IOM REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS • 2018

REPORTING PERIOD • December

USD 86.4 M
Funding received of USD 193 M required

5,577,018
Assisted individuals of 16.4 M targeted

IOM PRESENCE

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES & KEY SECTORS OF ASSISTANCE
In December, the number of IDPs continued to increase in comparison to the previous months, with a total of 45,224 individuals reported displaced during the month. Moreover, 48,205 individuals returned to their communities of origin, elevating the total number of returnees in 2018 to over 1.2 million people. During the same period, over 1.3 million got newly displaced inside Syria.

Another severe winter season passes over Syria and harsh weather conditions in December – days of heavy rains, flooding and strong winds – has significantly worsened living conditions in a number of IDP sites. As several rainstorms took place during the month of November and December, the situation of IDP camps became worse, and the need of tent replacement and tent insulation increased heavily. Various floods and storm damages caused delays in installation of tents as access to camps due to poor infrastructure which restricted the completion of activities.

CCCM: In December, 683 individuals were relocated from congested IDP sites in northwest Syria to a new IDP camp. Hosting the most vulnerable IDPs from congested IDP sites, the camp has provided multi-sectoral services, including shelter, NFI kits, food, protection and health services. Moreover, IOM and its implementing partner started distributing fuel for heating and cooking stoves in the camp to respond to the urgent needs of winterization. The need for heating was identified through Focus Group Discussions with camp residents. Furthermore, IOM’s implementing partner initiated psychosocial support for children and contributed their educational development.

Also, IOM through three implementing partners reached 1,980 households living in 44 IDP sites in Syria with winter tent insulation support, which includes ground raising, internal insulation and external weather-proofing.

Shelter: Through its implementing partner, IOM enabled 1,103 IDPs previously residing in informal IDP sites to move into rehabilitated shelter units during the reporting period. Families moving to new shelter sites received free transportation services from their previous IDP site to the rehabilitated shelters. Also, 2,020 IDPs received shelter rehabilitation assistance which included the replacing and repairing of damaged windows, doors and ceilings. Moreover, IOM has finalized shelter repair activities for 3,012 individuals in northwest Syria, targeting both host community households sharing shelter with IDPs and IDPs living in leased properties. This project has assisted in empowering local communities’ contribution to address shelter sector needs in northern Syria. 295 individuals benefited from Cash-for-Work opportunities when conducting shelter rehabilitation and repair activities.

Ibrahim is eight years old and is from Aleppo. His family was forced to flee Aleppo during intensified fighting in the city and left with very little. During their time on the move, Ibrahim contracted a skin condition from infected sandflies (Leishmaniasis). It causes angry sores all over the body, which require medical attention and time to heal. In an environment with limited resources, it was hard to get Ibrahim the treatment he needed. His family has now been in an IDP camp in Aleppo for almost a year and the physical treatment of his condition has become easier. However, one of the biggest challenges for the family became the psychological effects of the condition on Ibrahim. He was extremely aware of his appearance and was struggling to integrate with the other children, who had no understanding of Ibrahim’s condition and didn’t want to play with him.

As part of IOM’s support to camps in northern Syria, implementing partner organizations work to provide psychosocial support for young people to help them come to terms with the difficulties they are facing as a result of the conflict. Sessions include recreational programmes and specially tailored approaches to the needs of individuals in each group. In the case of Ibrahim, the mobile psychosocial support team worked with him and other children his age to create some understanding and empathy for his condition and to build Ibrahim’s confidence to spend more time socializing. Over several months, the techniques used by the team allowed Ibrahim to integrate into a group of friends. The other children overcome their misconceptions about his condition and Ibrahim’s confidence grew as he spent more time with his new friends. His grades have also improved as he is more involved in the activities in the camp and Ibrahim explains he’d like to become a mechanic one day.
IOM SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE (3RP) - AT A GLANCE

TURKEY

School Transportation Assistance: IOM continues to provide school transportation services (Home - School) in Mersin, Sakarya, Yalova and Adana. Between 1 and 31 December, IOM reached 3,304 students with this service.

Social Support Services: Through IOM’s support the IBC foundation provides Syrian refugees in Turkey with improved access to information for services, increase overall reported wellbeing and building capacities of both refugee and host communities in the district of Sultanbeyli in Istanbul. In December, IOM expanded its support to also provide educational support and access to social and legal services for Syrian refugees through community centres in both Gaziantep and Kilis as well.

During the reporting period, 687 individuals (493 females, 248 males) attended legal awareness and information dissemination sessions; 223 persons (138 females, 85 males) took part in non-formal education/vocational trainings; 406 beneficiaries (250 females, 156 males) benefitted from MHPS activities including group and individual counselling sessions; and 686 Syrian refugees and host community members (311 females, 375 males) participated in intercultural events provided by IBC.

JORDAN

Winterization Assistance: Beneficiary verification of Syrian refugee households was completed in December, with a total of 1,033 households selected for one-time winter cash assistance. As of 31 December, 361 of these households received assistance. The cash is intended to meet urgent winter needs, covering the cost of a heater, gas bottle, gas refills and blankets for the most vulnerable families living outside of camps. Cash disbursement will continue during January 2019.

Transportation Assistance: IOM continues to provide transportation assistance to and between refugee camps in Jordan to facilitate family reunification and referrals, and to support other transportation needs. During the reporting period, a total of 275 Syrian refugees received transportation assistance from IOM, including 9 supported for family reunification systems; splintering; wounds; bleeding; burns; injuries related to the weather and environment; and triage, among other topics.

IRAQ

Health Awareness Sessions: IOM’s emergency health team continues to conduct health awareness-raising sessions for Syrian refugees. Topics discussed include general personal hygiene, as well as signs and symptoms of communicable diseases, modes of transmission, treatment and preventive measures. Community leaders and focal points are also selected to relay key health messages to camp populations. In December, IOM’s health team reached 79 individuals (38 females and 41 males) in Ninewa (Akre and areas close to Syrian refugees’ schools) and Dohuk (Domiz camp and surrounding areas).

Resettlement: IOM in Iraq continues to provide resettlement assistance to Syrian refugees, including liaison with the immigration departments of resettlement countries, coordination for visa and travel document issuance, travel arrangement, medical screening prior departure, follow up with transit and with receiving missions to confirm safe arrival and cultural orientation. During the reporting period, 59 refugees (32 females, 27 males) of whom 37 are adults, 20 children, and two infants received resettlement assistance.

LEBANON

Community Stabilisation and Social Cohesion: With funds from the Canadian Government’s Peace and Stabilization Operations Program, IOM continues to implement community stabilization interventions in Akkar and Tripoli. The project aims to enhance local communities’ resilience as well as reinforce local government and civil society’s capacity to respond to priority needs, mitigate tensions and avoid the escalation of conflicts mainly among the Lebanese and Syrian communities. The community interventions are implemented in partnership with multiple local NGOs, and they range from road rehabilitation, to neighbourhood upgrade, clean-up campaigns, installation of security cameras, and establishment of sport facilities.