 2,448,000
- 2016: 4,449,100
- 2017: 70
- 2018: 49

**WASH SECTOR**
- Number of individuals benefitting from access to adequate latrines
- Reach in previous years
- 2013: 314,900
- 2014: 2,119,800
- 2015: 2,448,000
- 2016: 4,449,100
- 2017: 70
- 2018: 49

**NOTE:** All figures are subject to change pending finalization/release/batch of the 3RP country chapters. Figures include the achievements under the 3RP since 2015 and its predecessor, the Regional Response Plan (RRP). *Figures include Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Palestinian refugees from Syria.*
Protection programming and advocacy for legal stay, access to essential services, and realization of solutions remains of paramount importance in 3RP countries. The sector response applies an Age, Gender and Diversity sensitive approach, tailored to the needs of refugee women, girls, men and boys.

Community-based protection approaches help to identify the most serious protection risks, explore their causes and effects, and jointly decide with affected individuals and groups on how to prevent, mitigate and respond to them. It achieves a better protection impact and improves their lives, by supporting their access to protection and services. Diverse outreach and engagement methods are used through communication, feedback and response outlets, including safe and confidential complaint mechanisms.

In collaboration with host governments, rule of law institutions, and civil society, partners will strengthen national systems and capacity, promote gender equality in national legal frameworks, provide protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSDA), and improve data management.

Gaps in civil status, legal and identity documentation, coupled with family separation, can pose risks of statelessness, especially for children. The 3RP response markedly increased the number of refugee children beginning life with an official birth certificate through providing evidence of their identity, parentage and nationality. Resolving documentation challenges also helps to secure property rights and facilitates access to durable solutions, in line with the preferences and informed decisions of refugees. Continued engagement with resettlement countries for the most vulnerable refugees is also critical in responsibility-sharing with host countries and addressing humanitarian needs.

The child protection response prioritizes effective implementation of best interests procedures with regard to alternative care arrangements, family tracing and the strengthening of national systems. Building on the evidence generated through pilot projects to use cash-based interventions to address protection risks, which mostly affect adolescents and youth, 3RP partners will strengthen the framework to protect young refugees by increasing access to educational, training and livelihoods opportunities and supporting youth-led initiatives.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) affects refugee women, girls, men and boys, including those who are still often overlooked in SGBV multi-sectoral programming such as children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. The strategy to mainstream SGBV prevention, mitigation and response across all sectors includes establishing safe, confidential, appropriate and effective services. Partners will improve the accessibility and quality of mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) services.

Since the beginning of the Syria crisis, Food Security partners have continually worked to reach those most affected across the region with life-saving food assistance, while increasingly focusing on the promotion of dietary diversity, sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods. In 2018, 1.7 million people in need were reached on average with monthly assistance, with plans to reach two million beneficiaries monthly on average in 2019.

Nonetheless, the food security situation in the region remains challenging. Food and livelihoods assistance for those in need will continue to be a necessity as inflation, lack of formal income-generating opportunities, and economic instability challenge the food security of refugees and host communities. While the food security situation in Lebanon has slightly improved, in Jordan it has in fact declined with 80 percent of Syrian refugees in communities being food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity, compared to 72 percent in 2016.

Important successes, however, have been achieved over the past year and the sector will continue to build on these advances. Unrestricted cash programmes have been scaled up, innovative social protection programmes are being put into place, significant strides have been made in primary school education and nutrition, and enhanced targeting has improved the ability to identify and support the most vulnerable refugee households region-wide.

Innovative responses are found across the region. In Jordan and Lebanon, a respective 63 and 23 percent of Syrian refugees are now reached through two innovative hybrid cash assistance modalities, allowing them to use food-restricted e-cards in a network of more than 700 contracted shops while also having the choice to withdraw multipurpose cash from ATMs directly, as preferred. With beneficiaries using this modality scoring higher acceptable food security levels than those restricted to food e-cards, additional beneficiaries in Lebanon will be reached using this modality before the end of the year, while all Syrian refugees in communities in Jordan will have this choice in early 2019. In Jordan specifically, blockchain technology is also used to deliver cash-based assistance more efficiently.

Furthermore, the Food Security sector continues to align its priorities along the humanitarian-development nexus. For example, partners have expanded their livelihoods portfolio to reach more than 107,000 beneficiaries with Food for Training and Food for Assets activities. Further, partners will promote agricultural investment for small-scale farmers, including the provision of agricultural skills, and the rehabilitation of farmlands and agricultural infrastructure.
The adverse effects of the crisis, displacement, and the loss of community and resources on families and girls and boys have accumulated creating multiple, inter-related and complex barriers to structured learning opportunities. Today around 700,000 Syrian girls and boys remain without access to any form of education in the five host countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

At the second “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region” conference hosted by the EU in Brussels in April 2018, the international community and the governments of refugee hosting countries reaffirmed their commitment to support the millions of civilians affected by the conflict in Syria as well as refugees and their host communities. Continued, flexible, unconditional and long-term resources in the education sector are needed to improve existing systems and scale up alternative options for children and youth to engage in quality learning. 3RP partners will accelerate efforts to increase access to sustainable, relevant and contextual quality education opportunities, by:

- Supporting national efforts in strengthening education systems, including teacher training and incentive programmes, in host countries that are inclusive to refugees as well as vulnerable local children;
- Expanding multiple pathways to learning that are flexible and responsive to the learning needs and requirements of children and youth, particularly those that have dropped out of school and will most likely not be able to return to formal education;
- Prioritizing learning and the acquisition of skills, with adequate tools for monitoring outcomes to inform evidence-based decision making;
- Improving multi-sectoral responses that link education, protection and livelihoods interventions;
- Ensuring that diversified learning opportunities, including skills training and tertiary education, are recognized and certified to facilitate re-entering into formal schooling or the world of work.

National health systems across the region continue to be the primary responders to the needs of Syrian refugees. In Turkey, Syrians under Temporary Protection in the community are eligible to receive the same health care as Turkish nationals, with insurance premiums paid by the Government. In Lebanon, Syrian refugees have access to a range of subsidized primary health care services through Government clinics and dispensaries. In Jordan, refugees have access to health services, but have had to pay the ‘foreigner’ rate since mid-2018 following a policy decision by the Government, resulting in a two-to-five-fold increase in the cost of healthcare. In Egypt and Iraq, Syrian refugees continue to have free access to health services in line with those provided to nationals.

Notwithstanding the generous response in general, the health needs of Syrian refugees remain high across the region. In addition to needs for basic healthcare services, reproductive, non-communicable diseases, and mental and psychosocial stress are major health problems. Access to services can be limited, not only by capacity in the health system but also financial capacity of refugees. As illustrated above, policy changes related to healthcare in 3RP countries can impact the ability of refugees to access quality healthcare.

With health systems under increasing strain, 3RP partners across the region have prioritized supporting the capacity of national health systems to increase access to essential health care with a focus on the major needs of Syrian refugees. This support comes in various forms, including direct support through the provision of equipment and supplies, capacity building, and system strengthening.

The sector also provides direct subsidies to help individual refugees access health services, including for referral to essential secondary and tertiary health care. Targeted interventions are made to meet the needs of specific groups including women, girls, children, adolescents and youth, the disabled, and older persons.

In countries with refugee camps - Iraq, Turkey and Jordan - health care services will continue to be provided in these camps in cooperation between Government authorities and 3RP partners.

The adverse effects of the crisis, displacement, and the loss of community and resources on families and girls and boys have accumulated creating multiple, inter-related and complex barriers to structured learning opportunities. Today around 700,000 Syrian girls and boys remain without access to any form of education in the five host countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

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- Expanding multiple pathways to learning that are flexible and responsive to the learning needs and requirements of children and youth, particularly those that have dropped out of school and will most likely not be able to return to formal education;
- Prioritizing learning and the acquisition of skills, with adequate tools for monitoring outcomes to inform evidence-based decision making;
- Improving multi-sectoral responses that link education, protection and livelihoods interventions;
- Ensuring that diversified learning opportunities, including skills training and tertiary education, are recognized and certified to facilitate re-entering into formal schooling of the world of work.

National health systems across the region continue to be the primary responders to the needs of Syrian refugees. In Turkey, Syrians under Temporary Protection in the community are eligible to receive the same health care as Turkish nationals, with insurance premiums paid by the Government. In Lebanon, Syrian refugees have access to a range of subsidized primary health care services through Government clinics and dispensaries. In Jordan, refugees have access to health services, but have had to pay the ‘foreigner’ rate since mid-2018 following a policy decision by the Government, resulting in a two-to-five-fold increase in the cost of healthcare. In Egypt and Iraq, Syrian refugees continue to have free access to health services in line with those provided to nationals.

Notwithstanding the generous response in general, the health needs of Syrian refugees remain high across the region. In addition to needs for basic healthcare services, reproductive, non-communicable diseases, and mental and psychosocial stress are major health problems. Access to services can be limited, not only by capacity in the health system but also financial capacity of refugees. As illustrated above, policy changes related to healthcare in 3RP countries can impact the ability of refugees to access quality healthcare.

With health systems under increasing strain, 3RP partners across the region have prioritized supporting the capacity of national health systems to increase access to essential health care with a focus on the major needs of Syrian refugees. This support comes in various forms, including direct support through the provision of equipment and supplies, capacity building, and system strengthening.

The sector also provides direct subsidies to help individual refugees access health services, including for referral to essential secondary and tertiary health care. Targeted interventions are made to meet the needs of specific groups including women, girls, children, adolescents and youth, the disabled, and older persons.

In countries with refugee camps - Iraq, Turkey and Jordan - health care services will continue to be provided in these camps in cooperation between Government authorities and 3RP partners.
The Basic Needs sector will continue to prioritize and invest in transitioning towards self-reliance of refugees as well as aligning humanitarian systems with national systems of host countries. The latter focuses primarily on further harmonizing eligibility criteria and levels of assistance but will also try shifting the delivery of humanitarian assistance to existing social assistance systems, where possible.

The sector will maintain a high level of monetized assistance and remain a strong leader in fulfilling the 3RP partners’ Grand Bargain commitments. Cash assistance has been recognized and proven as a very efficient and effective way of delivering assistance to the most vulnerable and those with protection risks. Moreover, it has proven to show the best impact on the local economies of host countries.

Wherever possible, country teams will enhance existing cash assistance systems to: become more collaborative along the lines of the Lebanon One Unified Inter-Organisational System for E-cards (LOUISE) setup in Lebanon, the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) programmes in Turkey and the Common Cash Facility in Jordan; and, become more financially inclusive, which will be another enabling factor towards self-reliance. Comprehensive vulnerability assessments will continue to support the interventions of the Basic Needs sector but will increasingly seek to be aligned with national systems - for example, with national household surveys for social protection purposes.

Cash assistance will be complemented by a set of targeted non-food items (NFIs) interventions to specific groups of beneficiaries in various settings. In particular, due to the increased vulnerability of Syrian refugee families in the cold winter months, winter programmes will be a vital part of the response across the region, supplementing the assistance outlined above. While winter assistance will be cash-based where possible and appropriate, it will also include the distribution of NFIs and clothes.

In addition to individual assistance, winter programming by 3RP partners includes synergies with other sectors, such as engineering work in camps and settlements for flood mitigation and drainage, and other work to weatherproof and improve shelters ahead of the winter season.

The Basic Needs sector has increased the Basic Needs Sector’s overall figures compared to last year. The decision to report on ESSN and food assistance in Turkey as part of the Basic Needs Sector has increased the Basic Needs Sector’s overall figures compared to last year.

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The shelter sector continues to place a massive strain on host country economies and infrastructure across the region. In the shelter sector, this is particularly noticeable in terms of housing, as well as related facilities including water and sanitation, and solid waste management. Some 93 per cent of Syrian refugees in the region (almost 5.3 million) live in host communities in urban, peri-urban and rural areas while around seven per cent (376,000) live in camps.

The shelter situation for refugees living in host communities varies greatly. Some live in rented accommodation or stay with relatives, while others are living in unsatisfactory conditions in unfinished buildings, garages, work sites or informal settlements often without the necessary privacy required to prevent protection risks for girls and women, particularly if they are head of the household and/or have a disability.

The shelter strategy aims to improve the living conditions of refugees and host community members living in temporary or substandard accommodation. This includes through the provision of weatherproofing, insulation and repair kits for refugees living in host communities in Lebanon and Iraq and the upgrade of tenanted accommodation for refugees in camps in Iraq. It also includes the improvement of infrastructure and amenities in camps, informal settlements and neighborhoods - including roads and drainage.

Across the region, the shelter sector is increasingly focused on supporting national organizations and institutions in their response to the protracted needs of refugees both in and out of camps. In Iraq, for example, the sector will work with national actors (municipalities, government technical departments, local NGOs) to handover camp management as part of the settlement strategy, one of the purposes of which is to enable refugees to obtain permanent shelter solutions while transforming the camps into integrated establishments within the host community, which have access to national services.

Funding for shelter activities remains a challenge to the full implementation of the sector strategy.
AGENDA FOR ACTION

There are multiple pressing issues that require attention: the burden of service delivery to host communities in camps and informal settlements; the accessibility and affordability of basic services to refugees and host communities; and the management of the burden caused by waste management services. This pressure has been partly alleviated through interventions and support from the WASH sector partners.

In addition, there are no major disease outbreaks in Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Jordan. Refugees living in host communities, which in some towns represent a large proportion of the total population, continue to exert pressure on water, sanitation and waste management systems. These pressures have been partly alleviated through interventions and support from the WASH sector partners.

With further declines in the overall funding situation, in addition to other factors, the WASH situation for Syrian refugees in camps and informal settlements continues to be difficult. Furthermore, the funding situation remains a key constraint for sector efforts to expand and improve WASH service delivery in some host communities. Meanwhile, policy challenges remain across the region.

Despite funding challenges, there were no major disease outbreaks in 2018, while the sector was able to maintain services for refugees in camps and informal settlements in addition to making modest progress in host communities.

The overarching goal of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector is to continue to pursue more sustainable WASH services to achieve durable results in a cost-effective manner. It also includes strengthening service providers’ equity drive in areas with a sizable proportion of refugees living in host communities.

The WASH Sector continues to adopt the principles of the Dead Sea Resilience Agenda. In camps, this includes, for example, completing transition to permanent and sustainable water, sanitation and waste management solutions when possible; ensuring quality standards are met; and, emphasizing and empowering self-sufficiency where communities take charge of service provision.

Furthermore, at host community level, the sector will continue supporting service providers to adapt to the increased service demand through several means including capacity strengthening and service delivery (upgrading and expanding service coverage and improving service efficiencies).

Considering the relatively high unemployment rates across the region, providing access to income generating activities to improve the livelihoods of Syrian refugees and vulnerable host community members is crucial in reducing poverty, mitigating dependency on humanitarian aid, reducing inter-communal tension and promoting social cohesion, and increasing self-sufficiency.

During 2019, there was an increase in the implementation of cash-for-work and temporary employment programmes that have targeted vulnerable refugee and host community households. However, the sector remains chronically underfunded (only 24 per cent of requirements), preventing sector partners from delivering at scale.

In 2019, sector priorities include: 1) income generating activities (i.e. self-wage employment opportunities) – including short-term cash for work for refugees and host community members; 2) increased employability through skills development, vocational and language training; 3) job matching and strengthening of national employment systems; and 4) improved business environments and working conditions, including value chain upgrading, access to credit and markets, and assistance to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

On social stability and cohesion, tensions between refugees and host communities remains an area of concern and requires increased focus. Among other factors, slow economic growth has resulted in limited new jobs, and as a result, vulnerable members of host communities can perceive refugees as competition for the limited available jobs. In Lebanon, for example, a period survey found that although the levels of social tension have remained relatively stable over the past year, there are increasing signs of host community fatigue and decreased levels of interaction between the host communities and refugees. Sector partners are committed to promoting social cohesion between refugees and host community members through community-based interventions in partnership with local and municipal institutions.

Throughout 2019, sector partners are committed to increasing female and youth access to, and participation in, livelihood and social cohesion activities.

LABOUR MARKET ACCESS

The Government of Jordan has increasingly opened its labour market to refugees in line with commitments made and reaffirmed at the London and Brussels conferences. As a result, a significant number of refugees have obtained work permits in several sectors - such as agriculture, manufacturing, and construction - in qualified industrial zones which contribute to their self-sufficiency and social cohesion activities.