

UN Inter-Agency Update

on Syria Situation Response in Lebanon

UNHCR, May 18- 25, 2012



This update provides a snapshot of the United Nations inter-agency response to the influx of Syrians into Lebanon. The response is undertaken in full coordination with the Government of Lebanon.

Highlights of the Week

Numbers

Over 26,000 displaced Syrians are being assisted throughout the country.

Registration

Registration in the North continues to be slow paced due to the ongoing security situation in Tripoli and recent unrest in Akkar.

UNHCR registered 1,893 displaced people in both Aarsal and Saadnayel. Registration will continue in the Bekaa until some additional 7,500 people are registered.

Protection and Security

Street protests and clashes erupted in Akkar due to a number of incidents including the death of Sheikh Ahmad Abed Al-Wahed who was shot dead at a Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) check point at Al-Kwaikhat area.

The situation remains tense and is being closely monitored for any new developments.

This week, 4 wounded Syrians were admitted to hospitals.

Assistance

The emergency response targets both displaced Syrians and their host families. It encompasses protection counseling; education assistance, the provision of healthcare, shelter improvements, psycho-social support, community outreach, and the establishment of quick impact projects in displacement affected areas.

The following table provides an overview of relief provided from May 2011 to date in north Lebanon and the Bekaa valley:



Relief items	Quantity
Core relief items	17,149
Food kit	15,525
Hygiene kits	13,018
Clothing	1,124
Heating Fuel coupons	37,122
Baby kits	771

Assistance in north Lebanon

All assistance in the north was impeded this week due to the ongoing security incidents and accompanying road closures, which limited movement and inhibited access to displaced and affected communities.

Distribution

Caritas Migrant Center (CLMC) distributed food and non-food items to over 1,000 people in Tripoli.

UNFPA agreed to provide large stocks of sanitary napkins to displaced Syrian women and is currently developing the modalities of their distribution with other agencies.

Education

An upgrade of the ongoing remedial and psycho-social support programme was agreed on by UNICEF and War Child Holland. This upgrade entails the creation of six safe spaces - four around Halba and two in Tripoli- and is aimed at reaching out to a larger number of displaced children.

Health

A number of activities such as home visits, health awareness sessions and mental health trainings were rescheduled due to the security situation.

The provision of essential primary and secondary healthcare services, however, continued despite security impediments. Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) rotated around the different villages in Wadi Khaled and delivered primary healthcare services.

International Medical Corps (IMC) was granted permission to provide case management services in 'Markaz Al Irshad' in Berkeley. This will enable IMC to improve the information management system of cases in need of medical follow-up. The project is due to start early June.

Assistance in the Bekaa Valley

Distribution

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) distributed relief items, namely mattresses, to displaced Syrians living in Aarsal and El-Ain.

Caritas Migrant Center (CLMC) in coordination with other organizations distributed food, hygiene kits, blankets and bed sheets to several displaced Syrians in the Bekaa: 65 in Zahle, 300 in Baalbeck, Qaa and Aarsal, and 300 in Taalbaya, Saadnayel and Bar Elias.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) procured gas stoves and cookware that will be distributed to families living in 18 renovated mosques in Aarsal.

In addition, the distribution of food and hygiene kits in Al-Hermel started in coordination with the *mukhtar* and focal points from the local community. This initiative was undertaken in light of assessments revealing pressing needs in food and relief items in the area.

Outreach teams visited some 200 people in order to monitor the distribution

provided and identify protection concerns that require follow-up.

WFP is planning for a voucher system enabling displaced and hosting families to purchase their own food. DRC and World Vision volunteers assessed local shops and grocers in the area where the vouchers can be used.

Mapping of Service Providers

UNHCR's implementing partner DRC mapped out available service providers across all sectors in the Bekaa. Some 80 NGOs and Governmental Organizations (GOs) have been identified in the area. This exercise will stretch over the coming weeks so that a comprehensive matrix of services available is developed and shared with relevant stakeholders.

Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)

UNHCR's implementing partner DRC launched a call for QIPs proposals in both Saadnayel and Baalbeck. The deadline for submissions is next week. DRC will then assess the proposals and select the most beneficial projects for funding.

Education

Turnout to the four Child Friendly Spaces established by Save the Children in Brital, Baalbeck and Bar Elias have proved to be successful with over 250 displaced Syrian children benefiting from activities held in these safe spaces over the past week.

Terre des Hommes Italia (TH) provided 100 children between the ages of 6 and 12 with educational support lessons 4 hours per day, 4 days per week in Aarsal. TH social workers visited more than 400 children and conducted home visits to the most vulnerable.

TH also signed an agreement with UNICEF to establish three safe spaces in Aarsal where there are the biggest concentrations of displaced Syrians. The project will include a psycho-social and recreational activities component for 300 Syrian displaced, in addition to trainings on protection, informal education and psycho-social intervention. Implementation of the project is scheduled to start on the 1st of June 2012.

Health

Free primary health care consultations began in three health centers: Al Ain, Kamed el-Loz (Amel) and El Qaa (El Qaa Parish), with support from Medecins du Monde (MDM). Free medication will be delivered starting next week.

An agreement was also signed with Taanayel General Hospital; UNHCR and implementing partner IMC will begin referring patients.

In addition, Handicap International (HI) is in the process of establishing mobile rehabilitation services and psycho-social support to disabled and vulnerable people in Hermel, Aarsal and Qaa. Specific items such as mobility devices will be delivered to those in need. HI is developing a partnership with the Association Culturelle d'Hermel to ensure that displaced Syrians, especially those who are disabled, will be integrated into the host communities through adapted and inclusive activities.

Protection/Community Services

UNHCR registered over 420 displaced Syrian families (1,893 people) in Aarsal and Saadnayel. Upon completion of the registration exercise in Saadnayel, UNHCR will initiate new rounds of registration in Bar Elias, Majdal Anjar, Zahle, and Chtoura. In the meantime, the

information campaign meant to raise awareness and encourage displaced communities to register with UNHCR in Central Bekaa continued.

Shelter

UNHCR's implementing partner NRC rehabilitated Saadnayel's municipality center which has been serving as a place for registration, and began renovation on one private mosque in Aarsal with the capacity to host 8 displaced families.

In addition, NRC identified and assessed a number of shelter options in Aarsal and Al Fakeha where there is a pressing need for shelter improvements, including houses under construction, mosques, and buildings. NRC is seeking to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the buildings' owners granting them permission to begin renovations.



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.