

Regional Cash Assistance Update

Q3 (July-September 2021¹)

Key Highlights



3,667,752
unique individuals²

reached with all modalities of cash assistance from January to September 2021.



3,013,419 individuals

reached with multi-purpose cash assistance between January - September 2021, including **383,835 individuals** who received emergency cash assistance³.



\$233 million*

distributed via all modes of cash assistance from January - September 2021, out of which **\$121.5 million** was to Syrians and **\$111.5 million** to persons of other nationalities.

* An additional **657,701 individuals** received **\$36.6 million** in cash assistance for winterization in 2021.

For more information, please refer to the [Final Report for UNHCR's 2020-2021 Regional Winterization Assistance Plan for the Syria and Iraq Situations](#).



Awadha, displaced from Al Hudaydah, in her tent in Shaab IDP camp in Aden. Awadha received cash assistance from UNHCR and was able to buy a sewing machine, a solar system for her tent as well as medications required during her pregnancy. Photo: ©UNHCR-Ahmed Al-Mayadeen

Background and operational highlights

During the third quarter of 2021, cash-based interventions (CBI) were implemented across 15 MENA operations as well as Turkey⁴, all of which delivered **multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA)** for basic needs and one-off emergency support. In addition, **livelihood grants** were delivered in Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Turkey, **health grants** in Jordan, **education grants** in Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco and Turkey, and **shelter grants** in Lebanon and Yemen, in addition to other sectoral support such as **cash for youth**,

adolescents and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in Turkey.

Additional support to address the economic impacts of **COVID-19** continued throughout Q3 in nine operations (Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Yemen) compared to 14 countries at the end of 2020, due in large part to the mainstreaming of UNHCR's COVID-19 response into regular CBI activities.

¹ All figures are reported cumulatively for the year, with achievements reported on a quarterly basis.

² The term unique individual applies to the calendar year. UNHCR counts unique individual as those that were added after Q1. When reporting the figures for a given quarter, individuals assisted in earlier quarter(s) of a given year will therefore not be counted.

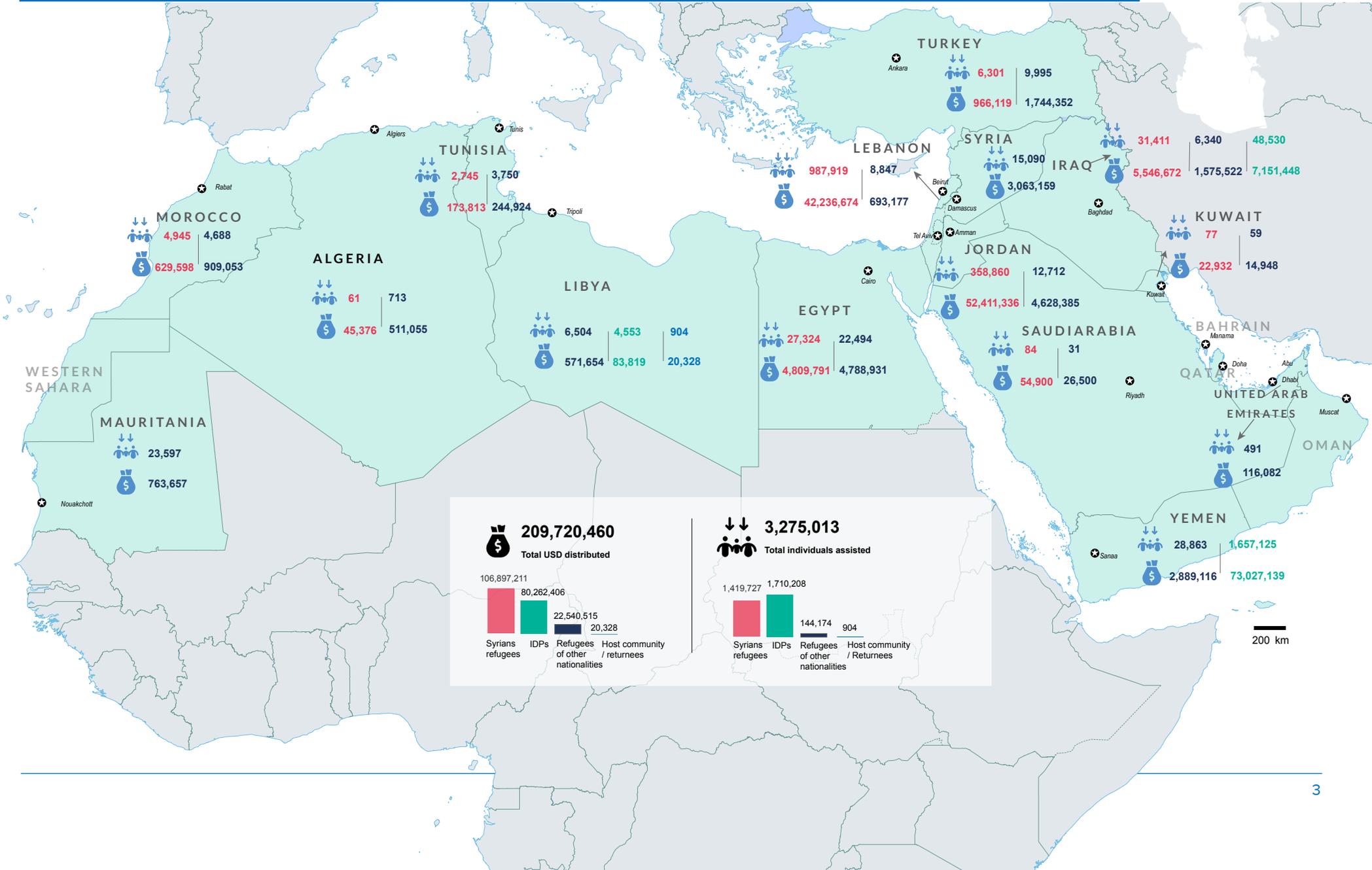
³ To address the economic hardship compounded by the pandemic, as well as other protection needs, for a total of **\$28.3 million**. The remaining **654,333 individuals** were assisted with other types of sectoral CBI, including grants towards health and education.

⁴ UNHCR operations in Turkey related to the Syria and Iraq situations are included in this MENA update.

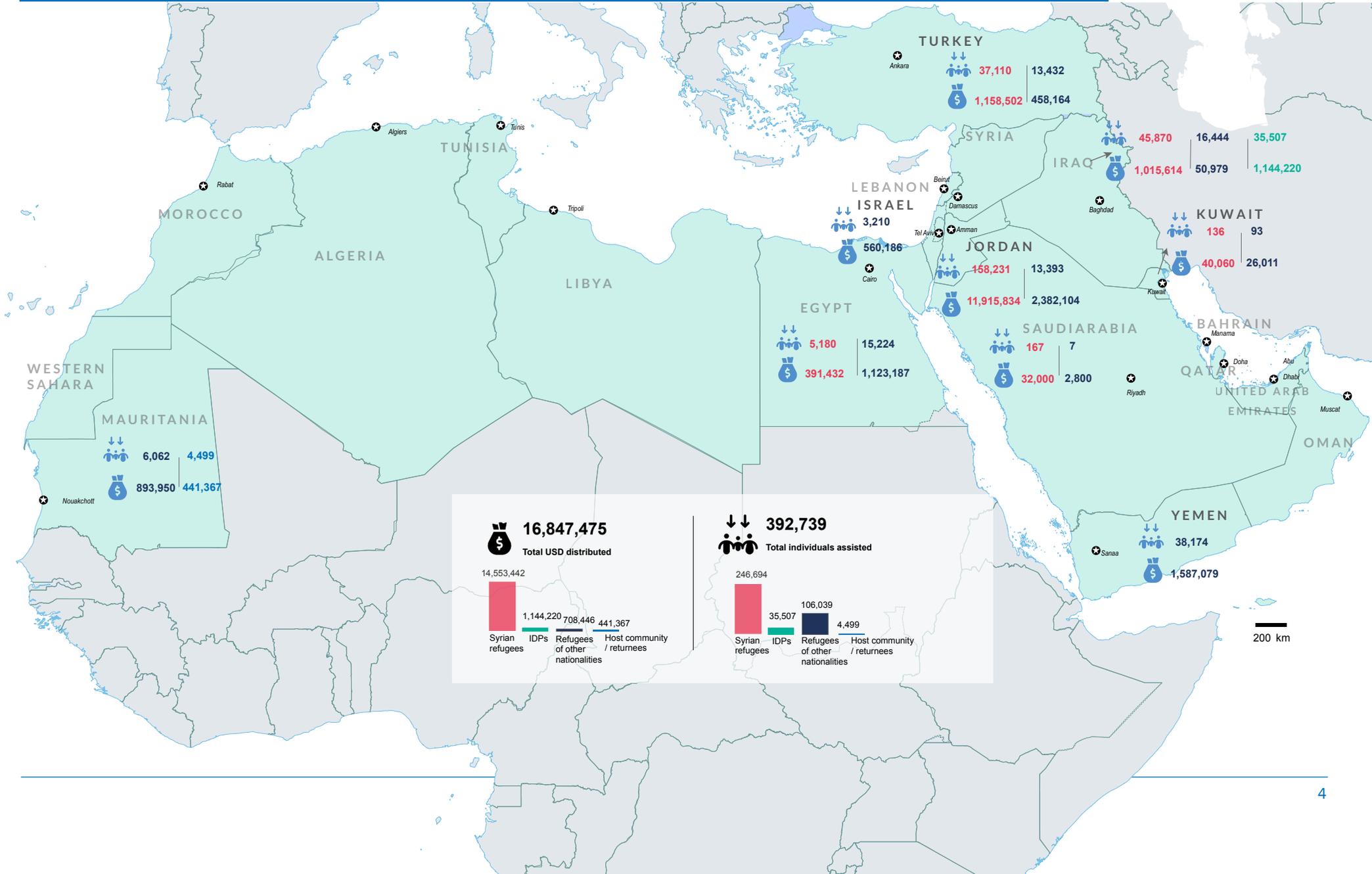
2021 strategic priorities

In support of the regional strategy for CBI operations in MENA in 2021 - 2022, during the third quarter of this year UNHCR MENA continued to focus on:

- **Expanding standard CBI post-distribution monitoring (PDM) tools:** UNHCR continued to expand the use of standard PDM tools for CBI, now adopted across 14 MENA operations (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen – in addition to Turkey) - compared to six operations at the end of the second quarter of 2021 (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Yemen). The use of standard PDM tools allows UNHCR to better understand the needs of beneficiaries and for operations to report against a set of comparable indicators, among other outputs. Additionally, operations in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will adopt standard PDM tools within the first half 2022.
- **Aligning UNHCR's cash assistance programmes with national social safety nets and social protection schemes, in close collaboration with partners:** UNHCR continues to strive for alignment of the selection criteria for its CBIs in the region to those of the equivalent social safety programmes of host countries.
- **Advocacy for the inclusion of people of concern (PoCs) to UNHCR into national social safety nets and social protection schemes:**
 - In **Iraq**, the World Bank and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) are planning a pilot project in Duhok in early-2022 which aims to revive cash transfer programming for vulnerable households. UNHCR is exploring options for the transitioning of populations currently supported by UNHCR's MPCA to the future cash transfer programming under the MoLSA. A preliminary study involving a joint assessment in locations hosting internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugee populations will be undertaken in the context of this pilot to generate evidence to support the possible inclusion of UNHCR's PoCs into national social safety nets.
 - In **Mauritania**, with the support of UNHCR, WFP and the World Bank, the Government of Mauritania agreed to include refugee households in the national social registry beginning in the first quarter of 2022, to allow eligible refugees to benefit from assistance under national social protection programmes. The assistance will be delivered by the national social registry to refugees in both camps and urban areas. Assistance provided in camp locations will replace some cash-based assistance currently provided by WFP, while assistance in urban areas will replace a considerable portion of UNHCR's current CBI.
- **Strengthening implementation systems:** During Q3, training on and deployment of UNHCR's Cash Management System 'Cash Assist' continued. This integrated software solution allows for all steps of cash delivery—from attribution of selection criteria, to preparation of beneficiary lists, to automatic reconciliation of cash deliveries—to be managed through a single software platform. Cash Assist is being rolled out globally in all UNHCR operations which directly implement CBIs; in MENA, Cash Assist is currently fully operational in Jordan and Mauritania. By early 2022, Cash Assist will be deployed in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen. Roll-out across the remaining operations (Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Turkey and GCC countries) is planned for 2022.
- **Continued integration of CBI with case management and other protection services:** In Q3, MENA operations continued fostering complementarity between cash voucher assistance (CVA) and UNHCR protection services, which is at the center of UNHCR's use of CVA to address specific protection risks in areas such as education, GBV and child protection. A recent study of UNHCR's cash assistance and protection outcomes in MENA indicates at least 50% of recipients also received protection services including case management, legal assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and child protection services.

UNHCR cash operations in MENA in 2021 – budget and number of individuals reached by country, non-COVID-19 response only


UNHCR cash operations in MENA in 2021 – budget and number of individuals reached by country, COVID-19 response only



Needs

Protection needs

To support the delivery of CBI for basic needs as well as specific protection risks, UNHCR uses specific needs categories which are defined at the registration stage. Such specific needs categories are integrated at varying degrees into all targeting mechanisms across UNHCR operations in the region, including: self-targeting combined with community-based⁵, Proxy Means Testing (PMT)⁶ and score-cards⁷.

Starting in Q3, UNHCR operations in MENA initiated a review of the targeting mechanisms adopted across operations, with an initial focus on Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, and the UAE. This review aims at achieving a more systematic exchange of lessons learned across operations, further harmonization of the PMT approach where adopted, as well as a review of the score-cards approach in key operations.

Response

Response in 2021 (Q3)⁸

# of unique individuals assisted with cash	3,667,752
Referrals of CBIs to/from case management	10,606
# of inquiries related to cash assistance	1,520,870
# of elderly persons (>65 or >60) assisted with cash	108,154
# of children and youth (<18) assisted with cash	1,966,276
# of transactions	2,046,586
Total \$ disbursed⁹	232,943,948

Assistance gap

# of eligible individuals not reached by UNHCR due to lack of funding	547,867
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Table 1 “Type of cash assistance in MENA countries”

Country Operation	Type of response	Type of cash-based assistance					
	COVID-19	Multi-purpose cash assistance for basic needs	Education grants	Livelihood Grants	Health Grants	Shelter	Other
Algeria							
Egypt							
Iraq							
Israel							
Jordan							
Kuwait							
Lebanon							

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