

# Lebanon Update



## Support to Displaced Syrians

13 April - 20 April 2012



**Displaced Syrian students in a classroom in Mashta Hammoud, North Lebanon © UNHCR – Fouad Juez – March 2012.**

## Highlights of the week

### Numbers

UNHCR and partners are working with the government, local authorities and international and national partners assisting over 22,000 displaced Syrians throughout the country, nearly half of whom (9,940) have been jointly registered by UNHCR and Lebanon's High Relief Commission in the North. Registration is ongoing.

The Syrian refugee population is concentrated in north Lebanon, with over 9,000 in Wadi Khaled and Tripoli. In addition, an estimated 3,000 persons in Tripoli are pending registration and modalities are being discussed with the authorities.

Latest assessments show approximately 8,500 displaced Syrians in the Bekaa Valley. This increase is due to further outreach and verification exercises showing that there are more displaced families in the area. As the HRC is not present in the Bekaa, registration will be through local municipalities.

There are more limited concentrations of displaced persons known to be residing in the Beirut area, over 700 of whom have been registered by UNHCR.

### Protection and Security

Regarding wounded Syrians, 8 were admitted to hospitals.

### Assistance in North Lebanon

#### *UN Special Coordinator visit*

UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly visited displaced Syrians in Wadi Khaled and met with local authorities, UN agencies and partners present, to keep himself abreast of the humanitarian situation.

#### *Distribution*

Follow-up visits were conducted to ensure that all families received food and non-food items during this month's distribution. Gaps were filled where needed. 1,763 families were assisted so far this month.

#### *Coordination*

UNHCR staff are in the process of mapping local and international NGOs as well as community-based organizations active in Tripoli and surrounding areas to facilitate the design of UNHCR and partners' programme response in these areas.

#### *Shelter*

UNHCR's implementing partner the Danish Refugee Council has identified 20 new abandoned shelters, each with the ability of hosting 6 displaced families. A

detailed rehabilitation report will follow. Additional shelter mapping in Tripoli and Menzeh continues.

The plumbing system in the Rama collective shelter was upgraded. Solar heaters are being installed in the Monseh and Quachlak collective shelters.

#### *Education*

Motherhood sessions conducted in the Amayer village targeted pregnant Syrian women on pregnancy, delivery and childcare. The interactive discussions concluded with the distribution of baby kits.

#### *Health*

UNHCR's health implementing partner, International Medical Corps (IMC), extended psycho-social support services to two hospitals in Tripoli: Rahma and Dar el Shifaa. IMC psychologists and social workers met with displaced Syrians to help them with various issues such as integrating into society and enhancing relationships within their families and host communities.

### **Assistance in the Bekaa Valley**

#### *Distribution*

UNHCR and partners started the preparations for the next round of distribution that should start on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Through a coordinated response plan, food kits, hygiene kits, newborn baby kits, mattresses and other items will be distributed through local actors.

UNHCR and DRC will be present at all distribution points and home visits to identify gaps and improve the distribution mechanism. A monitoring tool including questions related to distribution and protection is being developed and will be shared among all partners. This tool is being pilot tested and updated to be used in all villages as of next week.

UNHCR this week assisted some 800 people (155 families) in the Bekaa, through the DRC, with the help of local municipalities and charities. Distribution included food and hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets, sanitary napkins and fuel.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has received formal agreement from the Government to work in Lebanon. WFP intends to provide food under the form of food vouchers, targeting displaced Syrians and host families.

#### *Outreach*

A total of 2,265 people were visited by seven outreach teams to verify reports of new arrivals. In addition to confirming that the number of displaced families is effectively increasing in the Bekaa, the exercise highlighted a number of needs and protection issues that should be addressed. For instance, some of the interviewed families lacked information about services they are eligible to receive. In addition, a large proportion of interviewed families included out-of-school children and working children. The exercise also revealed a number of cases with specific needs: medical cases consisting mainly of pregnancies and chronic illnesses, and psychological trauma cases including survivors of violence. Many of the issues revealed during the verification will be more formally addressed once the registration mechanism is formalized.

#### *Registration*

Registration in the Bekaa is set to begin during the first week of May with a pilot project in the town of Aarsal in northern Bekaa, and potentially in Saadnayel simultaneously.

#### *Education*

Registration for remedial classes is underway with approximately 300-400 children signing up. UNHCR and partners

will be conducting classes through public schools in Aarsal and Ain.

#### *Health*

UNHCR and partners continue to search for primary health care centers that can receive patients. The Qaa and Hermel areas are of focus, as well as centers equipped to treat premature babies in the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Units (NICU) as many babies are being delivered via C-sections. The main challenge to UNHCR, IMC and other engaged local actors is the number of cases in need of secondary health care and hospitalization which require enormous resources to cover. Without more cost-sharing contributions, the gap in covering medical costs will increasingly widen.

#### *Shelter*

A DRC shelter expert visited the Al Masjed Al Bukhari (unused) school in Baalbeck (Kobbat Al Sayadin) that is currently hosting some 20 displaced people. The shelter expert developed a rehabilitation plan, including the procurement of washing machines and refrigerators.

These renovations are underway and should enable the shelter to host an additional six families.

Shelter assessments are ongoing to identify potentially available collective shelters and empty homes that can be rehabilitated to comfortably host displaced Syrians.

#### *Water and Sanitation*

UNHCR and UNICEF hosted the first WASH Working Group coordination meeting in the Bekaa this week. Several organizations were present to begin mapping out the four Ws, raise potential needs and gaps, discuss contingency planning, and ways forward.

### North Lebanon- April 18<sup>th</sup>

Items Distributed	April	Cumulative
Mattresses	0	4,613
Blankets	0	4,857
Food kits	13	9,299
Diapers	6	1,523
Baby milk	0	1,478
Hygiene kits	13	7,289
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newcomers	0	99
Garments for children by UNICEF	0	1,124
Women's Pads (private donation)	2	237
Torches by UNICEF	0	650
Fuel coupons for 20 liters	50	31,242
Fuel coupons for 20 liters for hosting families	0	164

### The Bekaa- April 19<sup>th</sup>

Items Distributed	April	Cumulative
Mattresses	500	2,397
Blankets	0	2,000
Food kits	34	1,500
Food kit private donation	0	100
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newly comers	0	600
Hygiene kits by DRC	27	500
Hygiene kit private donation	0	74
Clothes (private donation)	0	33 packs
Jerry cans of 10 liters	0	1,000
Fuel coupons of 20 liters	0	5,534
Baby diapers (private donation)	0	100
Sanitary napkins (per pack)	0	80

For more information on Syrian displacement in Lebanon, please visit the Lebanon page on the webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. There you will find facts, figures, and 'who does what', as well as updates on food and non-food items distributed per area. Additionally, for more on UNHCR's current programme per sector, and for information on how the response is being coordinated and the many contributions of various agencies, please click on "situational overview" of the Lebanon page.