

Syria Crisis Bi-Weekly Humanitarian Situation Report

Lebanon

Date: 21 March 2013

Reporting Period: 07 – 20 March 2013

LEBANON

Highlights

- Funding shortages are constraining UNICEF's ability to deliver WASH interventions in Lebanon. Partners have been identified with capacity to assist 29,000 beneficiaries should funding become available.
- The nationwide roll-out of the measles and polio vaccination campaign commenced this week, targeting nearly 500,000 children.
- Over 28,000 students have benefitted from fuel for heating provided to 112 schools throughout Lebanon.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Refugee Population (Estimates calculated based on initial figures from UNHCR Portal on 21 Mar 2013)			
Total number of registered refugees and individuals awaiting registration		370,923	
Registered Refugees	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	233,469	112,065	121,404
Children Affected (Under 18)	121,404	60,702	60,702
Children 0-4 Years	46,694	23,347	23,347
Children 5-11 Years	46,694	23,347	23,347
Children 12-17 Years	28,016	14,008	14,008

A total of 233,469 refugees are currently registered with UNHCR, of which more than 50% are children. An additional number of Syrians have been in contact with UNHCR to be registered, bringing the total to 370,923. The number of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon now exceeds 31,500 individuals (corresponding to over 8,822 families). The majority of PRS households are living inside camps across all areas. The influx of PRS is concentrated within large camps (Ein El-Helweh, Rashidiyeh, Beddawi and Nahr El Bared). The impact of protracted displacement of Syrian refugees on impoverished host Lebanese communities continues to worsen.

Programme response

WASH: The 91% shortfall in funding for WASH is limiting the coverage and scale-up of interventions. UNICEF has identified a number of potential implementing partners that would allow for a further scale-up in WASH coverage. Funds currently available for WASH are being prioritized for planned up-scaling with existing partners (PU-AMI in the North, CISP in the North and South and ACF in the Bekaa). Additional partner capacity has been identified, with Oxfam submitting a proposal for interventions in 800 households (4,000 direct beneficiaries) in Tripoli. World Vision International has signaled their potential to support 25,000 beneficiaries with WASH interventions immediately. Meanwhile, Syrian refugees, including children, are staying in settlements without proper sanitation facilities. Unfortunately insecurity disrupted partner activities in the North, Tripoli and surroundings as well as Akkar and surroundings and Wadi Kahled Municipality.

Child Protection: UNICEF, through its partners, continues to reach the most vulnerable children in Lebanon affected by the Syria crisis with life-saving centres, community outreach, psychosocial support services and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response programmes. Despite receiving limited funding for gender based violence (GBV) interventions, UNICEF continues to prioritise these activities. In the past fortnight, 402 women and 236 girls have received psychosocial support, counseling, life skills based education, parenting skills, nutrition and awareness raising services by two UNICEF-supported community centers for women and girls in North Lebanon and Bekaa.

At the same time UNICEF continues to support PSS programmes through social development centres. In the last two weeks UNICEF reached a total of 245 children and adolescents, including with non-formal education and recreational services in Bekaa through mobile and outreach interventions provided by UNICEF partners. Social development centre and community-based outreach psycho-

social activities are located mainly in the North and Bekaa regions including Awada Bani Sakher, Machutta hamoud, Ragam Hussein, Ragam Khalef, a social development centre in the municipality of Amayer, and Wavel Palestinian refugee camp.

Additionally UNICEF has continued to provide psychosocial support to Palestinian Refugees from Syria throughout Lebanon. A total of 200 school-aged children benefitted from this support through schools and kindergartens. UNICEF-supported partners have also conducted psychosocial activities in Douris, Baalbeck, Addous, and Wavel Palestinian refugee camp. A total of 1,276 children participated in the Moving Forward and Comfort 4 Kids initiatives. Meanwhile UNICEF, in close collaboration with UNHCR, has moved forward with implementation of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) by implementing a mechanism for strengthening data collection through UNHCR's registration process. This is likely to significantly increase the level of data collected on MRM. UNICEF is working closely with OHCHR and other UN agencies on MRM in order to strengthen the verification process. An implementation report was finalised this week and shared with key stakeholders. The report sets out the way forward regarding the remote MRM monitoring mechanism for Syria in Lebanon as well as the challenges and constraints in this regard.

Education: The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) estimates that more than 32,000 Syrian children have been enrolled in public schools in Lebanon. In the past two weeks, UNICEF has assisted 755 students with enrollment, bringing UNICEF's cumulative contribution to overall enrolment efforts to 18,476 students. This represents 52% of UNICEF's target of 35,530 school-aged children in learning programmes. It is estimated that approximately 150,000 of refugees registered and pending registration in Lebanon are school-aged.

Meanwhile, UNICEF delivery of fuel to ensure classrooms remain heated throughout the winter is nearing completion. A total of 28,742 students have benefited from fuel for classroom heating in 112 schools in the North, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon and Nabatieh. The schools received a total of 153,382 litres of fuel. During the reporting period, a partnership has been signed with IQRA Association, targeting 3,456 Syrian and vulnerable host children with remedial classes, as well as 1,728 children through an intensive remedial summer programme. Additionally, 576 out-of-school children will be reached using a mobile classroom in a bus. Under the same agreement, 1,000 teachers will be trained in active learning methods, including psychosocial activities and learning through play. Awareness sessions will be held with 900 parents on how to support their children to become independent learners and to improve language skills.

Health: The nationwide immunization campaign for measles and polio vaccinations, as well as Vitamin A supplementation began on 18 March and will run up to 31 March, targeting almost 500,000 children aged from one day to 18 years old in the 16 provinces not covered in the earlier campaign. The campaign begins with a back-drop of 83 confirmed cases of measles nationwide and a further 123 suspected cases. None of the confirmed cases are in provinces previously covered by the initial vaccination campaign carried out by UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in January and February. As a lesson learned from the current measles outbreak and a follow up to this campaign, UNICEF is advocating for the MOPH to enhance and strengthen the routine programme, especially in the context of a high influx of refugees entering the country from areas where the Syrian health system has been disrupted by the conflict since September 2011.

In the past fortnight, UNICEF supported MOPH with five orientation sessions and training in four regional hubs (Beirut, Saida, Tripoli and Tyr) for 315 MOPH medical staff. In all, 600 doctors, administrators and vaccinators were trained in the lead up to the campaign. Additionally, since 18 February, 330 women and children have been examined and received medication from UNICEF and Save the Children through two Primary Healthcare Centres in Bar Elias and Qab Elias, for Syrian refugees (registered and non-registered with UNHCR), Palestinians returning from Syria, Lebanese returnees and vulnerable Lebanese host community members.

Nutrition: UNICEF finalized a partnership agreement with the International Orthodox Christian Charity to establish a nutritional monitoring and surveillance system in 40 Primary Healthcare Centres located in areas with high concentrations of Syrian refugees. The system includes the management of identified cases of moderate and severe malnutrition. The necessary supplies of anthropometric equipment and micronutrient supplements have been ordered this week.

[Inter-Agency Collaboration and Partnerships](#)

The RRP5 planning process for Lebanon has begun in earnest, with agreement that all five of the most affected population groups will be explicitly included for planning purposes: registered refugees, those unwilling or afraid to register, host communities, returning Lebanese, and Palestinians refugees from Syria. The total catchment population of these cohorts is 2.4 million people (half of them Lebanese host communities). Sector groups are now working to extrapolate likely vulnerabilities amongst these groups, and develop planning targets. It is therefore very likely that RRP5 for Lebanon will far exceed RRP4 in terms of scope and scale, partly due to a broader definition of included populations, but also simply due to a steadily escalating crisis.

The number of Palestinian refugees from Syria attending UNRWA schools has increased to 3,011 students. UNICEF has provided material support to UNRWA to assist these children, including stationery kits, school-in-a-box kits and other recreational and school supplies for 3,000 children. Meanwhile, UNICEF-supported Palestinian NGOs are providing remedial education to about 700 school-age children, pre-school education to around 200 children, and psychosocial support to around 150 individuals. PRS continue to be issued with transit visas costing 25,000LL on arrival in Lebanon which are valid for 15 days. UNRWA has been informed that PRS can subsequently obtain a visa for a period of three months free of charge. The moratorium which allows PRS with expired visas to return to Syria without being subject to fines at the border remains in place.

Communications for Development (C4D)

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) requested UNICEF's support in implementing an urgent nationwide communication campaign for the measles and polio immunization beginning this week. UNICEF Communication and C4D section produced one animated, 35 second TV spot for pro-bono broadcasting starting 18 March and running for two weeks on seven public and private national TV stations. In addition, a poster was dispatched to schools, health and social centres, shops, supermarkets, and other public places across the country. A leaflet was also produced for social and health workers with relevant information and questions and answers. The two mobile operators in Lebanon offered an SMS campaign. Beginning 18 March all mobile subscribers will receive a message about the vaccination campaign. Additionally face-to-face approaches and cars with speakers will tour villages and cities to encourage parents to go to vaccination centers.

Supply and Logistics

In the past fortnight the following supplies have been distributed to partners by UNICEF:

- 5,000 blankets to the Ministry of Social affairs and 985 blankets to SAWA
- 5,474 winter clothing kits
- 450 bed sets
- 2,400 water purification tablets.

Regional

Funding

Funding Status		Child Protection	Education	Health & Nutrition	WASH	NFIs	Safety & Security	Ops Mgmt	Total
In millions of US Dollars									
Syria	Required	8.82	20.05	15.88	22.50		1.19		68.44
	Funded	1.14	3.80	0.06	6.75	-	0.34		14.12
Jordan	Required	11.19	17.76	3.69	24.35				57.00
	Funded	1.24	0.08	1.25	8.33				11.61
Lebanon	Required	7.77	13.83	1.06	10.81	1.72			35.19
	Funded	3.40	6.88	1.51	4.04	0.39			16.22
Iraq	Required	1.45	2.41	1.45	9.30			5.40	20.00
	Funded	0.69	0.43	0.00	2.77			0.40	4.30
Turkey	Required	6.00	6.50						12.50
	Funded	1.31	0.00						1.31
Egypt	Required	0.26	0.35	0.09					0.70
	Funded								0.00
MENA	Required								2.00
	Funded								6.86
Total	Required	35.49	60.90	22.17	66.96	1.72	1.19	5.40	195.83
	Funded	7.78	11.20	2.81	21.88	0.39	0.34	0.40	54.42
	Gap	27.71	49.70	19.36	45.08	1.33	0.85	5.00	141.41

Columns do not reflect funds recently allocated from RO to COs and from COs to programme areas done during consolidation of sitrep information.

Next Situation Report: **4 April 2013.**

For further information, please contact:

Sandra Lattouf

Syria Emergency Sub-Regional Coordinator

UNICEF MENA Regional Office

Mobile: +1 917 293-2805

Email: slattouf@unicef.org

Simon Ingram

Regional Chief of Communication

UNICEF Middle East and Northern Africa

Mobile: + 962 (0) 79 5904740

Email: singram@unicef.org