



Lebanon Update

Support to Displaced Syrians

04 April - 11 May 2012



Displaced Syrian child helping his brother take a seat for registration. UNHCR registration center, Aarsal © UNHCR – Jad Ghosn – April 2012.

Highlights of the week

Numbers

Currently over 26,000 displaced Syrians are being assisted by UNHCR and partners throughout the country.

Location

Approximately 16,000 of the total assisted are located in north Lebanon, more than half of whom, 13,672, are jointly registered by UNHCR and Lebanon's High Relief Commission (HRC) Registration of new and previously arrived are ongoing with the HRC.

In the Bekaa, 9,000 Syrian displaced are being assisted. UNHCR began formal registration there this week and this process will continue as in the North.

There are more limited concentrations of displaced people known to be residing in Beirut and the surrounding areas, some 817 of whom have been registered by UNHCR.

UNHCR is also receiving reports of Syrian displaced in other areas of Lebanon and assessment missions are being taken to ascertain with greater accuracy these reports and potential needs.

Protection and Security

Two Lebanese residents were reported to have died this week due to shots fired from across the border. One was a 70

year old woman in the village of Joura Masharie el Qaa, and the other a father of two children in the village of Josieh.

This week 12 wounded Syrians were admitted to hospitals this week.

Assistance in north Lebanon

The following represents the efforts of UNHCR, and its UN and NGO national and international partners.

Distribution

Hygiene, food and baby kits were distributed to 429 families (2,145 people) in Tripoli and Halba.

Shelter

Members from the displaced community began painting and rehabilitating the electricity in the Monseh collective shelter. Meanwhile, a resident management committee is being formed in the Rama collective shelter to oversee its daily maintenance.

Education

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoHE) has appointed focal points within the Ministry to support and facilitate the work of UNHCR and partners. This work will include liaising between UNHCR and public schools in the area to facilitate the implementation of educational activities.

A psychologist is working with social workers and 'animateurs', guiding them

on activities aimed at helping children express themselves. This will help them identify children with specific needs as well as various learning difficulties and language problems.

Stressing the importance of children's education remains a priority. Parent committees meet twice a month in each of the social development centers to discuss and address the issues and concerns with sending their children regularly to school and remedial classes.

Health

A medical team including a doctor, nurse and health counselor visited displaced Syrians in the Berquael shelter and conducted medical consultations with 44 residents. Health awareness sessions were also held on a variety of topics, including: personal hygiene, diarrhea, food safety, pre-natal nutrition and oral health.

In addition, outreach workers received mental health training enabling them to communicate with the displaced in a culturally appropriate manner during house visits. The training also taught outreach workers how to identify and address mental health cases needing professional help as well as how to properly refer the patients.

Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)

Four new projects were selected to benefit the displaced and local communities; the results will be discussed with the community leaders within the coming weeks.

Assistance in the Bekaa Valley

The following represents the efforts of UNHCR, and its UN and NGO national and international partners.

Distribution

The latest round of distribution ended with some 2,865 displaced Syrians receiving food, hygiene and baby kits,

over the past week. Hygiene kits were also distributed to vulnerable Lebanese families in Al Sahel and Aarsal.

Outreach teams started post distribution monitoring in the whole of Bekaa to receive displaced Syrians' feedback on the assistance provided and to identify pressing protection concerns that require follow-up. Preparations are now underway for the next round of distribution that is scheduled to start next week.

Education

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoHE) has appointed focal points within the Ministry to support and facilitate the work of UNHCR and partners in the Bekaa. This work will include liaising between UNHCR and public schools in the area to facilitate the implementation of educational activities.

Efforts to assess the needs, gaps, and ways to strengthen the current programme for Syrian children continued this week. Preliminary findings show that large numbers of Syrians under the age of 18 are currently out of school. UNHCR and partners agreed to increase the focus on remedial classes and child protection. Local actors have been identified to create child-friendly spaces.

Lebanese children in need will also benefit from the above activities.

Health

The number of secondary health cases, such as pregnancy and baby deliveries, is on the rise and partners continue to explore cost coverage options, such as cost-sharing and raising the issue with donors.

UNHCR and partners are also working to improve information sharing that pertains to primary healthcare services (available medications, doctors, etc), including the schedule and geographical coverage of

medical mobile units. This is so partners know where best to refer patients, as well as for the displaced know how to access health care.

The Health Coordination Group has planned several training sessions for local medical staff and volunteers on such topics as mental health, family planning, communications, and first aid.

Awareness-raising sessions are also underway on family planning, seasonal diseases, reproductive health, and vaccinations for host and displaced Syrian communities.

Protection/Community Services

The first on-site registration exercise started at a UNHCR registration center in Aarsal following weeks of preparations.

This comes following an extensive information campaign about the registration process and requirements.

In three days, 604 people were registered, the majority of whom are under 18 years of age. Registration in Saadnayel is scheduled to start within the next couple of weeks upon the completion of the registration exercise in Aarsal.

Shelter/Water & Sanitation (WASH)

Permission was received from the local authorities to start the renovation of Masjed Al Bukhari school in Baalbeck (Kobbat Al Sayadin). The renovation is scheduled to start early next week.

In addition, the rehabilitation of the 18 mosques in Aarsal is underway and should be finished by mid next week.

Technical assessments on the rehabilitation of 30 unfinished buildings were completed. Each building will serve as a small collective shelter and host approximately four families.

Additionally, rehabilitation of 85 host community houses continued.

Coordination with the WASH group remains an important facet of shelter maintenance, ensuring that collective shelters are receiving adequate amounts of clean water for its residents. WHO and UNICEF launched a hygiene awareness campaign.

Items Distributed in Bekaa	May 9 th , 2012	Cumulative
Mattresses	0	2,397
Mattresses private donation	0	213
Blankets	0	2,000
Food kits	530	3,618
Food kit private donation	0	100
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newly comers	0	600
Hygiene kits by DRC	505	1,200
Hygiene kit private donation	26	100
Hygiene kit Lebanese hosting families	43	78
Clothes (private donation - pack)	120	153
Jerry cans of 10 L	0	1,000
Fuel coupons of 20	0	5,534
Baby diapers (private donation)	0	100
Sanitary napkins	0	80
Baby kits	156	771

Items Distributed in North Lebanon	May 9 th , 2012	Cumulative
Mattresses	6	4,619
Blankets	0	4,857
Food kits	482	9,781
Diapers	172	1,695
Baby milk	0	1478
Hygiene kits	482	7,771
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newcomers	0	99
Garments for children by UNICEF	0	1,124
Women's Pads (private donation)	0	237
Torches by UNICEF	0	650
Fuel coupons for 20 liters	0	31,242
Fuel coupons for 20 liters for hosting families	0	164

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 and by agency. Additionally, for more on how the response is being coordinated and the many contributions of various agencies, please click on "situational overview" of the Lebanon page.