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#syria

Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

March 29 – April 5 2013

 الجمهورية اللبنانية رئاسة مجلس الوزراء الهيئة العليا للأمن	
 UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency	 الجمهورية اللبنانية وزارة التربية والتعليم
 WFP wfp.org	 unicef
 DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL	 MercyCorps
 ACTION FAIM	 World Health Organization
 +C	 UNFPA
 PREMIERE URGENCE AIDE HUMANITAIRE INTERNATIONALE	 Mouvement Social
 WAR child HOLLAND	 الفلل الأحمر القطري Qatar Red Crescent
 UNDP	 IOM OIM
 World Vision	
 International Medical Corps	
 Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center	 NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL
 care	 الفلل الأحمر الإماراتي : العناية بالحياة UAE RED CRESCENT / Care for Life
 UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	 UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States - Beirut

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

- Over 68,000 winter clothes vouchers, electric heaters, blankets, pillows, mattresses, and hygiene and baby kits were distributed this week;
- Over 30,000 World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers were distributed to refugees across the country;
- 400 women and children received vocational training from SHEILD in five Social Development Centers (SDCs) across Lebanon ;
- Over 3100 refugees in need of primary medical care were seen in primary health care clinics throughout the country;
- Over 700 refugee patients receive secondary health care;
- A total of 1,119 clinical and social consultations were conducted during the reporting period.
- Some 12,000 people registered with UNHCR this week.

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013



Funding is also received in private donations from the following countries:
China, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, and Spain.

¹ EU funding is received from DEVCO and ECHO.

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

Some 12,000 people registered with UNHCR this week. The number of Syrian refugees crossed the 400,000 mark this week (262,000 people registered and 140,000 awaiting registration). Current distribution of the registered population is as follows:

North Lebanon: 113,000

Bekaa: 99,000

Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 28,000

South Lebanon: 20,000

Multiple efforts to accelerate registration throughout the Office's four registration sites have led to an increased number of people registered daily in the past week, and a decrease in waiting periods across registration centres. Over 1,200 individuals were registered in the Bekaa on a daily basis over the past week, while the waiting time in the area has dropped to 47 days. In north Lebanon, over 1,500 people were registered on a daily basis and the waiting period in the area also dropped to a maximum of three weeks.

The opening of the new registration centre in Tyre on April 2nd will help accelerate registration in the area. UNHCR and local authorities and partners are working on ways to facilitate the registration of those who live south of the security line.

PROTECTION

During the past week, municipalities and local actors reported a total of over 6,300 newly arrived refugees settling in the Bekaa, North, Mount Lebanon and South. UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC) provided them with basic assistance, assessed their immediate needs and referred cases in need of follow-up to partners. The village of Chebaa in south Lebanon witnessed a further increase in the number of Syrians fleeing violence in Syria. Over 50 newly arrived refugees were counseled and assisted upon their arrival this week.

Municipalities reported some difficulties in keeping accurate statistics due to the constant movement of Syrians between villages and districts throughout the country. This means that the above-mentioned figures do not necessarily capture the reality on the ground as numbers of new arrivals could be higher. Registration and scheduling p in need of assistance and protection. Decentralized registration carried out in the different field offices and through mobile efforts will help better identify pockets of new arrivlas.

As in previous weeks, the majority of new arrivals crossed through official border crossings, with the exception of some 80 families who crossed through unofficial borders for a number of reasons including inaccessibility to official crossings and in some instances lack of documents. Many people continue to report having had to flee with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

Agencies continue to prioritize the provision of care to persons with specific needs including children who arrive to Lebanon without their mother and/or father, survivors of gender-based violence, people with mental disabilities, and single mothers. Challenges were faced in finding suitable shelter and care for people in need of relocation, particularly seperated children. This is largely due to the lack of national facilities designed to assist minors or mentally disabled people. The Ministry of Social Affairs helped UNHCR and partners refer identified persons with specific needs to Dayr El Amar temporarily, pending the identification of a longer-term solution. UNHCR also met with SOS to strenghten the response to unaccompanied/seperated children. Pilot projects such as group homes for unaccompanied children, youth, and female headed households were agreed upon and are now pending the approval of MOSA.

In the Bekaa, LOST organization, in coordination with the General Security Office and local authorities, launched a Peace Building Unit in the Baalbeck-Hermel area that will serve as a platform to discuss potential peace building projects in the area, targeting Syrians and Lebanese. This initiative comes as part of a larger inter-agency effort to foster intergration between the two communities and contain rising tensions.

SECURITY

Lebanese border areas continued to witness shelling, particularly in the northern villages of Noura and Debbabieh. Two rockets fired from a Syrian helicopter hit an area on the outskirts of Aarsal. On Wednesday, two shells launched from Syria landed on an orchard on the fringes of the Bekaa border region of Masharih al-Qaa.

Earlier this week, eight Alawite Syrians were kidnapped upon their arrival to Wadi Khaled after having crossed into Lebanon through the Koumar border crossing point. The kidnappers reportedly belonged to the Al-Ahmad family who are requesting the release of their son who they allege was abducted by the Syrian authorities 18 months ago. The Lebanese Armed Forces have been deployed and the negotiations ongoing to secure their release.

Tensions in the Bekaa caused by the recent kidnapping of 12 Lebanese nationals are still felt despite the release of seven of the kidnapped residents. As a result, five military checkpoints have now been established surrounding the town of Aarsal further restricting movement of foreign nationals including refugees in the area. This resulted in reduced numbers of refugees coming forward to register.

Due to the ongoing security situation in north Bekaa and recent events in Wadi Khaled, UNHCR and partners were forced to temporarily suspend some activities.

DISTRIBUTION

UNICEF, UNHCR, DRC, Amel Association, Makhzoumi Foundation, World Vision and CLMC distributed winter clothes vouchers, electric heaters, blankets, pillows, mattresses, and hygiene and baby kits to over 68,000 people this week. In addition, over 30,000 World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers were distributed to refugees across the country. In April, WFP plans to increase its food voucher/parcel distribution by 60 per cent as compared with March, to reach over 315,000 people.

Assistance to newly arrived refugees including food and non-food items continues to be prioritized. WFP and DRC distributed food parcels, hygiene and baby kits to over 2,000 vulnerable newly arrived refugees in Zahle. WFP and SHEILD also started to distribute food parcels targeting 30,000 new comers and refugees waiting to be registered in Beirut, where waiting times exceed one month.

EDUCATION

Throughout the past week, NRC provided a various range of activities to refugees across the Bekaa and Qobayat including language classes, recreational activities and vocational classes benefiting more than 780 students and youth. NRC is now working to reach out to an additional 500 students in Tripoli. Identification of extra schools in the area is underway.

In the South, SHEILD provided vocational training to 400 women and children across five Social Development Centers (SDCs) in the areas of Tyre, Nabatieh, Bint Jbeil, Marjeyoun and Hasbayya. In Mount Lebanon, AMEL enrolled a total of 69 registered children in remedial classes bringing the total number of Syrian children benefiting from these classes to 140.

Delivery of fuel to ensure classrooms remain heated throughout the winter is complete. To date, 312 schools across the country have received 180,000 liters of fuel from UNICEF and UNHCR, benefiting both Lebanese and Syrian students.



Syrian refugee children at UNHCR's registration center in Tripoli. (c) UNHCR E. Lima

HEALTH

This week, close to 3,200 refugees in need of medical care were seen in primary health care clinics throughout the country. These are supported by UNHCR, International Medical Corps (IMC), Amel Association, UNICEF, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), and Makhzoumi Foundation. A range of services were provided including dental care, diagnostic services, prenatal care, medications, vaccinations and referrals.

UNHCR, IMC, Amel Association, CLMC, and Makhzoumi also assisted over 700 refugee patients to receive secondary health care. IMC staff visited refugee patients in their communities, at primary health care centers and hospitals to ensure they have been properly assisted.

The preventative health programme was expanded to reach refugees living in collective shelters and in IMC-supported hospitals, in addition to those visiting primary health care centers and attending UNICEF's Women and Girls Community Centers. A total of 4,663 women and families were sensitized about multiple health topics this week.

Outreach visits revealed 42 cases of Leishmania, a treatable skin ailment, amongst refugees living Machha, Karameh, Kobbe, Wadi Khaled and the Bekaa valley. The patients were referred for treatment at various primary health care centers. Concerning mental health, IMC's mental health unit supported by UNHCR provided a total of 1,119 clinical and social consultations this week. UNICEF also provided psychosocial support to 4,308 refugee boys and girls in the past two weeks, particularly through recreational activities including interactive theatre workshops and film screenings.

The Inter-Agency health strategy has been able to address the health needs of tens of thousands of refugees so far yet it is critically underfunded. Due to a scarcity in funding and a constant increase in numbers, UNHCR is currently revising the Syrian refugee health care strategy. The new health programme will prioritise primary health care as one means to address health issues at an early stage and prevent more serious health problems and hospitalization. The coverage of secondary health care will have to be reduced due to insufficient funds while maintaining coverage for pre- and post-natal care and life-saving operations. The funding situation is so acute, that even with these adjustments an additional \$20 million USD is needed.

SHELTER

Throughout this week, more than 13,000 Syrian refugees and Lebanese host families benefited from shelter solutions offered by UNHCR, DRC, NRC, PU-AMI, SHEILD, and partners including cash assistance, weatherproofing, and rehabilitations.

In the Bekaa, DRC is preparing for the installation of 14 quickly built prefabricated wooden structures (shelter boxes) in West and Central Bekaa and began identifying new potential locations for the establishment of new shelter boxes in Jib Jannin and Bar Elias. Coordination with partners and municipalities is underway to expand the “shelter box” project to include North Bekaa, while nine refugees were recruited and trained in shelter box construction in the North.

The Layan organization built additional tented settlements in the Bekaa. UNHCR is liaising with Layan to provide technical support in relation camp layout and camp management.

A notable trend this week is the emergence of more and more collective shelters hosting Syrian refugees in various locations of the South. In the district of Nabatieh, UNHCR and its implementing partner PU-AMI concluded the second round of shelter, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) assessments. Over 540 households were counseled and provided with assistance. More than 80 sealing off kits were distributed in the areas of Aaqbiye and Hlaleyi. In addition, 80 registered families in 37 villages across Tyre, Nabatieh, Marjeyoun and Bint Jbeil received cash assistance for shelter. NRC weatherproofed and rehabilitated 76 houses across Tyre in addition to finalizing rehabilitation works on two collective shelters in the villages of Maarakeh and Bazourieh.

Refugee families in need of shelter assistance in the area of Bourj Hammoud in Mount Lebanon were referred to UNHCR this week. The results of preliminary assessments will allow PU-AMI to provide an adequate response.

Municipalities across Lebanon reported that the number of Syrian families who are unable to pay their rent is on the rise and that more families are at an increased risk of being evicted from their current accommodation. The focus in the coming period will be to assist more host families with house renovations in an attempt to ease tensions by investing in a solution that benefits both Lebanese and Syrian families.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

UNHCR, DRC, ACF, PU-AMI, CLMC, SHIELD and partners distributed more than 8000 hygiene kits in addition to over 2800 baby kits this week benefitting more than 41,000 Syrian refugees across Lebanon.

Other water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives included the installation of two water tanks in the Ouzai collective shelter in the South and the distribution of 500 water tanks in the areas of Qab Elias, Zahle and Bar Elias in the Bekaa.

Hygiene promotion sessions were conducted in Mount Lebanon and the South targeting over 150 refugees.

DRC conducted a rapid survey of 50 households in Tripoli and Akkar in order to identify the hygiene items most needed by the Syrian refugee community in the area. Results showed that the top five priority items in order of preference are laundry soap, dish detergent, shampoo, individual soap and toothpaste. The WASH sector will amend hygiene kits accordingly.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB PORTAL

(<https://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>)

UPDATES:

- SYRIA Situation 2013 Contributions - 4 April 2013
- NEW! 03 April 2013 - Inter-agency Needs Assessment Inventory
- NFI Distribution Tracking Matrix - Template v1.2
- Registration Information Note for Refugees - Arabic
- New Lebanon Contact List - Syrian Refugee Response 02 .04.2013

MAPS:

- Map - Syrian refugees by district in Lebanon 28 March
- Map - Rapid Estimate of Syrian New Comers in March 2013

STATISTIC:

- Lebanon Registration Trend Overview 28 March 2013

FUNDING:

- SYRIA Situation 2013 Contributions - 4 April 2013