



New Arrivals Report
Beka'a



(September-December 2012)



Reason for fleeing Syria:

The majority of the assisted families stated they left Syria and sought refuge in Lebanon due to the **insecurity in place of origin (55%)** and destruction of their houses (41%), while 4% for fear of being arrested. The statistics show that 51% of the families were displaced more than once (within Syria and to Lebanon), while 49% were displaced only once when arriving to Lebanon.

Access to Lebanese territory:

78% of the assessed families entered Lebanon **legally**, mainly from Masnaa (32%).
22% families entered **illegally** through the mountains.

Reason for illegal crossing:

35% of the assisted families crossed illegally due to political activism, 19% because of problems related to their documentation, 18% due to financial reasons, 17% due to closure of legal borders, 7% as not allowed crossing by the authorities and 5% were wounded.

Family members left behind in Syria:

31% of the families stated that they do not have any family member left behind in Syria, while 69% reported to **have family members in Syria** due to engagement in political activities, missing/arrested/injured or for financial reasons.

Supporting separated children:

2% of the assisted families have the custody of **children separated** from their parents as missed/killed in Syria or not able to flee to Lebanon.

Willingness to register with UNHCR:

The statistics show that **89%** of the assisted families are willing to register with UNHCR, while 11% are unwilling to.

Living Condition:

55% of the assisted families are renting apartments, 40% are hosted by their relatives, 2% live in tents, 2% live in collective shelters and 1% has no accommodation.

Average rent fees:

The average rent fees for those renting apartments is approximately **245\$ per month**.

Average number of rooms per family:

Rented/hosted apartments have in average **3 rooms per family**.

Type of assistance:

The average number of **days between the assessment and delivery of assistance** is approximately **8.5 days**, while in December was reduced to 6 due to the allocation of additional resources (logistics and human).

The most requested items by the assisted families were: **blankets (37%), mattresses (21%)**, fuel voucher (17%), food items (8%), heating stoves (4%), cooking gas (3%), kitchen set and jerry cans (2%), and baby kits (1%) and others (7%- torch, dignity kits, etc.).

Coordination with other actors:

The implementation of the new comers program in Bekaa required considerable coordination with the different actors. UN agencies, INGOs, and local authorities were constantly involved in the coordination of activities and in the response to the designated target group. The number of new comers being bigger than 400 households per week in Beka'a as of November



2012, whereas the capacity of DRC was to respond to around 150 households per week, the selection of specific and strategic areas of intervention was essential. Constant coordination took place with agencies providing assistance to new comers, namely Caritas and AVSI in order to avoid duplication and cover gaps. Coordination with World Food Program was established in order to distribute one food kit to every new comer family on needs basis. Coordination with UNHCR, NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council), and HI (Handicap International) was instrumental in the identification of the new comer families in need of assistance, especially the most vulnerable. The community centers and outreach capacity of the above mentioned agencies were one of the main linkages between DRC and the referred families.

DRC has agreed to collaborate with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in the distribution of 2,500 Dignity Kits provided by the latter starting from mid-January 2013. The kits will be distributed to all new arrivals women and girls of reproductive age (13-49) affected by the Syrian crises, as well as older women to assist meeting basic needs.

Partnership with local actors:

The municipalities, "mukhtars" and community leaders in different Bekaa villages played a very important role in the identification and referral of new comer families, and were one of the main linkages between DRC and the new comer families. They were also requested to help DRC in identifying the most vulnerable new comer families especially when the capacity to respond to the overall caseload of new comers was beyond capacity.

Constant coordination meetings took place with different municipalities and local authorities throughout the implementation of the new comer project. Such meetings aimed at dividing roles and responsibilities, unifying efforts and avoiding gaps and duplication. This was especially happening in periods of influxes and when different local NGOs were interested in providing emergency ad hoc NFIs, such as during winterization.

Local authorities were also referring to DRC cases needing psychosocial follow up. When vulnerable families are in need of emergency shelter, constant coordination with local actors was undertaken in order to find accommodation solutions in collective shelters, mosques or with host families.

In the case of new comer Palestinians from Syria, coordination was established between the different local NGOs and committees supporting this target group, namely the popular committees and Al Najdeh association. The assistance of Palestinians was implemented through the coordination and referral of cases by the popular committees in coordination with UNRWA, and implemented by Najdeh under the supervision of DRC.

Implementation methodology:

When a list of new comers families is provided to DRC through the different referral channels, 4 outreach workers divided into geographical areas (North Bekaa: Irsal and Hermel; North Bekaa: Baalbek and Sahel; Central Bekaa; West Bekaa) pay the families an assessment visit. During this visit, bio data and protection information is gathered with each family and the decision to choose items from the list of NFIs is made jointly by DRC social worker and the family. Identification of specific needs is also done at this level and referrals to the relevant actors are ensured by DRC outreach workers.

The distribution modalities in Bekaa are different from one area to another. In many villages the distribution is centralized and conducted by the distribution team few days after the assessment is done. In other areas, and due to the lack of resources and time of the distribution team, the protection team pays another visit to the families and conducts a door-to-door distribution to the families assessed.

Recommendations

- Scale up the HR and logistics capacity;
- Organize/chair regular new arrivals coordination meetings with local and international partners in order to organize the intervention modalities, harmonize approaches and avoid gaps and duplication. This initiative is needed in Bekaa especially with the increased number of agencies interested in supporting unregistered population.
- Standardize the NFI emergency kit in order to save time and simplify the logistics and procurement process;
- Maintain and increase coordination with local authorities through regular meetings for better understanding the local context, monitoring the gaps and needs, and including those actors in the prioritization of needs.
- Conduct regular bilateral meetings with NGOs and INGOs offering new comer assistance in order to coordinate activities.