

UN INTER-AGENCY UPDATE

UNHCR, JULY 6-13, 2012



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

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Highlights of the week

Numbers

Over 30,000 displaced Syrians are receiving assistance and support throughout the country, of whom 28,477 people are registered. Approximately 800 displaced newly arrived in the North and Bekaa this week.

Protection and Security

Insecurity along the Lebanese-Syrian border intensified this week as clashes within Syria extended to the Lebanese towns of Amayer, Aouadi, Hnaider, Rejm Issa and El Fard, killing two people and injuring ten more.

Increased security incidents have raised tensions in the Wadi Khaled region. The Lebanese Cabinet approved boosting the Lebanese Army's presence along the

northern Lebanese-Syrian border in order to take the necessary security measures to control the area.

Security incidents and road blocks in Wadi Khaled prevented staff from commuting to the field on some occasions, resulting in delays of the weekly activities.

This week, 18 wounded Syrians were admitted to hospitals.

North Lebanon

Protection

Some 900 registered Syrian families live in precarious border villages. UNHCR and DRC have established monitoring and assessment mechanisms to keep track of the security situation of these families.



UNHCR is in regular contact with local leaders and *mukhtars* in order to stay informed of any pressing security concerns, especially following the reported clashes. Protection staff visited the affected villages in Wadi Khaled where Syrian families are known to be residing in order to assess their safety, special needs and access to assistance, as well as to provide information on registration and medical care. No families visited to date have expressed a desire to relocate. UNHCR teams shared the hotline number with all families and local leaders to facilitate the communication of protection concerns and any other queries.

Registration and new arrivals

Displaced Syrians continue to arrive at an average rate of 300 people (60 families) per week. Approximately 80 families were reported to have arrived in the past week, mainly in Wadi Khaled. Some families left Wadi Khaled a few days after arriving to settle in Akkroum and surrounding villages. The average waiting period between the time of arrival and registration dropped from two months to one month in July, mainly because of the introduction of centralized registration in Akkar and Wadi Khaled.

Joint discussions on the registration mechanism for Tripoli took place with HRC and partners: a rapid assessment led by HRC was agreed while UNHCR will finalize the identification of a centralized registration center.

The current total number of displaced Syrians registered in the North is 18,198 people.

Distribution

In preparation for next week's July

distribution, UNHCR and partners identified two additional centers in Wadi Khaled and Halba: the Rajem Issa School and the Halba Technical School. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) is currently in discussions with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to use the two schools for distribution of food and non-food items to displaced Syrians.

Additionally, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) identified and assessed 54 local grocery shops' capacity in Akkar in anticipation of launching the voucher system in August. WFP will sign agreements with shortlisted shops that meet the present health and quality standards before the end of the month.

Until the launching of the food vouchers, WFP provided food kits for the registered families in Akkar and Tripoli. Meanwhile UNHCR and DRC will coordinate with partner agencies to ensure that any shortage of food kits are provided & distributed to registered families until they can receive food vouchers.

With the aim to cater for young girls and women's wellbeing and protection, UNFPA, in partnership with the DRC, initiated the distribution of a three-month supply of sanitary napkins. By the end of July, a total of 20,000 units will be distributed.

Due to security constraints in Wadi Khaled, all activities scheduled to take place in the area on Tuesday were cancelled.

Community Services

A soccer match was organized in Mashta Hassan between a local team and displaced Syrians in the presence of Rama's *mukhtar*, the municipality

president and people from the local community. This event helped ease tensions in the area caused by recent security incidents and strengthened ties between the two communities.

Education

In light of the latest MoE decision based on the Council of Ministers, and in preparation for the next school year, agencies continued to advocate with the MoE to provide accreditation for Syrian students who complete the school year in Lebanon and to allow them to sit for official exams.

UNICEF sponsored two employees from the MoE to attend a training on 'Education in Emergencies' organized by UNICEF Menaro in Amman.

UNICEF also introduced a monitoring and reporting system for the established Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) that will help measure participation, impact and gender equality of the interventions.

Save the Children continued administering placement tests for children enrolled in the Summer Accelerated Learning Program (SALP) in Amayer, Hisheh, Rama, Mounseh, Mashta and Awada. These summer courses aim to fill the gap of education for some 600 children who missed part of the past academic year due to displacement.

Save the Children also conducted awareness sessions with parents and community members on the importance of education and the available educational activities in the area, such as remedial classes and the summer camp initiative introduced by UNICEF, Terre des Hommes Italia, Association Culturelle de Hermel and War Child Holland.

DRC will introduce vocational trainings with a focus on sewing and hair dressing skills. This initiative is meant to equip idle youth with the necessary skills to improve their livelihood. DRC aims to recruit members from the displaced community to facilitate these trainings and have so far identified one member from the displaced community as a potential vocational trainer assistant.

Shelter

UNHCR and partners continuously work to identify and renovate shelters for displaced and host communities in the North. DRC finalized the rehabilitation of the Ibra collective shelter, which included repairing windows and sewage systems, installing mosquito nets, roofs, and bathrooms for women. The shelter hosts some 120 people.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided 12 additional host families with payments to start the rehabilitation of their houses, bringing the total number of houses receiving shelter rehabilitation payments to 135. NRC aims to target 30 more families in the area in need of shelter support. NRC also helped 125 people (25 families) renovate their unfinished houses by adding doors, toilets and windows.

Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)

The implementation of QIPs in Akkar has proven successful in both the displaced and local communities. DRC recruited members from the Lebanese community to rehabilitate a fish stand at the local market in Bebnine, ensuring clean and sanitary conditions for fishermen to store and sell their fish. DRC has also started renovating the Rama collective shelter and equipping the city hall in Moonseh with chairs, heaters and tables as requested by displaced families. All

three projects will be finalized by the end of July.

Health

Access to essential secondary health care was seriously affected this week when on July 10, the HRC publicly announced that it stopped covering the cost of secondary health care due to lack of funding. This will have a severe impact on UNHCR and partner agencies. While agencies will continue to shoulder most of the costs of humanitarian assistance, current funding levels do not permit these agencies from filling in for all coverage previously provided by the HRC. UNHCR is actively advocating for additional funding sources for the HRC in order to fill this urgent gap.

UNICEF conducted additional trainings with community health workers on the "Facts of Life" as a way to improve their skills and help them better address the needs of displaced families. UNICEF also reached out to displaced parents directly to inform them of the best ways to protect their children from health problems and in turn enhance the quality of their lives.

UNFPA launched a comprehensive assessment on reproductive health and gender-based violence among Syrian women and girls, in partnership with the American University of Beirut and Yale University. Findings will be shared upon the completion of the project.

Assistance in the Bekaa Valley

Registration

Estimated averages of 500 new people (100 families) are arriving in the Bekaa on a weekly basis. UNHCR registered 768 people in Baalbeck this week bringing the total number of registered individuals in the Bekaa to 9,529.

The following table provides an overview of relief provided from July 2011 to date in north Lebanon and the Bekaa valley through HRC, UNHCR, Caritas Migrant Center, WFP, DRC, World Vision, UNICEF, ACF, Islamic Relief, IOCC, Layan, Muslim Aid, IMC and UNFPA.

Relief item	Quantity
Core relief items	20,299
Food kit	18,851
Hygiene kits	14,948
Clothing	1,124
Heating Fuel coupons	37,122
Baby kits	1,145

Distribution

Over 4,200 people were assisted with food, hygiene, and baby kits as well as sanitary napkins in northern and central Bekaa through centralized distribution centers. WFP, DRC, UNHCR, UNFPA, World Vision and Action Contre La Faim (ACF) facilitated the distribution with the support of the local community. The implementation of the food voucher system started in Aarsal, the Sahel region and central Bekaa with over 1,200 people receiving food vouchers, hygiene and baby kits and sanitary napkins.

Outreach workers identified a number of Lebanese families returning from Syria. Agencies expressed interest in providing these families with humanitarian assistance such as food and non-food items. UNHCR will organize a meeting with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and WFP along with the Lebanese Government to come up with a formal plan to address this matter.

Education

Save the Children (SCS) administered placement tests for children enrolled in the Summer Accelerated Learning Program (SALP) from Aarsal, Ain, Brital, Baalbeck and Bar Elias. Some 500

children will benefit from these courses which will stretch through the end of September, preparing them for the next school year.

SCS also led a Child Resilience Training to 400 children aged 10-14, aiming to empower vulnerable youth and help them overcome trauma endured from displacement. The session is the first in a series that will help children develop communication skills, identify and address feelings they have from displacement, understand conflict and child rights and promote friendships within the community.

Health

UNHCR and IMC continue to assist displaced Syrians through eight primary health care centers in the Bekaa, giving consultations, providing lab and radiology tests, medications and vaccinations. In addition to this care, partner organizations undertake various information initiatives to ensure the displaced and local communities remain well-informed.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) launched a series of trainings for Lebanese health workers on nutrition and on feeding infants and young children in emergencies. These trainings will inform health professionals about the emergency-specific needs of mothers and newborn babies as well as the best ways to respond to those needs.

UNFPA donated reproductive health kits that include contraceptives, STD treatments and information on family planning to the three IMC-supported Rafic Hariri health centers in Taanayel, Baalbeck and Aarsal.

Additionally, IMC distributed 4,000 health information brochures through

UNHCR's registration, DRC and NRC outreach workers, hospitals and through primary health care centers ensuring all displaced have information about services and providers. The brochures will be updated every two months ensuring all information is relevant and accurate.

Shelter

DRC identified two potential collective shelters in Rashaya and Majdal Anjar with an overall capacity to host over 100 people. The proposal to renovate these shelters has been communicated to the MoEHE and is now pending approval. DRC continues to map out additional vacant premises that could serve as collective shelters.

NRC started a shelter assessment in Baalbeck to identify potential collective shelters and host community houses in need of rehabilitation. Findings will inform the shelter programme in the area. NRC also continued to supervise the rehabilitation of 100 hosting homes in Aarsal, Saadnayel and Al Fakiha, in addition to the 30 unfinished homes in Aarsal.

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.