

Middle East and North Africa

CRITICAL FUNDING NEEDS

1 October 2021

INTRODUCTION

Despite the generosity of donors, UNHCR operations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region continue to suffer from critical funding gaps that will further impoverish hundreds of thousands of people and reduce access to lifesaving assistance and basic services.

This document provides an overview of critical funding gaps in the region and the consequences for vulnerable populations if additional funds are not forthcoming. The UNHCR activities described in this report are part of comprehensive needs as presented in the [Global Appeal](#), and represent needs which are critical and can be implemented by 2021 year-end (under the current circumstances).



Yemen. Displaced families face hunger and poverty
 Photo: © UNHCR/Marie-Joëlle Jean-Charles

Country	Critical funding gap (\$)	# of impacted people of concern	Overview of needs
Algeria	\$2.2 million	28,000 Sahrawi refugee families in the Tindouf camps (90,000 individuals)	Shelter; WASH; electricity and cooking stoves
Israel	\$900,000	3,000 vulnerable individuals and families	Cash assistance for basic needs
Iraq	\$12 million	14,650 families	Cash assistance for basic needs
Jordan	\$6 million	33,000 families (132,000 individuals) receiving regular cash assistance	Cash assistance for basic needs
Lebanon	\$14 million	140,000 refugee families (700,000 individuals)	Cash assistance for basic needs
Syria and Iraq situation winter programme	\$88 million	Up to 3.3 million individuals in need	Cash assistance for winter in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and north-west Syria
Mauritania	\$2.3 million	65,800 Malian refugees in Mbera refugee camp	Education; health; WASH
Morocco	\$3.6 million	15,755 refugees and asylum-seekers	Cash assistance for basic needs; education; health; livelihoods
Tunisia	\$1.1 million	800 refugees and asylum-seekers	Cash assistance for basic needs; health; shelter

ALGERIA



Critical funding need: **\$2.2 million**

Ensuring access to shelter and basic services for Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf camps

In Tindouf refugee camps, UNHCR provides lifesaving assistance to some 90,000 most vulnerable Sahrawi refugees¹ to promote access to health, energy, food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and livelihoods. Underfunding means that UNHCR is currently unable to provide new tents for some 6,300 refugee families who are living in inadequate shelter, exposed to a harsh climate, windstorms and heavy rains, and often in crowded conditions. UNHCR is also seeking funds to replace two waste management trucks to support the management of organic and hazardous solid waste in the camps, without which refugee families would be exposed to critical public health risks. Moreover, UNHCR is unable to install some 30,000 meters of water pipes in Laayoune camp where there is no water distribution network.

To enhance refugee access to lifesaving health care and education, UNHCR is also seeking to replace 11 electricity generators that are in poor working condition, which provide power for health and educational facilities, as well as train refugee electricians to support more predictable and reliable provision of power in the camps. To reduce the use of fuelwood and further enhance refugee protection and well-being, UNHCR seeks to provide cooking stoves for 5,000 households to progressively reduce the total gap of 14,000 households in need.



In Algeria, UNHCR projects improve life in desert camps for Sahrawi refugees.

Photo: © UNHCR/Russell Fraser

ISRAEL



Critical funding need: **\$900,000**

Cash-based interventions for vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers

Significant gaps remain between the basic needs of people of concern in Israel and the resources available. This population already face a wide range of barriers on economic and social inclusion, and the COVID-19 crisis has further exacerbated their vulnerability. Despite the lack of funding, UNHCR implemented a one-off cash assistance payment to help mitigate the socio-economic impact on around 2,600 of the most affected individuals and families. With the number of COVID-19 cases again rising across the country, UNHCR is seeking additional funds to assist another 3,000 vulnerable cases (individuals or families) with a one-off cash assistance payment. This assistance provides critical support to helping already-vulnerable refugee and asylum-seekers to meet essential needs in the current environment where more sustainable and other income-generation opportunities are curtailed.

¹ UNHCR's official planning figure for the most vulnerable Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps in Algeria remains 90,000; needs are estimated to be higher.

IRAQ



Critical funding need: **\$12 million**

Cash-based interventions for vulnerable displaced populations

Overall humanitarian needs across Iraq remain significant among hundreds of thousands of refugees, internally displaced people and IDP returnees. UNHCR provides multi-purpose cash assistance to preserve the well-being and dignity of those most affected by displacement and assist them to meet critical basic needs including rent, health care and food. Current underfunding means that some 6,100 Syrian refugee families (approx. 20,300 individuals), 1,750 refugee and asylum-seeker families (approx. 4,700 individuals) of other nationalities, and 6,800 IDPs/returnee families (approx. 34,000 individuals) will be unable to meet their basic household needs and mitigate some of the negative socioeconomic impacts of displacement - now compounded by COVID-19, which resulted in many losing their livelihoods.

JORDAN



Critical funding need: **\$6 million**

Cash-based interventions for refugees

In Jordan, UNHCR provides monthly multi-purpose cash assistance to approximately 33,000 refugee families (approx. 132,000 individuals). Lack of additional funding would result in the discontinuation of the cash assistance programme, which represents a lifeline to vulnerable refugees, for at least one month. COVID-19 has adversely affected refugees. While innovative solutions to ensure long-term resilience of refugees are being pursued, cash assistance provides critical support, helping refugees meet essential needs. A reduction in assistance would significantly compromise the wellbeing of the most vulnerable refugees.

LEBANON



Critical funding need: **\$14 million**

Cash-based interventions for refugees

The socio-economic deterioration in Lebanon, accompanied by hyperinflation, decreasing subsidies and increasing insecurity has left people in extremely dire circumstances. Thefts and clashes over goods – particularly food, medicine and fuel – are increasing. The situation is extremely challenging for everyone, as increasing numbers of Lebanese are also falling into poverty, but it is even worse for Syrian refugees. The preliminary results of the 2021 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) indicate that 88% of Syrian refugees are in extreme poverty. Those who were managing before are no longer able to do so and the cash assistance UNHCR can provide should funding be forthcoming is critical for the survival of some 140,000 families (approx. 700,000 individuals).

SYRIA AND IRAQ SITUATIONS - WINTER PROGRAMME



Critical funding need: **\$88 million**

UNHCR estimates that 3.3 million people in the MENA region are in need of critical assistance to help them prepare for and cope during the forthcoming winter. UNHCR requires \$193.4 million to provide life-saving winterization assistance for people in need before the onset of the harsh and challenging winter season. This requirement is 54% funded, leaving a gap of \$88 million in Egypt (\$8 million), Iraq (\$20 million), Jordan (\$35 million), Lebanon (\$24 million) and for cross-border activities from Turkey to north-west Syria (\$1.3 million).

For more information on the country-level response, please see [UNHCR MENA's 2021-2022 Winter Plan](#).

MAURITANIA

**Critical funding need: \$2.3 million**

Basic services for Malian refugees in Mbera camp

UNHCR provides protection and assistance to some 65,800 Malian refugees in Mbera refugee camp by maintaining infrastructure and public facilities, food and cash distributions, as well as enhancing water and sanitation. However, the funding gap means that UNHCR will be unable to continue supporting critical activities, including the maintenance of degraded school infrastructure, which are key to preventing school dropouts. UNHCR will also be unable to deliver COVID-19 awareness campaigns and provide items such as soap and hand sanitizers to mitigate the risk of transmission. UNHCR will also have to halt plans to build and maintain latrines and water systems necessary to meet the hygiene needs of the camp population; there is currently only one toilet available for every 25 refugees, exposing the entire refugee community to public health risks.



Malian refugee women carry their belongings through Mbera refugee camp

Photo: © UNHCR/Sylvain Cherkaoui

MOROCCO

**Critical funding need: \$3.6 million**

Protection and basic needs assistance for urban refugees and asylum-seekers

UNHCR supports some 15,755 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Morocco with multi-sectoral interventions including cash assistance, education support, livelihood opportunities, and legal services. Lack of funding would mean that 800 vulnerable families with no source of income will lose access to UNHCR's monthly cash assistance, making them unable to meet their basic needs and exposing them to protection risks. In addition, their access to health and education will be curtailed, as UNHCR will have to reduce medical and education support in the form of payments for critical medication and lifesaving medical interventions, as well as the provision of education cash grants. UNHCR's livelihood programme will also be curtailed, compelling UNHCR to reduce several income-generating activities, vocational training enrolments and job placements, hampering the prospects for self-reliance of people of concern.

TUNISIA

**Critical funding need: \$1.1 million**

Shelter and basic assistance for vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers

UNHCR provides accommodation in collective dormitories or individual apartments to some 700 extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Tunisia. Underfunding will mean that refugees and asylum-seekers will be denied this shelter support and exposed to increased protection and poverty risks, including psychological hardship caused by anxiety and stress. They may be at increased risk of resorting to harmful coping mechanisms such as exhausting any savings, exposure to violence including gender-based violence, as well as harassment and stigma especially for the most vulnerable such as single women and LGBTI+ individuals. Underfunding will also require reducing or withdrawing UNHCR cash assistance from 800 refugees and asylum-seekers, which for many is the main source of income. People of concern will descend further into poverty, taking on additional debt, resorting to harmful copying mechanisms such as reducing meals, selling off assets and missing rental payments, leaving them at risk of eviction. Meanwhile, while refugees and asylum-seekers have free access to public health services, UNHCR ensures the reimbursement of medical fees. Funding limitations will expose those most in need of medical care to life-threatening situations and increased suffering.