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#syria

Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

April 12 – 19 2013

 الجمهورية العربية السورية رئاسة مجلس الوزراء الهيئة العليا للأمن	
 UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency	 الجمهورية اللبنانية وزارة التربية والتعليم
 WFP wfp.org	 unicef
 DR2 DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL	 MercyCorps
 ACTION FAIM	 World Health Organization
 +C	 UNFPA
 PREMIERE URGENCE AIDE HUMANITAIRE INTERNATIONALE	 Mouvement Social
 IRC	 WAR child HOLLAND
 الفلل الأحمر القطري Qatar Red Crescent	
 UNDP	 IOM
 World Vision	
 International Medical Corps	
 Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center	 NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL
 care	 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 72,000 Lebanese and Syrian children have been vaccinated against measles;
- Over 60,000 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;
- Over 27,000 children under 5 have received polio vaccinations while 73,000 received vitamin A supplementation.
- Over 3,000 refugees were assisted with primary health care services;
- Over 700 vulnerable Lebanese people in Akkroum area were assisted with blankets, mattresses and other items this week;
- Over 550 refugee patients received emergency secondary health care;
- Some 18,000 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 18,000 people registered with UNHCR this week. The number of Syrian refugees registered and assisted in Lebanon has reached 428,000 (302,000 people registered and 125,000 awaiting registration).

Current distribution of the registered population is as follows:

North Lebanon: 128,000

Bekaa: 111,000

Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 38,000

South Lebanon: 24,000

Measures to facilitate access to registration centres across Lebanon were stepped up this week as the number of refugees who failed to show up to their registration appointments increased. The Tyre registration center witnessed an 10 per cent increase in the number of people missing their appointments, while the no-show rate continues to be at 23 per cent in the Bekaa. Between 50 and 70 families do not show up to their appointments in the area on a daily basis. Assessments indicate security concerns and scant financial means for transport as key reasons behind this development. Discussions between agencies on possible transport support (either through reimbursement or actual transportation) to vulnerable refugees are underway. In Mount Lebanon, PU-AMI agreed to start providing transportation for families who are not capable of affording their own.

PROTECTION

During the past week, UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) signed an agreement that aims to support 26 Social Development Centres (SDCs) countrywide. A total of 12 social workers in the North will be trained jointly by UNHCR and UNICEF on protection-related issues.

In South Lebanon, UNHCR continues to coordinate with government entities at the Kadaa (village cluster) level on information sharing regarding refugee numbers, living conditions and assistance. Humanitarian agencies are working with municipal authorities to respond to incidents of harassment against refugees with a view to promoting co-existence and addressing root causes.

Incidents of forced and child marriages as well as cases of prostitution/trafficking in Marjeyoun and Saida were reported this week. UNHCR and partners are following up on these incidents in collaboration with local authorities with a view of providing assistance but also intensifying prevention mechanisms. In addition, efforts to maximize effective referral and response for sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) cases are on-going. This will be enhanced with the opening of Caritas-DRC community centre in Saida and the organization of a joint awareness campaign in various collective shelters. SHEILD continued with its SGBV awareness activities across five SDCs benefiting over 200 women.

Over 1,000 women have benefited from psychosocial services this week, including individual counseling and emotional support groups at the two UNICEF-supported Women and Girls Community Centres in Berqayel, North Lebanon and Aarsal, Bekaa. The centres provide assistance to survivors of SGBV as well as to those who are at risk of SGBV. A third centre for women and girls in Wadi Khaled officially opened on 17 April. IRC-WPE also opened a women and girls' centre in Wadi Khaled on the same day.

UNHCR and DRC held group discussions with refugees at the registration centre in the Bekaa. Themes covered included access to information, child protection/education, livelihood/coping mechanisms, shelter/wash, SGBV, and issues faced at the border/check points. The main concerns raised by refugees included high rent and access to shelter assistance.

DRC protection teams identified over 240 people with specific needs including individuals with psycho-social needs, women at risk, persons with chronic diseases and unaccompanied/separated children. They were all counseled and referred to partners for assistance.

The implementation of projects benefiting hosting communities continued this week as did the identification of additional projects with local community leaders. These aim to provide tangible improvements to community life and help communities to cope in their current stretched circumstances./

SECURITY

Continued insecurity in Aarsal has prompted many army checkpoints spread around the town. This in turn has raised anxieties of refugees, many who are fearful of passing through a number of checkpoints necessary to reach the registration center in central Bekaa. UNHCR is now looking into possible solutions including facilitating access of unregistered refugees through present military checkpoints on the outskirts of Aarsal in close cooperation with the Lebanese Army.

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 60,000 people this week. In addition, 30,000 World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers were distributed to refugees across the country. DRC also visited and assisted 1,273 newly arrived refugees throughout Lebanon this week.

UNHCR also distributed blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, mattress and plastic tarpaulins to vulnerable Lebanese families in Qobayat. Over 700 people spread across four municipalities in Akkroum area were assisted this week.

EDUCATION

Following the resumption of classes in public schools after the one month strike, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) instructed schools to increase school days from 5 to 6 days per week. The public schools will conclude the 2012-2013 school year on 12 June and official exams will be held from 22 June until 8 July. This has posed some challenges to UNICEF and other partners as remedial classes are normally provided over weekends. These were in turn split over three weekday afternoons.

World Vision (WV) is working with public schools and municipalities to identify beneficiaries in need of remedial classes and accelerated learning programmes offered outside the regular curriculum. WV and CERD also are offered pedagogical training to public school teachers.

Also in the Bekaa, Save the Children started providing remedial classes and accelerated learning classes in a new centre in Douris (Baalbek) targeting 200 children in the area.

In Mount Lebanon, UNHCR and its partner Terre des Hommes (TDH) launched an Emergency Education Project aiming to support the reintegration of Syrian refugee children back into schools through the provision of remedial classes, accelerated learning classes, financial support and the distribution of educational grants. TDH liaised with local authorities and stakeholders in order to identify the size of the refugee school-aged population in the area and the districts with the highest concentrations of refugees, and in turn select public schools as project sites. Extra-curricular classes will start at the Mansourieh Intermediate Public School in Metn and the Baysour Intermediate Public School in Baabda as of next week, targeting over 400 children. Future agreements with additional public schools are underway and should help integrate more school-aged refugee children as part of the programme.

These efforts aim to address the incidence of child labour and a school drop-out rates by ensuring children and youth not in school have education alternatives. Awareness sessions about the urgency of education amongst refugee parents and children continue throughout Lebanon. A sensitization session on 'love' with youth at the Bazourieh centre in the South revealed that most refugees are unable to discuss their emotions with their parents or family. More such sessions will be carried out to address this problem in future.

HEALTH

UNHCR, International Medical Corps (IMC), Amel Association, Makhzoumi Foundation and Caritas Lebanon Migrant center provided Primary Health Care (PHC) services to some 3,000 Syrian refugees this week. The range of services provided included consultations, treatment, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests. UNHCR, IMC, and Makhzoumi Foundation also assisted over 550 refugee patients to receive secondary health care.

Over 550 clinical and social consultations were conducted by IMC's mental health providers through outreach visits and at primary health care centers. Awareness-raising continues to be at the heart of the health care programme as these have helped improve lifestyles and living standards. Over 1,850 people benefited from these sessions this week. IMC and Makhzoumi Foundation visited refugees admitted in different hospitals and in their communities, particularly at tented settlements where living conditions are dire, and sensitized them about pre/post-delivery care, hygiene maintenance, and child and infant care. In Tyre, more refugee Syrian mothers have joined the Early Child Development (ECD) programme at the Amel Association center. The purpose of the programme is to counsel women about maternal and postpartum (following childbirth) depression, developmental milestones, as well as provide nutrition guidance to mother and child.

On April 16, UNFPA and YMCA launched an awareness campaign on reproductive health and sexual and gender-based violence targeting around 3,000 women and girls from hosting communities across Lebanon. The campaign will focus on prenatal care and nutrition during pregnancy, postnatal care, family planning, reproductive tract infections/sexually transmitted infections, and sexual gender based violence. Feminine kits will also be distributed during the campaign.

During the second phase of UNICEF's vaccination campaign, more than 72,000 children have been vaccinated against measles, of which 13,000 are Syrian. More than 27,000 children under 5 have received polio vaccinations and 73,000 vitamin A supplementation. This is in addition to the 214,000 children immunized across ten provinces as part of the first round of vaccinations launched in February.

Vaccinations commenced last week at the Zahle registration centre. UNICEF provided equipment, vaccines and immunization consumables for each centre.

SHELTER

With increasingly expensive rents and more refugees arriving to Lebanon, more refugees are having to seek shelter in substandard abandoned public structures. Some municipalities have also expressed concerns over the increasing number of refugees in their villages. Agencies continue to work on a mix of solutions to address shelter needs and improve living conditions, prioritizing urgent shelter assistance to informal settlements.

In the Bekaa, DRC has identified three collective shelters for rehabilitation in Lala, Jdita and Taanayel. In parallel, rehabilitation works are underway in more collective shelters in Forzol, and Kfar Denis, and Ain Ata. In Tyre, CISP has also identified three collective shelters for renovation.

NRC signed contracts with 12 new hosting families owning unfinished houses in Qobayat. Twenty-four owners of unfinished houses hosting 90 refugee families received their second instalment for the second phase of renovations, bringing the total number of rehabilitated houses in the area to 500.

Additionally, more Lebanese families continue to host Syrian refugees in their homes. NRC assisted 82 Lebanese households hosting 110 families with cash to begin rehabilitation works in their homes this week.

In parallel, Save the Children International continues to distribute sealing-off kits to vulnerable families living in informal tented settlements in Zahle in central Bekaa.

The Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) supports 1,200 families hosting Syrian refugees in Wadi Khaled and Akroum with a regular cash compensation for additional expenses and a livelihood support. Ongoing registrations show an increase of 1'000 Lebanese families applying for support because they are hosting refugees.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

UNHCR, DRC, SHIELD and Makhzoumi Foundation distributed over 10,800 hygiene kits and some 1,500 baby kits this week benefitting more than 55,000 Syrian refugees across Lebanon.

Other water and sanitation interventions have also taken place across Lebanon throughout the week. In north Lebanon, Premiere Urgence (PU-AMI) completed the pumping test of the borehole in Mashta Hammoud. PU-AMI rehabilitated 38 sanitation facilities Action Contre la Faim distributed 223 water tanks benefiting 1,543 individuals and conducted hygiene promotion sessions with some 1,400 people in the Bekaa.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB PORTAL

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

UPDATES:

- WASH Sector coordination meeting -presentation 16 April 2013
- WASH Sector Coordination meeting - Minute 16 April 2013
- INTER AGENCY MEETING - Minute – April 5, 2013
- Syria regional Response Plan - 2013 Income as of 18 April 2013
- INTER AGENCY MEETING - Minute – April 5, 2013
- UNRWA Inter agency meeting presentation 05 April 2013

UPDATES

- Baalbak Caza, Bekaa Mohafaza, No. of Syrian refugee students enrolled in Lebanese public schools for 2012-2013
- Hermel Caza, Bekaa Mohafaza, No. of Syrian refugee students enrolled in Lebanese public schools for 2012-2013
- Rachaya Caza, Bekaa Mohafaza, No. of Syrian refugee students enrolled in Lebanese public schools for 2012-2013
- West Bekaa Caza, Bekaa Mohafaza, No. of Syrian refugee students enrolled in Lebanese public schools for 2012-2013
- Zahle Caza, Bekaa Mohafaza, No. of Syrian refugee students enrolled in Lebanese public schools for 2012-2013
- Map - Syrian refugees by district in Lebanon 11 April 2013
- Map - Places of origin of Syrian Refugees registered with UNHCR in Lebanon 28 March 2013

STATISTIC:

- Lebanon Registration Trend Overview 11 April 2013
- Lebanon Registration Daily Stats 15-17 April 2013

REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS:

- QIPs overview North and Bekaa
- Handicap International - Emergency response in Lebanon

FUNDING:

- Syria regional Response Plan - 2013 Income as of 18 April 2013