



Lebanon Update

Support to Displaced Syrians

30 March - 06 April 2012



A UNHCR field Officer visits an injured displaced Syrian in a local hospital in Qobayat © UNHCR – Dalia Khamissy – October 2011.

Highlights of the week

Numbers

The number of displaced Syrians currently registered with UNHCR and the High Relief Commission (HRC) in north Lebanon is 9,408. There are an additional estimated 2,000-3,000 people to be registered in Tripoli and surrounding areas.

In the Bekaa, there are approximately 1,500 displaced Syrian families (7,500 people) according to UNHCR and partners.

UNHCR has also registered 704 displaced Syrians in Beirut since March 2011.

Protection and Security

The security situation in the North was of concern this week. Heavy shelling and machine gunfire hit the Bekayaa area in Wadi Khaled, and further gunfire was heard from Tal Kalakh, Syria. The Bekaa area, however, remained calm.

Regarding wounded Syrians, 26 were admitted to hospitals.

It is with great sadness that we report this week the death of an eight year old girl Syrian child. She died of cardiac arrest and septic shock at Halba Governmental Hospital on Thursday. The young girl was living with family members in the Ibra

collective shelter and after receiving medication, visiting a doctor and undergoing various tests, she passed away. UNHCR and other agencies are undertaking further inquiries with partners regarding her illness and treatment received and are providing the family with much needed support during this very difficult time.

Information Sharing

A web-portal on the Syria Regional Refugee Response is now live. It is accessible on <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>.

This web-portal provides up-to-date information on the response to the Syria refugee situation. It includes information concerning numbers of persons displaced in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, as well as results of needs assessments, programmatic responses, maps and funding needs.

Assistance in North Lebanon

Distribution

Distribution in the north was delayed this week due to security incidents and precautionary measures imposed by the authorities. Nevertheless by the end of the week UNHCR and its implementing partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) assisted 967 families with food and hygiene kits, fuel, sanitary napkins and

diapers. UNICEF provided garments for children.

Distribution in Tripoli also continued, in coordination with the Coalition of Charities (namely Al Bashaer Association), assisting 174 families (1,466 families to date). These distribution efforts targeted to-be registered Syrian families predominantly in the Abou Samra, Al Bedawi and Qalamon villages.

Shelter

UNHCR and partners identified five new abandoned buildings with potential for collective shelter. Three are in Menyeh and two are in Tripoli. Once rehabilitated these centres will be able to shelter up to 50 families (250 people).

Education

Home visits and recreational activities helped UNHCR's implementing partner Save the Children Sweden (SCS) enroll 40 new children in remedial classes.

The security situation, however, is preventing families from sending their children to classes on a regular basis. Displaced Syrians were scared after hearing gunfire from Syria in the evenings this week. This affected attendance, especially in the border villages' schools like Bani Sakher. UNHCR and partners are addressing these fears by visiting families on a regular basis and informing them that if a security situation is serious, classes will be cancelled. Families are consistently encouraged to continue their children's education.

Health

UNHCR's implementing partner the International Medical Corps (IMC) is establishing a health service guide to be distributed to displaced Syrians in the North. This brochure will be created in coordination with all actors specialized in health and will advise the displaced on various health concerns such as where to receive care. Moreover, UNHCR and

partners will be conducting interactive dialogues and assessments with Syrians to continue identifying gaps in health care services such as vaccinations and chronic medication issues.

In addition, IMC is assessing and locating additional primary health care centers in the North to increase the health care coverage of Syrians dispersed around the area.

Regarding secondary health care, an orthopaedist and general surgeon are attending follow-up visits with outreach workers to all displaced Syrians admitted to hospitals, including wounded patients, to ensure they are receiving the necessary post-operative medical care. In addition, IMC is assessing trauma capacity in hospitals.

Assistance in other parts of Lebanon

Distribution

UNHCR and its implementing partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) assisted 712 families in the Bekaa with the help of local organizations by distributing food and hygiene kits, mattresses, sanitary napkins and fuel.

A further 31 monitoring and follow-up visits to displaced families in Aarsal, Al Sahel, Baalbeck and middle and west Bekaa were conducted. These visits revealed that families who have received assistance are satisfied with the quantity and quality of items. There is a preference for distribution through home visits which is being examined.

Distribution in the Mashari al-Qaa area was disrupted this week due to security incidents. The area poses a challenge as it often serves as a transitional space with many families arriving into Mashari al-Qaa, staying a few days and then

relocating to other areas such as Aarsal. UNHCR and partners reached out to displaced families to monitor the assistance already provided and complement it with further food, non-food and shelter items when needed.

Health

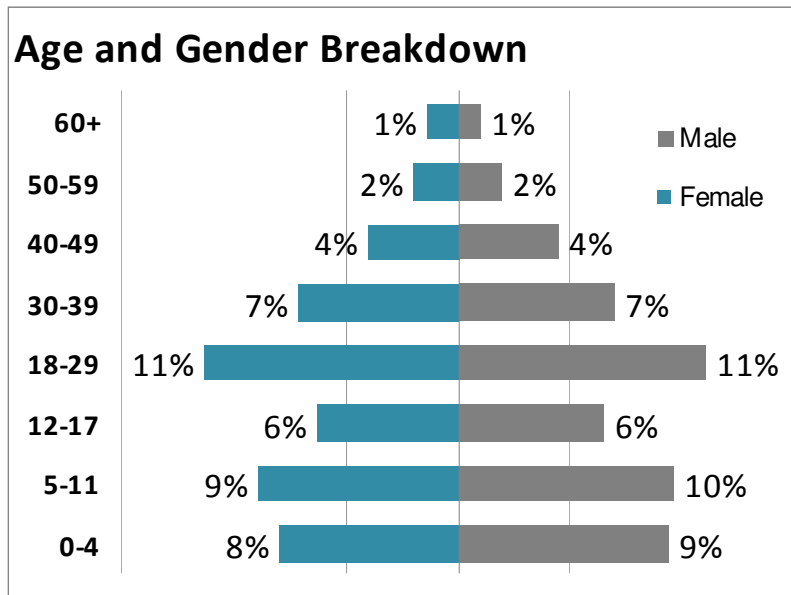
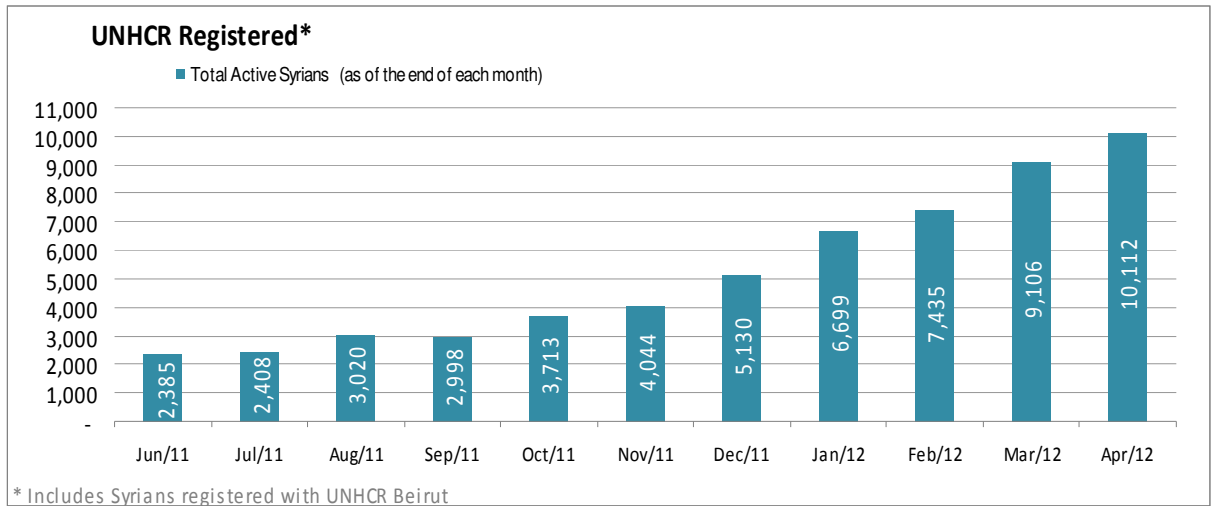
UNHCR and partners held their first health coordination meeting in the Bekaa where they discussed provision of primary health care services through various actors in the area. The importance of launching health awareness campaigns as soon as possible was emphasized.

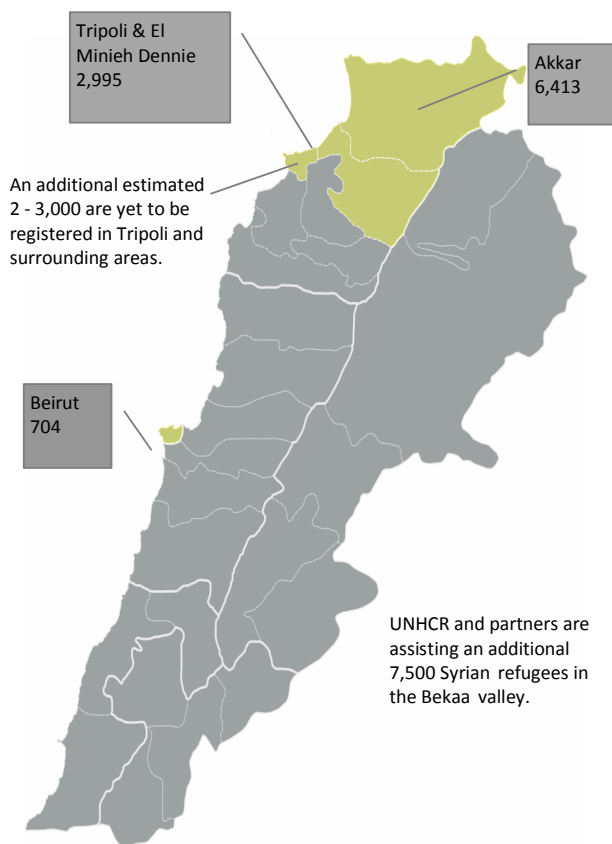
Injured Syrians in critical situations have been transported to one of the following three hospitals: Zahle governmental

hospital, Shtaura and Dar al Amal. Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Amel Association through Kamed el louze, provided care at clinics in Aarsal, Saadnayel and Taanayel. Caritas' mobile medical unit provided medication and nursing care throughout the Bekaa.

In addition, chronic and acute medications are now available through UHHCR, IMC and MSF supported clinics, benefiting 33 patients to date.

Situational Overview





Beginning in April 2011, Lebanon witnessed an influx of some 7,000 Syrians into north Lebanon. Many subsequently returned to Syria, while others relocated within Lebanon. Cumulatively, since April 2011, UNHCR and the HRC have registered and assisted over 14,000 persons in the north.

Currently there are 9,408 registered people in the North. In addition, there are 2,000 to 3,000 people who are yet to be registered in Tripoli and surrounding areas. Local mayors and NGOs have played an active role in referring displaced Syrians to UNHCR-HRC teams for registration.

There are also concentrations of displaced Syrians residing in east Lebanon. UNHCR's latest estimates with partners indicate that there are over 6,000 persons in need in the Bekaa.

There are approximately 1,500 more receiving assistance from UNHCR and

partners in other parts of Lebanon (including Beirut and southern suburbs).

Syrians who have entered Lebanon reside mostly with host families in difficult circumstances. In north Lebanon, some 300 live in collective centres that have been renovated by UNHCR and partners.

Many individuals and families have been deeply affected by the events that caused them to leave and are reluctant to return home until the situation stabilizes.

Protection

The vast majority of Syrians registered with the HRC and UNHCR have come from Tal Kalakh and Homs. The majority of displaced Syrians in the Bekaa region have come from Baba Amr in Homs and Al Qusayr, south of Homs.

The majority of those who have arrived in recent months to north Lebanon have crossed at official border crossings expressing fear of going through the unofficial ones. They also express concern of the reported presence of landmines on the Syrian side of the border. In the Bekaa, the majority of displaced people enter legally the legal Masnaa border crossing while some enter through illegal borders in north Lebanon.

UNHCR maintains regular contact with the Lebanese authorities and civil society representatives to follow-up on the security situation of the displaced populations.

From the outset last April, the Lebanese government has taken a humanitarian approach allowing displaced Syrians to enter Lebanon. There have been very few cases of arrests for illegal entry/stay in the past many months. In all cases, persons were released upon UNHCR's interventions.

The movement of Syrians who entered Lebanon at unofficial border crossings in

the North is still limited within north Lebanon.

Records reveal that 372 wounded Syrians have been treated in various hospitals in Lebanon since September. Expenses related to their treatment are covered by the Lebanese authorities through the HRC in north Lebanon or by UNHCR and IMC in the Bekaa. Their treatment and needs are followed-up by UNHCR and partners.

Assistance

Outside of north Lebanon where the HRC is not operational, UNHCR is working to assist refugees through local municipalities, NGOs, and other partners. The Office is now expanding its efforts to meet humanitarian needs of these communities.

In north Lebanon, a very solid coordinated response and positive working relations with the government's HRC and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) were established at the outset to the benefit of the refugees and hosting communities. These partnerships continue and together

with other UN and NGO partners, the needs of refugees and affected communities are being holistically addressed. They include the following:

- Protection interventions to ensure safety, physical integrity and non-refoulement;
- Assistance to meet basic needs;
- Education and remedial classes;
- Provision of medical and psycho-social care.

A common database is in use by the HRC and UNHCR, and referral mechanisms were established to enable the displaced persons to access assistance through specialized partners in the North. Identification and registration occurs on a daily basis by outreach teams. UNHCR and the HRC verify the numbers during the monthly distribution of food/non-food items. Persons found no longer to be in the area are de-registered. Many of these are known to have returned to Syria. UNHCR is currently expanding its operation in order to reach out to more displaced families in Tripoli.

Community Services Outreach workers from the MoSA and DRC continue to visit the displaced Syrians at homes and in schools in Wadi Khaled, Tall Bire, and Tripoli in order to counsel them, assess their needs, and refer newcomers to UNHCR and HRC for registration. A comprehensive referral mechanism to respond to survivors of violence has been established among key stakeholders for identified cases.

Shelter Most of the displaced Syrians reside with host families. Just over 300 people are accommodated in three (abandoned) schools in the North -Al-Rama, Al-Ibra and Al-Mouanseh schools- and few families are currently accommodated in a mosque in Aarsal. The three above-mentioned schools were initially not well-equipped (with sanitation and hygiene facilities) to receive large numbers of people but have improved and are regularly monitored. Basic renovation of a fourth abandoned school in Halba, the Freidis school, is underway. The hall of Khorbet Daoud Mosque has also been rehabilitated to host displaced families should there be a need in the future.

UNHCR and the HRC initiated the renovation of Al Rama, Al Mouanseh, and Kashlak schools, and the hall of Khorbet Daoud Mosque, while the renovation of the Al Ibra school was undertaken by the Al-Bashaer Islamic Association.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) together with partner organizations and outreach workers identified host family residences in pressing need of improvement

in preparation for the winter in both north Lebanon and the Bekaa. Through this assessment, NRC provided over 90 families with coupons that enabled them to renovate their homes in the North, allowing for better living conditions for both the local and displaced communities. NRC is implementing similar projects in the Bekaa.

Distribution (Food/ NFI) In north Lebanon, UNHCR along with the HRC, DRC, Caritas Migrant Centre, Islamic Relief, World Vision, and UNICEF distribute food and non-food items to the displaced on a monthly basis. UNHCR continues to provide food and non-food items to newly registered families who were not on the UNHCR-HRC database during the last distribution. Distribution in the Bekaa is facilitated with UNHCR partners through local actors.

North Lebanon

Items Distributed	April 4 th , 2012	Cumulative
Mattresses	0	4,613
Blankets	0	4,857
Food kits	977	1,429
Diapers	250	1,179
Baby milk	0	1,478
Hygiene kits	977	7,001
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newly comers	0	99
Garments for children by UNICEF	562	1,120
Women Pads (private donation)	53	231
Torches by UNICEF	0	650
Fuel coupons of 20 liters	3,775	30,062
Fuel coupons of 20 liters for hosting families	0	164

Bekaa

Items Distributed	April 4th, 2012	Cumulative
Mattresses	411	1,897
Blankets	0	2,000
Food kits	639	1,415
Food kit private donation	0	100
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newly arrived	39	600
Clothes (private donation)	0	33 packs
Jerry cans of 10 liters	0	1,000
Fuel coupons of 20 liters	930	5,534
Baby diapers (private donation) unit?	0	100
Sanitary napkins (unit?)	47	59

Education A total of 525 displaced children are currently enrolled in public schools in the North. However, the school enrollment rate in Lebanon is 25% at the primary school level (6-11 year old) and as little as 3.6% at secondary school level (12-17 year old). Reasons vary between the different age groups.

The main reason for low school enrollment rate among primary and secondary school-aged children is Syrian students' late arrival into the school year. Other reasons include: late registration, denial of access by some school administrators, unease over their circumstances and anxiety concerning of the different curriculum. Very low secondary school enrolment is largely due to cultural practices and specifically the expectation that boys from the age of 13 years are expected to work and girls from that age are encouraged to get married.

In the Bekaa, displaced Syrian children are not enrolled in schools due to their late arrival to Lebanon in the school year.

UNHCR is seeking to improve the school enrolment rate and attendance to remedial classes through provision of awareness sessions, remedial classes and accelerated summer learning programmes. UNHCR is also coordinating with other specialized actors such as Save the Children, UNESCO, UNICEF, Terre des Hommes and others to better address this issue. UNICEF and partners are launching a detailed education assessment with a view to expand education programmes in the Bekaa.

Health UNHCR, HRC and UNHCR's implementing partner International Medical Corps (IMC) have established a referral system so that registered displaced Syrians in the North have access to health care services through the most specialized partner.

Primary Healthcare

Primary Health Care Centres, Social Development Centres of the MoSA, and a few NGO-run health care centres in the region are providing primary health care and medication to the displaced in North Lebanon. UNHCR covers the full cost for doctor consultations and diagnostic tests for women and children and up to 85% of diagnostic tests for all displaced persons. Since September 2011, there have been 986 patients who have received primary health care from different health centres and mobile medical units in North Lebanon. IMC is monitoring vaccination records for refugee children.

In the Bekaa, vaccination is being provided to all children in need including displaced Syrian children through national channels. IMC have signed agreements with primary health care centers in Taanayel, Baalbeck and Aarsal to provide doctor consultations, medications including chronics, and diagnostic services to all displaced Syrians. This will expand during the coming period.

Mental Health Care

UNHCR/IMC is integrating primary mental health services at 8 primary health care centres in North Lebanon. MSF are providing specialized mental health care needs through 3 health facilities.

In the Bekaa, MSF Switzerland started a mental health programme. In the absence of HRC's involvement, UNHCR with its implementing partner IMC will contribute to covering health care services for displaced Syrians.

Secondary Healthcare

The HRC covers the cost of secondary and tertiary health care through local hospitals in the North. UNHCR provides additional support where needed. The HRC and IMC reached agreements with five hospitals for discounted rates in the provision of necessary health care. Since September 2011, there have been 455 hospital admissions, mostly covered by HRC. The past two weeks saw an increase in children being in need of advanced medical care to treat burns, shrapnel wounds, etc that are not available in Lebanon.

WHO and UNHCR are liaising with MoPH, IMC, MSF and other partners to increase the provision of chronic medications and to improve the health referral mechanism and health information at the field level.

In the Bekaa, UNHCR has begun covering the cost of hospital care at three local hospitals through its implementing partner IMC. So far, 24 cases have been covered, mostly deliveries. The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) is covering the hospitalization costs of all wounded displaced pending their transfer to North Lebanon for complete treatment. Other cases in need of hospitalization will continue to be covered by the HRC if transferred to North Lebanon.

Capacity Building

UNCHR has invested in strengthening the capacities of governments and local partners through:

- Regular coordination meetings and joint plans of action;
- Technical and material support to the HRC in regards to registration, data collection and verification;
- Training and guidance to HRC, MoSA, partners, medical, educational and social service providers in a wide range of areas including:
 - protection of refugees and internally displaced persons;
 - effective registration and monitoring practices;
 - psychological first aid and mental health;
 - remedial class management and positive discipline;
 - computer skills for local health service providers.
- Quick Impact Projects such as public gardens, public library and a cine club;
- Establishment of medical referral mechanisms and training for the systematic entry of data in the health referral system.

Governmental actors

The High Relief Commission (HRC) – the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) – the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) – the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)

Non-Governmental Organizations involved in humanitarian relief for displaced Syrians in the North and/or Bekaa

Action contre la Faim – Handicap International – Amel Association – Anera – Arcenciel – Armenian Relief Cross – Bridging the Divide – Caritas Migrant Center – the Coalition of Local Charities – Cultural Association (Hermel) – The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – Frontiers – Insan Association – International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP) – International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - International Medical Corps (IMC) – International Organization for Migration – International Orthodox Christian Charities – International Relief & Development – Intersos – Islamic Health Society – Islamic Relief (IR) – Lebanese Aid Society – Lebanese Family Planning Association – Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) – The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) - Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)– Medecins du Monde – Mercy Corps – Muslim Aid – Premiere Urgence – Relief International (RI) – RESTART – Salam/Peace - Save the Children (SCS) – Terre des Hommes (TDH) – World Vision (WV) - Young Men Christian Association – Zakat Fund –

Implementing partners in the North and Bekaa

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – International Medical Corps (IMC) – Save the Children (SCS) – The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

UN Agencies

UNHCR - UNICEF – WHO – UNDP - WFP - UNFPA

For more information on the role of each agency please visit: <http://docs.google.com>

Username: lebanoncrisismanagement@gmail.com

Password: NorthPlanning

To access UNHCR’s regional web-portal please visit: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees>.