

REGIONAL STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

2020-2021



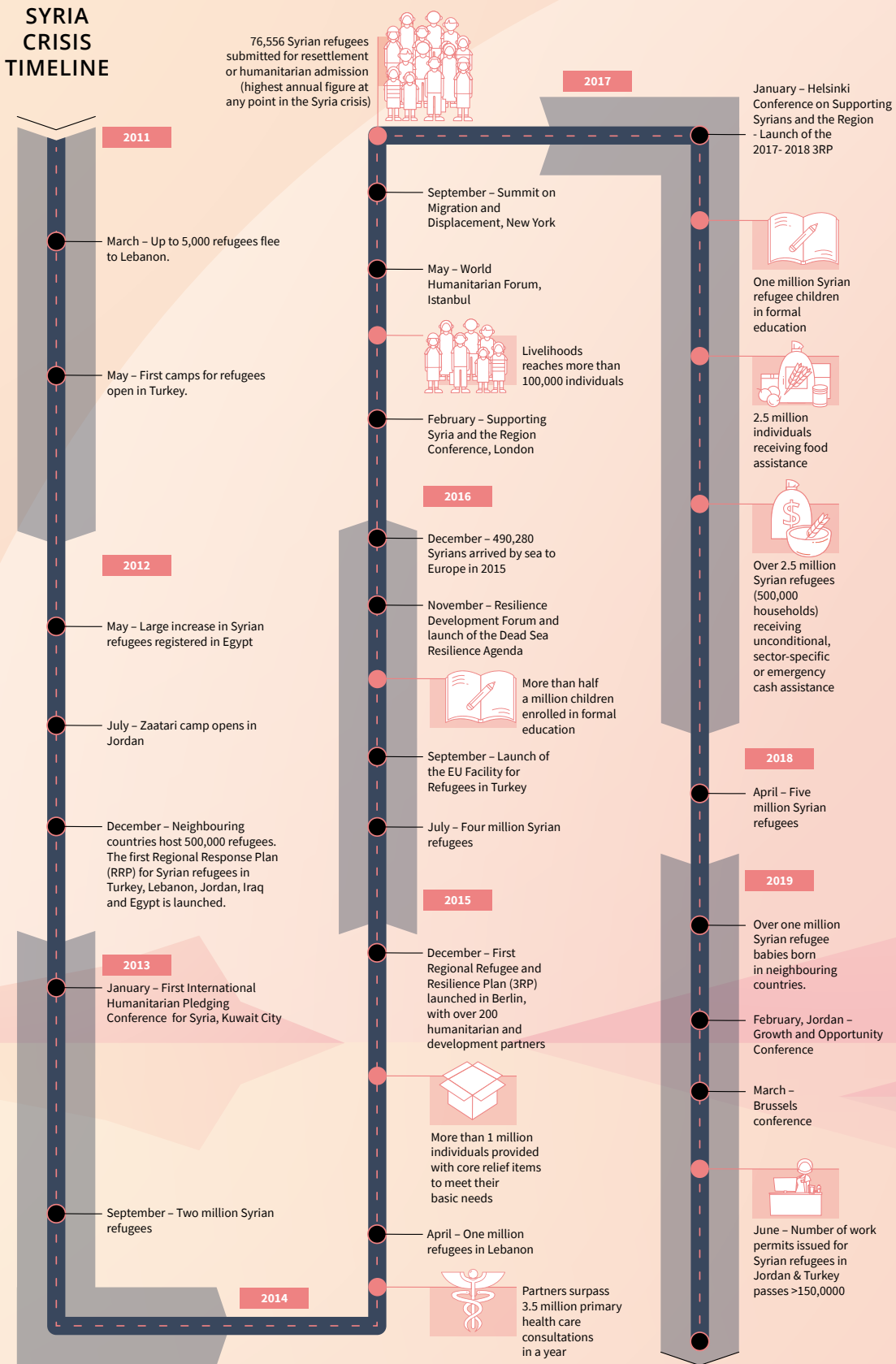
@3RPSyria
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NOTE

The figures and information contained in this document are in draft form and subject to amendment as the 3RP country chapters are finalized



SYRIA CRISIS TIMELINE



FOREWORD

The situation in Syria continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. Globally, Syria remains the main country of origin of refugees, making up a quarter of all refugees in the world. Syrians have found asylum in 127 countries, but the vast majority fled to the neighbouring countries – Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

These countries and communities have generously hosted refugees, and in the process, made an invaluable contribution to regional and international stability. This has come at an unprecedented cost, however, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities, overstressing basic social services, and reversing years of hard-won development gains. Today, several host country governments continue to confront heightened economic and financial challenges, whilst undertaking difficult reforms.

Over the last five years, the international community has strived to assist both affected populations and host governments. The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), co-led by UNHCR and UNDP, remains the cornerstone of this support, bringing together over 270 partners into a unified plan, driving innovation in policy and programming and successfully channelling over USD\$14 billion in funding.

As we enter 2020, there are over 5.5 million Syrian refugees across the region. Supporting refugees and the communities hosting them remains extremely challenging, with many individuals facing acute needs and vulnerabilities. Poverty rates for Syrian refugees exceed 60 per cent in some countries, while unemployment and uneven access to basic services, such as education, persist. Many in host communities, living side-by-side with refugees, face similar problems.

This year's 3RP offers a USD\$ 5.5 billion comprehensive plan in support of national priorities. This includes working together to ensure that refugees have continued access to asylum and international protection, that basic needs of refugees and affected host community members can be met in safety and dignity and that those with specific needs receive specialized services and support. 3RP partners strive to build resilience at all levels, ensuring increased opportunities for self-reliance, and helping to strengthen the capacity of national and local institutions to more effectively address current and future needs.

The 3RP community is also looking to the future. Underpinned by the strong co-leadership between UNHCR and UNDP, the 3RP will continue to strengthen the refugee and resilience response and look to play its part in advancing the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a way that leaves no one behind. Enhanced collaboration with bilateral partners, International Financial Institutions and the private sector will remain critical in forwarding these aims.

As in previous years, we remain grateful for the generosity and support of our donors who allow the 3RP to reach vulnerable people across the region. With the crisis entering its tenth year, our message to the international community is that we need you to stay the course and show continued support and solidarity with the Syrian people, host communities and host countries until durable solutions are realized and a political solution to the Syria crisis is found.

Mourad Wahba

Mourad Wahba

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Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director
of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States*

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Amin Awad

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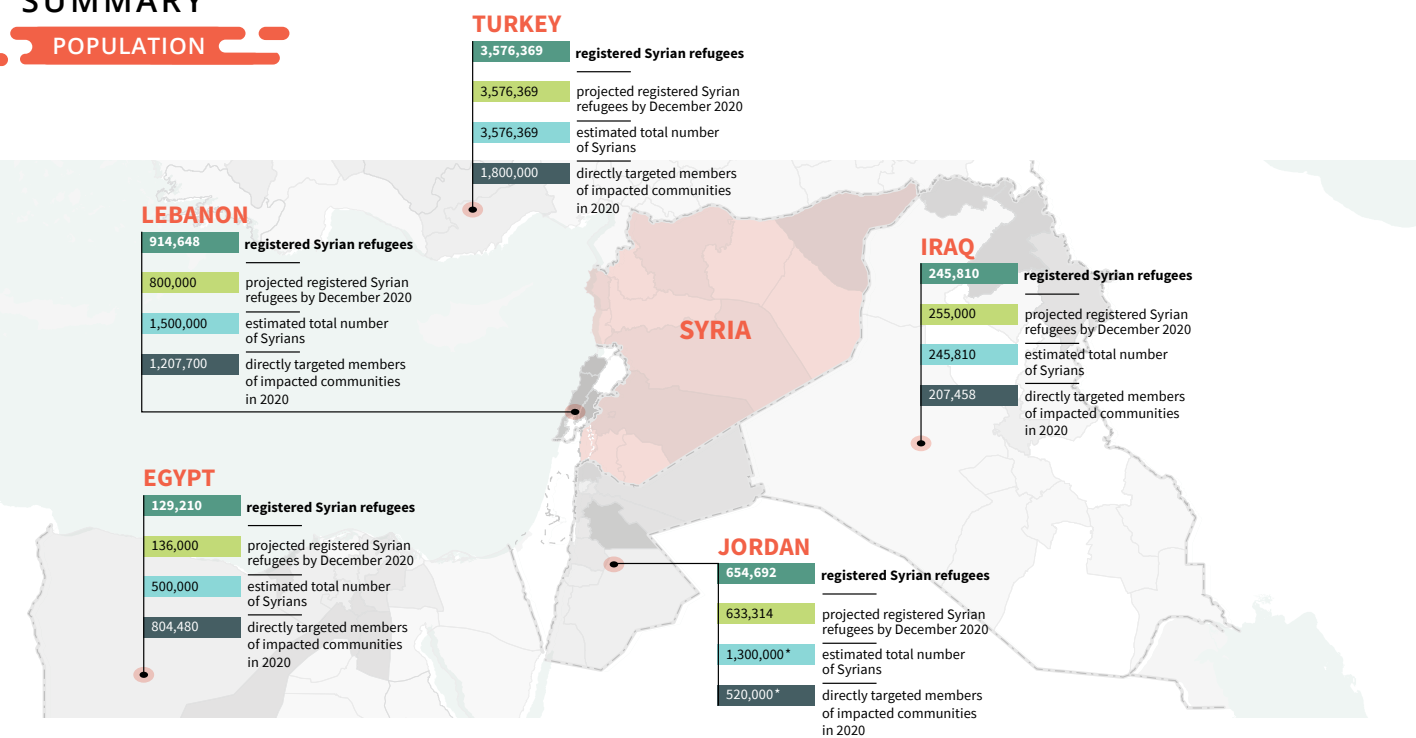
REGIONAL STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

2020-2021

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RESPONSE
SUMMARY

POPULATION



TOTAL 5,520,729 registered Syrian refugees as of December 2019

5,400,683 projected registered Syrian refugees by December 2020

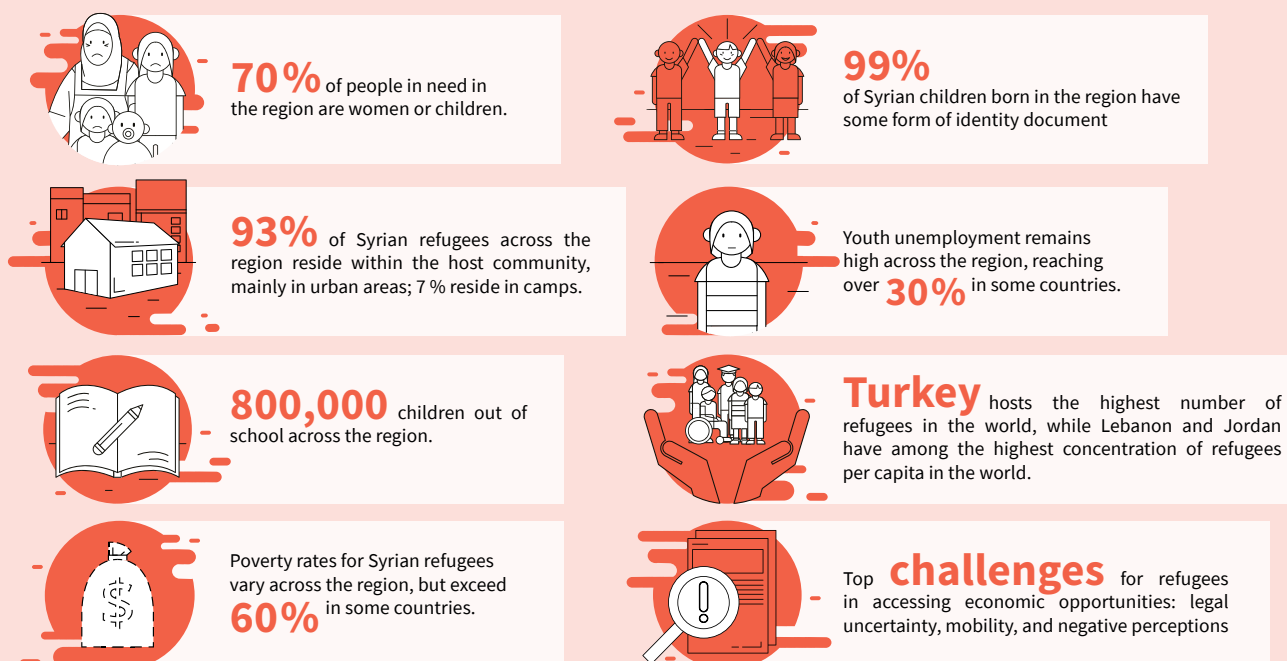
7,122,179 estimated total # of Syrians as of December 2019

4,539,638 directly targeted members of impacted communities in 2020

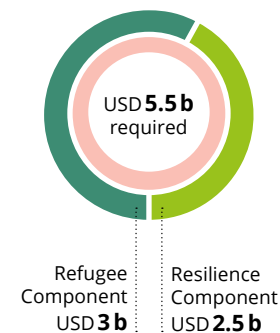
NOTE: Regional total of 5,520,729 registered Syrian refugees on 31 December 2019, including 35,713 Syrian refugees accommodated in countries in North Africa

* Jordan figures are pending review by the Government of Jordan and subject to change in due course

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

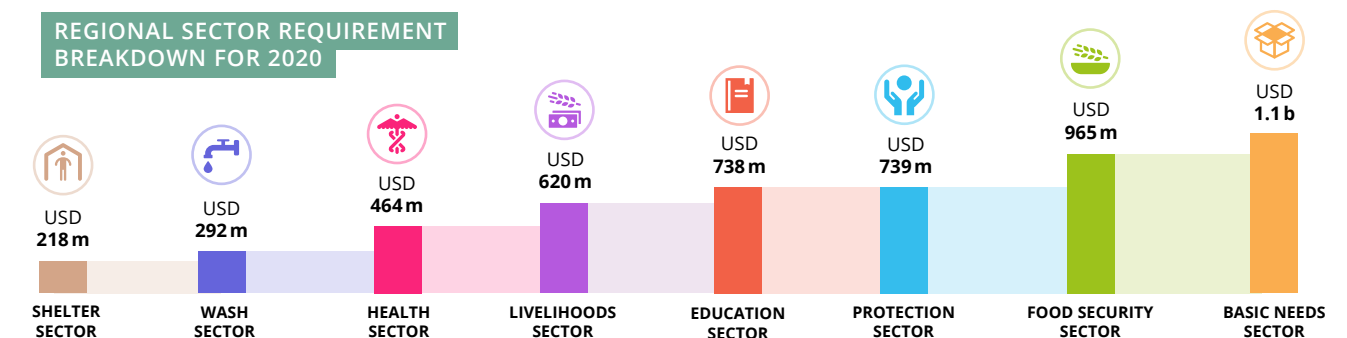
RESPONSE
SUMMARY

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

TOTAL
REQUIREMENTS
2020

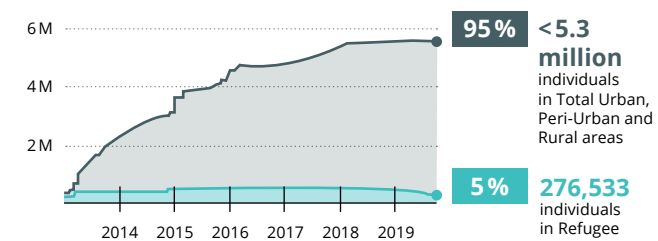
COUNTRY	Refugee Component (USD)	Resilience Component (USD)	Total Requirements 2020 (USD)	Estimated Total Needs 2021 (USD)
TURKEY	554,897,383	619,890,796	1,174,788,179	1,016,481,192
LEBANON	1,390,682,346	1,283,706,781	2,674,389,127	TBC
JORDAN	706,197,984	493,892,239	1,200,090,223	TBC
IRAQ	173,209,275	86,733,027	259,942,303	241,023,436
EGYPT	117,622,114	41,541,091	159,163,205	166,983,477
REGIONAL	92,970,742	3,000,000	95,970,742	TBC
TOTAL	3,035,579,844	2,528,763,935	5,564,343,778	TBC

NOTE: The figures may change subject to further updates from countries

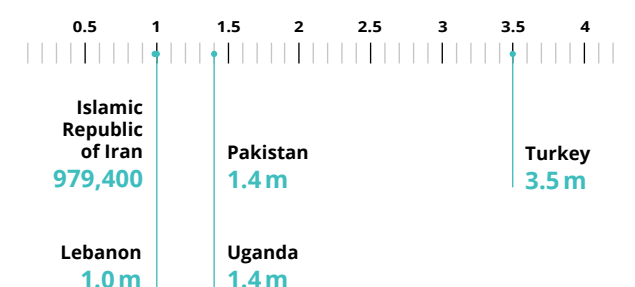
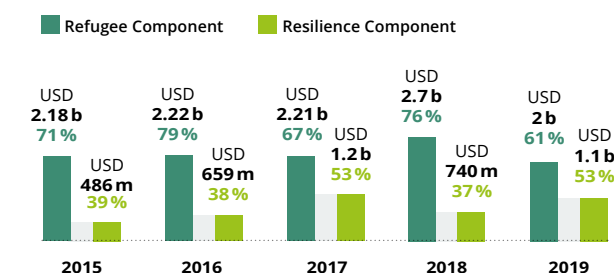
REGIONAL SECTOR REQUIREMENT
BREAKDOWN FOR 2020

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

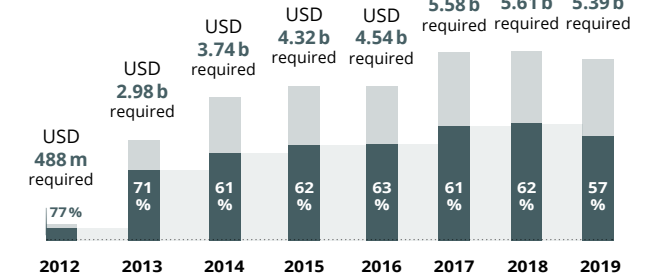
TREND OF REGISTERED SYRIAN REFUGEES



TOP REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES

REFUGEE & RESILIENCE
COMPONENT FUNDING RECEIVED

NOTE: The percentages of component funded against component requirements. The figures are pending confirmation from some partners.

APPEAL VS FUNDING
IN PREVIOUS YEARS

NOTE: This graphic covers funding under the 3RP since 2015 and its predecessors, the Refugee Response Plans (RRPs), since 2012. The figures are pending confirmation from some partners.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt continue to generously host over 5.5 million refugees as of the end of 2019. There was no major influx of new refugees into these host countries during the year as borders and admission practices remained closely managed. However, some 17,500 Syrians were displaced into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq as a result of an increase in hostilities in north-east Syria as of 1 December. While no country saw a substantial decrease in registered Syrian refugees, others saw modest net increases, primarily as a result of new registrations, particularly new-borns.

Since the beginning of 2019, there has been a relative increase in the number of spontaneous voluntary refugee returns to Syria. As of 1 December, over 90,000 Syrian refugees have spontaneously and voluntarily returned to Syria, an increase of over 60 per cent compared to the same timeframe in 2018. These figures are based on government sources and direct observation by UNHCR. The actual number may be significantly higher. To date, Aleppo and Dar'a are the two main governorates of origin for refugee returnees, followed by Rural Damascus and Homs.

Return intention surveys conducted in early 2019 in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan found that 75 per cent of Syrian refugees hoped to return to Syria one day. However, 69 per cent of respondents did not foresee a return to Syria in the following 12 months. The key issues highlighted as influencing return intentions included safety and security, livelihoods opportunities, access to shelter and access to basic services. Meanwhile, gender analysis

of returns has shown that women and girls confront disproportionate risks.

Resettlement remained an important yet limited option in 2019, continuing the downward trend of previous years. Some 230,000 people Syrians have been referred for resettlement as of 1 December, representing a 70 per cent reduction from 2016. The global decrease in the number of resettlement places available and a shifting of resettlement opportunities to other global priority situations are the primary drivers for the decrease, even though resettlement needs of Syrians in the host countries in the region remain high.

Against the backdrop of an evolving context in Syria and across the region, 3RP partners expect a fluid situation throughout 2020. Nonetheless, for the purposes of 3RP planning, it is projected that the registered Syrian refugee population in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt will remain approximately at current levels, with some modest increases due to new registrations as well as further spontaneous voluntary returns expected.

Despite the generosity of host countries and communities, Syrian refugees continue to face challenges across the region. Poverty rates for Syrian refugees exceed 60 per cent in some countries, while unemployment and uneven access to education and other basic services persist. As more refugees remain in poverty, protection risks such as early marriage, sexual and gender-based violence, child labour, and exploitation are liable to worsen, while the use of negative coping mechanisms may rise.



Alia and her husband own the first Turkish Delight factory in Jordan. The factory is based in Ramtha and their products are sold in a number of locations across the Kingdom and in the region.

Some host countries, such as Lebanon and Jordan, also confront high financial pressures. In Lebanon, public debt stands at 150 per cent of GDP and remains high in Jordan at around 94 per cent of GDP. These developments unavoidably place additional pressure on host governments' ability to sustain the provision of basic social services to all those in need whilst the worsening of socio-economic conditions may also exacerbate tensions between refugee and host communities in some countries. To tackle such challenges, governments are undertaking difficult reforms. Meanwhile, in Turkey and elsewhere, sustained support is required to respond to the increase in demand for basic services.

Notwithstanding the generous and continuous international support provided through the 3RP, and other international and bilateral channels, the funding environment for the Syria refugee and resilience response remains challenging undetermined, particularly mobilizing resources at the scale necessary to systematically tackle socio-economic challenges in host countries and ensure continuous support to the strengthening of national and local service delivery systems and the expansion of job and other economic opportunities, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Poverty rates for Syrian refugees exceed 60% in some countries, while unemployment and uneven access to education and other basic services persist.

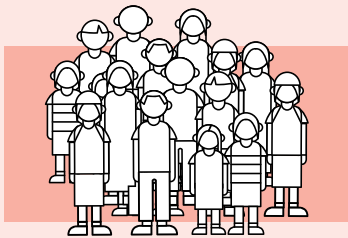


Vulnerabilities among host communities also remains significant. At the same time, host countries continue to contend with a range of economic and social challenges. Economic growth remains slow in some countries and unemployment remains a major concern, reaching 25 per cent in Lebanon and hovering above 10 percent in other host countries. Recent trends in youth unemployment are particularly worrisome: In Jordan, youth unemployment stood at 40.1 per cent for the first quarter of 2019. Poverty rates, according to national measures, also remain high, with a third of the population living in poverty in some countries.

Female unemployment tends to be higher in some countries due to multiple gendered barriers in accessing the economy.



UNHCR recorded **96,253** spontaneous returns in 2019



Resettlement Needs

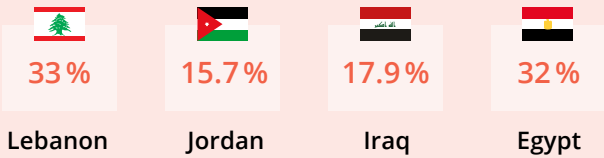
10% of Syrian refugees are in need of resettlement and meet resettlement criteria.

0.5% of Syrian refugees will be submitted for resettlement – **only one in 20 of those in need.**

150,000 work permits issued to Syrian refugees in Jordan and Turkey since 2016



Poverty Rates in the Host Countries in 2019



2020-2021 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

During the second half of 2019, 3RP partners undertook a consultative regional process to define new regional strategic directions. This process was launched in recognition of several factors, including many of the previous strategic directions are now firmly embedded in the response, the importance of focusing on collective impact, and the opportunity to further harness global frameworks, such as the Global Compact for Refugees and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030, to move the response forward as the regional context continues to evolve.

In support of host countries in the region, 3RP partners will seek to contribute to the achievement of four regional strategic directions for the benefit of refugees and host communities. The new strategic directions are set out in the graphic below and in the following pages. Through all efforts, 3RP partners will seek to promote resilience for all, guided by the principle that ‘no one is left behind’.

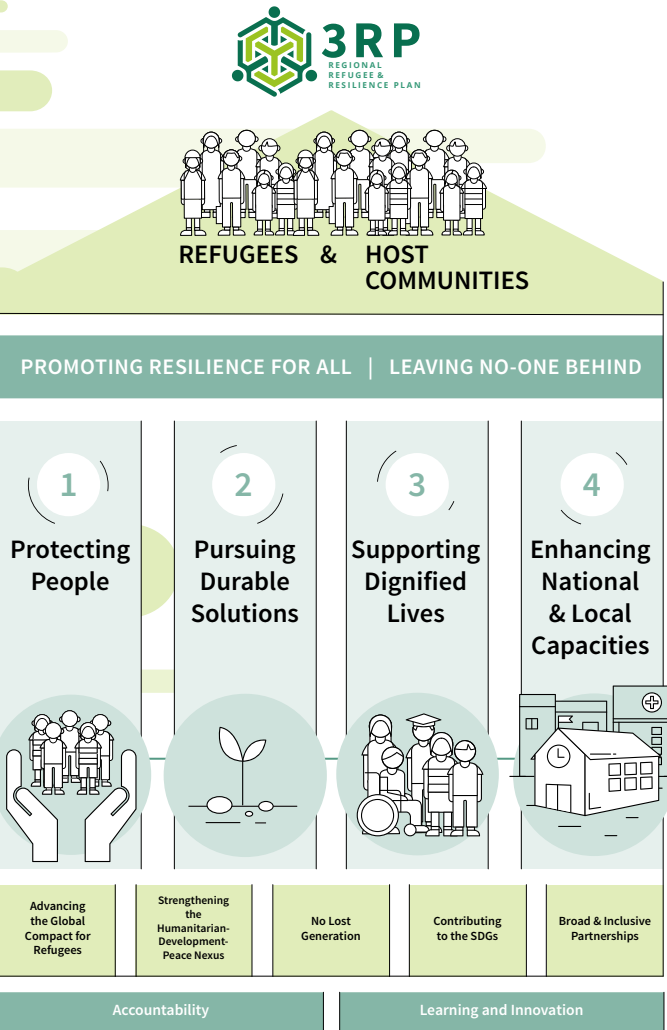
Progress towards the strategic directions rests on several building blocks that inform programming, advocacy, and policy

development and ensure that the 3RP’s implementation is in line with national priorities and complementary to national efforts. This includes advancing the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in line with national priorities.

The regional strategic directions set the overall high-level parameters for the regional response and articulate the impact which 3RP partners strive to make. These directions are interlinked and interdependent, with progress on each essential to the positive outcomes towards the others. Under the overall regional strategic direction framework, each country has developed its own specific strategic directions and objectives based on its context, as outlined in the country overviews.

The 3RP acknowledges the response of other non-government actors which operate outside 3RP structures but who are also significantly working to meet the needs of affected people across the region. This includes international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, development actors, and other international organizations such as the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). At the regional and country level, relevant coordination continues to be undertaken to promote complementary efforts, avoid duplication, and ensure impact of programming.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS MODEL



PROMOTING RESILIENCE FOR ALL / LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

The Resilience Approach remains central to the regional and host country-level responses to the Syria crisis. 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. The Resilience Approach calls upon all actors on the ground to think and work together in a synergetic manner to build these capacities. The Resilience Approach recognizes the critical role of conflict-sensitivity and the importance of efforts to support social cohesion and stability.

The 3RP has brought more than 270 humanitarian and development partners together under a single, coordinated response which addresses both emergency needs and the longer-term resilience capacities of vulnerable women, men, youth, boys and girls among refugee and host communities.

All programming is encouraged to adopt and promote the key tenets of a Resilience Approach. The 3RP has put the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus) and New Way of Working into practice, including through joint-programming as outlined in the box below. 3RP partners have strived to link emergency assistance to meet basic needs with actions to increase self-reliance and self-sufficiency of vulnerable populations through market-based skills training and employability, income generation opportunities and entrepreneurship programs. 3RP partners also work together with government, national and local institutions to strengthen existing service delivery systems, to identify vulnerabilities and address needs and risks, including social tensions associated with increased demand for services, and improve capacities to manage future shocks.

Furthermore, and consistent with the new UN Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies, 3RP sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms provide conducive platforms to mobilize humanitarian and development partners to employ shared, holistic analyses

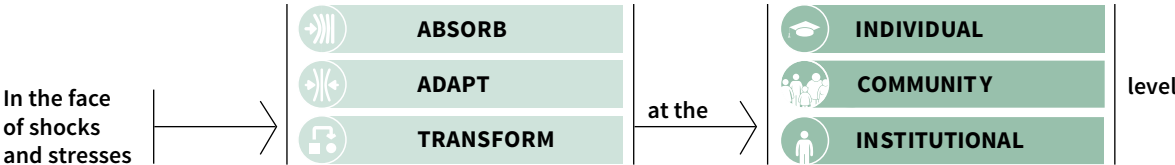
of vulnerabilities and collective, context-specific resilience-building outcomes across affected populations, areas, sectors and institutions. The inter-sectoral results and M&E frameworks in Lebanon and Turkey response plans are important examples of work in this direction.

During 2020-2021, 3RP partners are committed to strengthen the Resilience Approach in their work, ensuring that programs leave no one behind and continued implementation of the HDP Nexus.

Joint Programming at the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

- In Jordan, FAO, WFP and UNDP are working together on a programme to improve economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities in rural and semi-rural areas. With an emphasis on youth and women’s empowerment, the programme focuses on the development of climate-smart agriculture practices, efforts to improve rural urban market linkages, vocational trainings and saving and loans mechanisms.
- In Lebanon, UNHCR and UNDP have been working together to improve community security and access to justice. Partnering with both Lebanese ministries and municipalities, this programme supports broader stabilization efforts while enhancing legal aid services for the most vulnerable refugee and host community members, particularly females.
- In Iraq, Jordan and Turkey, UN Women, in conjunction with local partners, implements the ‘Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities’ programme that promotes protection and empowerment of women through access to livelihood opportunities, unstigmatised protection services and support to national justice structures.

RESILIENCE: APPLICATION OF ASSETS AND CAPACITIES



PROTECTING PEOPLE

The 3RP places protection of people at the center of its planning, design, implementation and monitoring of its interventions to ensure that no one is left behind. This approach informs advocacy and support for access to territory, protection from refoulement, registration, strengthening of the protection space, protection from violence and exploitation, and case processing, facilitation of referrals and identification of possible solutions. Across the five host countries, efforts to protect people of concern are addressed through community-based approaches and strengthened identification mechanisms.

Obtaining civil documentation remains at the core of protection efforts to enable access to education, healthcare and employment as well as to register other important life events, such as marriages and births. Promoting gender equality in nationality laws is also vital for the prevention and reduction of people at risk of statelessness.

Children make up half of the displaced population and face myriad violations of their rights. Psychological and social distress and violence are inherently linked, and often result in over-reliance on negative coping strategies. Increasing access to primary, secondary and tertiary education is also key to building their ability to better protect themselves and increase self-reliance. Mental health and psychosocial support are also intrinsically linked to the protection response.

National systems are supported for the prevention, mitigation and response to sexual and gender-based violence, by mainstreaming it across all interventions, so that more women, girls, men and boys live in an environment where risks are reduced.

3RP partners also seek to strengthen zero-tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse through awareness and capacity-building, communication with affected communities, and community-based complaint mechanisms. Protection sensitive programming is pursued across the 3RP and thus contributes to each of the strategic directions.

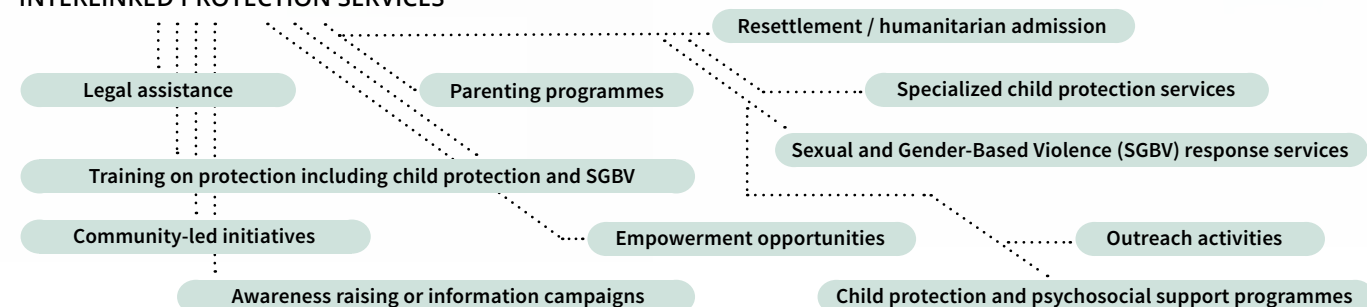
Host Countries and 3RP partners have significantly reduced the percentage of Syrian children born in the region without any form of identity documents from approximately

35 % in 2012
to
1.8 %
as of early 2019.



Women like Najwa received protection support when she arrived in Jordan. She also received a small support grant to build her own self-reliance - today Najwa has built a soap making business which provides her and four other women (two Syrian, two Jordanian) with a vital income, and which recently began exporting its first orders to China.

INTERLINKED PROTECTION SERVICES



PURSuing DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Refugees continue to require access to territory, international protection, and support in countries of asylum. 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.

RETURN

All refugees have the fundamental right to return to their country of origin at a time of their own choosing. Refugees' free and informed decisions are the guidepost for the 2020 3RP response. As spontaneous voluntary returns are likely to increase and given the need of refugees in the return process, 3RP partners will continue to strengthen relevant support in this area, such as information provision (housing, land and property amongst others), counselling, voluntariness confirmation, regularization of documentation in order to contribute to return that is voluntary and occurs in safety and dignity. In tandem, 3RP partners will continue to support return preparedness, centred on the intentions and concerns of refugees.

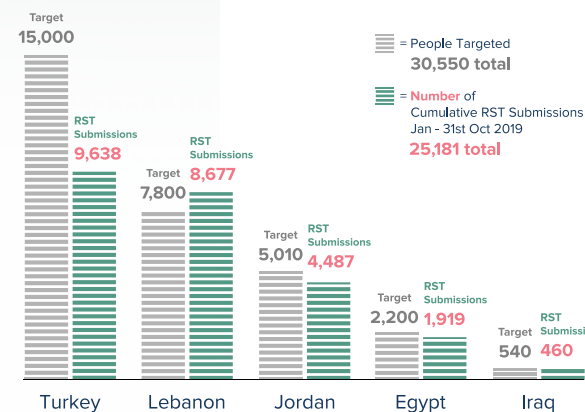
RESETTLEMENT

Resettlement and complementary pathways remain key interventions providing an effective solution to refugees who face vulnerabilities in the countries of asylum, demonstrating responsibility-sharing while playing a part in preserving protection space in host countries. Advocacy for resettlement and complementary pathways for Syrian refugees will continue to be essential, even though it may remain a limited option overall.

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS

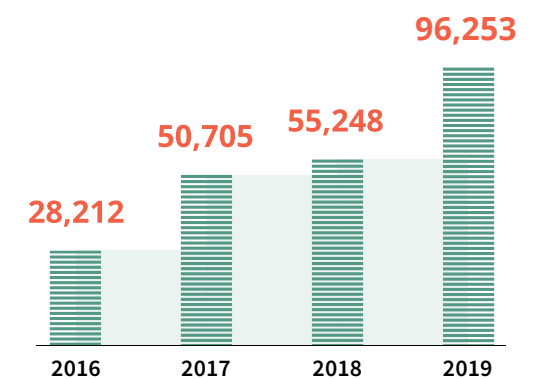
As many Syrian refugees may remain in host countries for the near future, expanding local opportunities and enhancing self-reliance as a precursor to solutions remains critical. While scale and scope of such activities remain context specific, it can include advocacy for a supportive legal framework and enabling environment, increased access to job opportunities, bridging the gap between the skills of refugees and local market demands through training and certification opportunities and recognition of education and skills, with due consideration to gender dimensions.

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TARGETS AND SUBMISSIONS



These figures relate to returns verified and confirmed by UNHCR, based on government sources and direct observation by UNHCR. The actual number of returns may be significantly higher.

VOLUNTARY SYRIAN REFUGEE RETURNS



SUPPORTING DIGNIFIED LIVES

The crisis continues to impact protection and socio-economic well-being of vulnerable girls, boys, women and men due to a range of factors. Addressing the multiple deprivations facing refugees and vulnerable host populations and supporting enabling conditions and opportunities for all to lead a dignified life is a priority for all 3RP partners across a range of sectors, including protection, agriculture, food security, basic needs, health, education, shelter, WASH and social cohesion and livelihoods.

To allow families to meet their basic needs, the 3RP will maintain a high level of monetized assistance and, in the process, remaining a strong leader in fulfilling Grand Bargain commitments. This will be complemented by a wide range of specialized interventions to meet specific needs, including interventions like social protection programmes. Moreover, 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 across the region.

3RP partners' efforts to promote self-reliance and self-sufficiency remains central to all programming, including through expanding impoverished and vulnerable populations' access to sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities. 3RP partners remain focused on creating economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities in the region, building on the commitments made by Governments and donors. In that regard, 3RP partners have also made strides in expanding refugee access to work documentation. To date, Jordan and Turkey have issued 146,000 and 132,497 work permits respectively.

For refugees in camp settings, shelter and WASH support will continue at scale, to help improve living conditions, upgrade accommodation access to clean water and improved sanitation.

Thuraya offers free catch-up classes for children in need at her home in Mazboud. Due to a scarce water supply she could host only a limited number of students. 3RP partners helped the community in Mazboud through building a water well and a water treatment room. Now Thuraya can host lots of new students.



SOCIAL COHESION

Fostering social cohesion between refugees and host communities through a variety of community-based interventions remains an integral part of the 3RP response, as political, economic and social challenges can undermine cohesion and increase tensions.

In Turkey, the government is promoting social cohesion through its 'harmonization' strategy and action plan, which promote interaction between foreigners, persons under temporary and international protection and the society across the country, through neighbourhood gatherings, engaged conversations harmonization meetings. In support, 3RP partners have developed a Social Cohesion Framework, outlining priority areas for the 3RP contribution to promoting social cohesion between refugees and host communities in Turkey.

In Lebanon girls and boys from refugee and host communities have found common ground at the Al Marj sports facility, rehabilitated by 3RP partners. The facility brings together youth from both communities and helps break down barriers through sports and play. Additionally, 3RP partners have established monitoring system to analyse intercommunity relations among Syrian and Lebanese host

ENHANCING LOCAL & NATIONAL CAPACITIES

Enhancing local and national capacities across the region is one of priorities of the 3RP—broadening the capacity of institutions and systems to provide protection and essential socio-economic services; fostering the conditions for durable solutions; and increasing opportunities for impacted communities to realize dignified lives. In that way, this strategic direction is both an end in and of itself as well as inextricably linked to the other strategic directions.

Building on the centrality of the Resilience Approach, partners remain committed to enhancing local and national capacities to ensure the sustainable impact of the 3RP response. Sustainability is bolstered when programs are aligned with national plans and priorities and 3RP partners work in close coordination and partnership with institutions at all levels—local, sub-national, national, and regional.

Placing meaningful partnership at the center of the Resilience Approach ensures that increasingly stressed local institutions are supported in a way that improves both the efficiency and the effectiveness of assistance in the short-term and benefits both the refugee and host communities in the long-term.

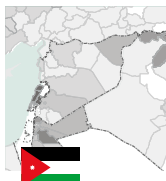
The 3RP seeks to expand capacity-building activities that prioritize partnership with stakeholder institutions at all levels. For example, efforts in Lebanon, such as poverty reduction efforts through the Ministry of Social Affairs, demonstrate the effectiveness of meaningful partnership in reinforcing the role of community institutions in stability and resilience. Private sector engagement in Turkey illustrates the important role of diverse partnerships and the opportunities to create new jobs and initiatives that are market driven and often economically sustainable.

SUPPORT TO NATIONAL SERVICES



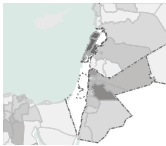
Turkey

3RP partners support to municipalities, mostly in the south-east, has increased from US 8.3 million 2018 to USD 24.3 million in 2019 against USD 8.3 million in 2018). This has included supporting the capacity of key municipal services such as water and waste management, as well as municipal management systems for strategic planning and coordination.



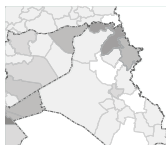
Jordan

3RP Partners are currently providing technical assistance to support the digitization and expansion of the National Assistance Fund (NAF). This includes related to the implementation of digital payments modalities and enhancing its capacity in data analysis management.



Lebanon

Since 2014, 227 communities have been supported with close to 1,000 projects which seek to directly mitigate social stability challenges



Iraq

Between 2018-2019, 3RP partners strengthened resilience through 36 municipal infrastructure projects, including the rehabilitation of roads,

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17626

