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#syria

# Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

May 2013

 الجمهورية اللبنانية رئاسة مجلس الوزراء الهيئة العليا للانتخابات	
 UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency	 الجمهورية اللبنانية وزارة التربية والتعليم
 WFP wfp.org	
 DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL	
 ACTION FAIM	
	
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 Caritas Lebanon	 NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL
	 UAE RED CRESCENT   Care for Life
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	 Save the Children
 RESTART CENTER Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Domestic Violence	

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

- Over 321,000 refugees received World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers and food parcels this month;
- Over 225,000 refugees received clothes vouchers, blankets, quilts, kitchen sets, mattresses, recreation kits for children and other household items;
- Some 12,000 refugees benefited from shelter assistance interventions in May;
- Over 11,000 children across Lebanon benefited this month from non-formal education;
- In May, more than 334,000 individuals benefited from hygiene kits and more than 27,000 received baby kits;
- More than 19,000 refugees received primary healthcare services this month including consultations, treatment, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests;
- Some 2,300 refugees were admitted into hospitals nationwide;
- Over 80,000 persons registered with UNHCR this month.

## DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013



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

<sup>1</sup> EU funding is received from DEVCO and ECHO.

## REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

Throughout the month, over 80,000 persons registered with UNHCR bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to over 500,000 (over 420,000 people registered and 79,000 awaiting registration).

Current distribution of the registered population is as follows:

**North Lebanon:** 159,000

**Bekaa:** 144,000

**Beirut and Mount Lebanon:** 68,000

**South Lebanon:** 47,000

In May, UNHCR's Bekaa registration centre established a call centre in order to increase hotline capacity and improve the scheduling of appointments. The Tripoli registration centre was relocated to better accommodate the large number of refugees who come forward to register on a daily basis. A child-friendly space was introduced by UNICEF at the new center to provide children with a play space while mothers can breastfeed privately. In the South, UNHCR and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) began providing transportation to recently arrived refugees from the border town of Chebaa to the registration centre in Tyre. More than 1,000 refugees (200 families) were able to register thanks to those efforts. Preparations are underway to extend the initiative and reach out to refugees residing in the areas of Hasbayya, Marjeyoun, Bint Jbeil, and villages around Tyre.

Waiting periods for registration were further reduced to reach an average of 22 days at the end of May while the number of people awaiting registration continued to decrease by 8,000 persons per week on average.

Some 15 agencies continue to provide basic non-food and food assistance to vulnerable new arrivals, pending registration with UNHCR.

## VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND TARGETING

Lead by WFP, an inter-agency vulnerability assessment is currently taking place. Using a household questionnaire designed by UN and NGO partners, the assessment aims to identify vulnerabilities in the refugee population and from there establish key indicators to help target assistance to those most in need. The household questioning is conducted by ACTED, an IP of WFP with demonstrated expertise in this area. Data collection is expected to be completed by mid June. The data analysis is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of July. It is planned that joint targeting for food and NFI (hygiene/baby kits) will not start before September.

Supporting measures include joint mass information campaign to prepare refugees and mitigating measures to anticipate possible security concerns.

## PROTECTION

Thousands of Syrian refugees continue to trickle to Lebanon on a weekly basis. Among those, an average of 4,000 people reported to local municipalities in their areas to seek assistance every week in May. These people were in turn referred to UNHCR and other agencies for registration and assistance.

Local authorities continue to report a small trickle of families from Qusair in Syria to Aarsal, east Lebanon. Despite the escalated violence in Qusair, numbers of newly arrived families from the area remain relatively low. This could be due to the risks associated with leaving, the alleged prevention of civilians from fleeing town, and the securitization of the border with Lebanon from the Syrian side. Agencies rolled out a localized contingency plan including the prepositioning of stocks and the identification of staff for rapid deployment.

UNHCR established help desks at the Halba and Amayer community centres. Syrian refugees with inquires about registration, protection and/or services are now able to seek assistance at these help desks where trained staff provide needed clarifications and information leaflets about the gamut of services provided.

Throughout the month of May, agencies exerted significant efforts in encouraging particularly vulnerable women in need of support to come forward and share their problems. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) reported an increase in the number of women who suffer from domestic or gender-based violence. High levels of distress and trauma have exacerbated this trend. In addition, women who arrive in Lebanon without their husbands also reported feeling particularly vulnerable. Agencies started distributing dignity kits that include hygiene items, headscarves, torches and other protective items to help these women feel more secure and dignified. Agencies have also reported the presence of separated children.

## SECURITY

The security situation in both north Lebanon and the Bekaa valley deteriorated this month which led to the temporary suspension of UN operations in both regions. In northern Bekaa, the month was marked by cross border shelling along northern and eastern borders, rocket attacks in Hermel and the death of three soldiers from the Lebanese Armed forces (LAF) in Aarsal. There were tensions between the rival neighborhoods of Tebbeneh and Jabbal Mouhsen in Tripoli. , and This volatile security environment and the interruption of humanitarian access are very concerning. Agencies continue to keep contact with local authorities and refugees to ensure refugees and hosting communities are safe.

## DISTRIBUTION

Over 225,000 refugees received clothe vouchers, blankets, quilts, kitchen sets, mattresses, recreation kits for children and other household items. These efforts are sponsored by UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, CLMC, Handicap International, Makhzoumi Foundation, SHIELD and World Vision. Over 321,000 refugees also received World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers and food parcels.

## EDUCATION

Over 11,000 children across Lebanon benefited this month from non-formal education provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, Amel Association, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Makhzoumi Foundation, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), Save the Children, War Child Holland (WCH), Terre des Hommes (TDH) and World Vision. Activities continue to be conducted in public schools during afternoon shifts as well as in community centres where students are provided with educational programmes in addition to psychosocial and recreational activities. Additionally, agencies are extending outreach to additional children at school age, to be enrolled in accelerated learning programmes throughout the summer, which would allow them to transit into formal education in September 2013.

The Joint Education Needs Assessment (JENA) was launched this month in schools nationwide. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), in partnership with education agencies, visited and assessed over 60 public, semi-private, private and UNRWA-supported schools with an aim to bring to light the most urgent education gaps. Preliminary results will be published next month. Based on this assessment, academic programmes will be adjusted in the coming months to better cater to the educational needs of Syrian refugees.

With official examinations just around the corner, UNHCR and UNICEF in coordination with MOEHE continue to reach out to students registered in grades nine and twelve, facilitating their access to the exams.



## HEALTH

To date, over 250,000 Lebanese and Syrian children have been vaccinated against measles, polio vaccinations and Vitamin A supplementation. UNICEF and Ministry of Public Health continue to support vaccinations of newly arriving refugees through vaccination clinics at UNHCR registration centres. To date, these centres have provided vaccinations to nearly 15,000 newly arrived refugee children (8,000 in Zahle, 4,700 in Tripoli and 1,800 in Tyre).

More than 19,000 refugees received primary healthcare services this month including consultations, treatment, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests. UNHCR, UNICEF, CLMC, International Medical Corps (IMC), Amel Association and Premiere Urgence (PU-AMI) continue to prioritize the provision of primary healthcare as a means to deter serious health problems among Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Over 4,500 refugees residing in 20 tented settlements in Baalbeck and Akkar benefited from treatments provided by nine UNICEF-supported mobile medical teams this month. Some 2,300 refugees were admitted into hospitals supported by UNHCR, IMC, Makhzoumi Foundation and Caritas. Agencies continue to insure the admission of patients with critical health conditions to contracted hospitals with 75 per cent cost coverage. Health officers reported that many refugees have avoided hospitalization since they cannot cover the remaining 25 per cent fee. Efforts continue to be exerted in search for external sources for the coverage of vulnerable refugees in addition to calling for additional funds to fill the pressing gap.

More than 400 injured individuals and their families were provided with medical assistance and follow-up by Handicap International.

More than 6,400 individuals attended health awareness sessions provided by UNHCR, IMC, PU-AMI and UNFPA this month. Sessions included topics related to mental health, general health, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and early marriage.

Over 200 individuals benefited from mental health consultations provided by UNHCR, IMC and the Restart centre for Victims of Torture. Agencies reported a rise in the number of refugees suffering from symptoms of severe depression due to high levels of stress. Agencies continue to ensure that the most critical cases are counselled on a regular basis.

## SHELTER

With the technical support of UNHCR, Layan established a third transit site in west Bekaa, where 20 new tents were erected hosting 300 refugees. The sites are meant to provide vulnerable refugees with temporary shelter while they look for more long term shelter solutions. In May, over 12,000 refugees (2,400 families) benefited from a mix of shelter solutions ranging from house rehabilitations to collective shelters, relocation/renovation and rent assistance. This brings the total number of refugees assisted to date to over 90,000 individuals (17,000 families).

With rents across the country continuously on the rise, the demand for alternative shelter solutions continues to increase as many refugees are no longer able to pay rent and had to be relocated into improvised solutions including tented settlements, collective shelters and substandard abandoned structures.

To date, over 250 informal sites that accommodate refugees have been identified, assessed and assisted nationwide. In the South, a collective shelter in Bazourieh was rehabilitated and today hosts over 50 refugees. UNHCR and NRC continued to sign contracts with host families for the rehabilitation of their houses in return to hosting refugees. The total number of refugees benefiting from these contracts is 2,000.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROJECTS

To date, some 53 UNHCR community support projects were completed or are on-going throughout the country, for a total of USD 913,000.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Access to safe water and appropriate sanitation is becoming a pressing concern as temperatures across the country began to increase. Agencies are therefore stepping up their water, sanitation and hygiene response to be able to limit the incidence of water-related diseases in the coming months.

In May, more than 334,000 individuals benefited from hygiene kits and more than 27,000 received baby kits provided by UNHCR, DRC, CLMC, the International Committee for the Development of People (CISP), Makhzoumi Foundation, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Premiere Urgence (PU-AMI), and SHIELD. Other water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives included the distribution of more than 190 water tanks, the construction/rehabilitation of over 95 latrines and the installation of more than 440 water filters across Lebanon. In addition, chemical and bacteriological water quality tests were conducted in tented settlements nationwide benefiting over 14,800 individuals.

Similarly, UNICEF and CISP finalized maintenance works on toilets, water points for hand-washing and water points for drinking in four schools in Tripoli, El Heri, Batroun and Zgharta benefiting over 1,200 Syrian and Lebanese students.

Hygiene promotion sessions were also conducted nationwide benefiting over 7,000 refugees.

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB PORTAL

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

### UPDATES:

- Inter-Agency Regional Response - Syrian Refugees 16-22 May
- Protection Working Group Minute - 24 April 2013
- UNHCR Lebanon Community Support Projects in Refugee Hosting Communities
- Contents of the Standardized Newcomer Kit (and its sub-kits)
- Syria Refugee Response - UNHCR response dashboard - April 2013
- New Lebanon Contact List - Syrian Refugee Response 27.05.2013

### MAPS:

- Syria Refugee Response - UNHCR response Implementing Partner Map - May 2013
- Syria Refugee Response - UNHCR response Implementing Partner Activity Map - May 2013
- Syria Refugee Response - Inter Agency response - What and Where - May 2013
- Lebanon Health Sector Activities May2013

### STATISTICS:

- Lebanon Registration Daily Stats 27-29 May 2013

### REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS :

- Shelter Dashboard April 2013
- Protection Working Group Minute - 24 April 2013