NEEDS ANALYSIS:
An ability to secure sufficient income is one of the key needs, with assessments showing that Syrian refugees in Iraq are not financially self-reliant, and struggle to find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Up to 86 per cent of Syrian refugees say they have insufficient household income, 15 per cent report lacking food security, and up to 27 per cent saying they are unable to access sufficient food for their families through the local market.

As the Government and host communities in KR and Anbar extend their generosity in hosting Syrian refugees, the rising numbers in 2013 is impacting services and economies in local communities.

While Government policy allows registered refugees to work, difficulties in finding employment outside of the informal sector (where 80 per cent of refugee households reporting having someone employed) are a reality, as is competition within and between the host and refugee populations in the community.

For refugees living outside of camps (more than 60 per cent of the population), financial difficulties are exacerbated by competition for rental housing potentially driving up costs and leading to overcrowding and occupancy of substandard accommodation like unfinished buildings, tents and crowded apartments.

These difficulties in sustaining livelihoods mean that interventions that strengthen labour markets and increase vocational training opportunities, to the benefit of both refugee and host communities, should be a priority.

An Age and Gender Diversity approach to these interventions is required to overcome some of the barriers, including cultural ones that might particularly restrict women’s access to livelihood and self-reliance activities.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:
- UNHCR engaged REACH, DRC and IOM for implementation of livelihood activities in camps and non-camps.
- A fund was made available through UNHCR to implement construction of Greenhouse, vocational trainings, support small business enterprises and support job-placement.