



LEBANON

Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

August 23, 2013



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- Over 83,000 individuals received World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers;
- More than 129,000 refugees benefited from the distribution of hygiene and baby kits;
- 7,100 refugees received primary healthcare services including consultations, treatment, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests;
- Over 2,300 individuals received health awareness sessions through primary healthcare centres and mobile visits;
- Some 640 patients were admitted to supported hospitals;
- 11,000 refugees were registered with UNHCR.



REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

This week, over 11,000 persons registered with UNHCR, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to over 703,000 (over 592,000 people registered and 110,000 awaiting registration).

Current geographical distribution of the registered population is as follows:

North Lebanon: 198,000– 33%

Bekaa: 201,000 – 34%

Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 115,000 – 18%

South Lebanon: 77,000 – 13%

The number of Syrian children registered as refugees in the region topped one million today. In Lebanon, more than 300,000 children are registered, marking a fourfold increase since January this year. More than 200,000 of them are younger than 11 years of age. Lebanon hosts the largest number of Syrian refugee children in the region.

PROTECTION

The stricter border controls imposed a few weeks ago remain in place. Palestinian refugees from Syria are reportedly finding it much harder to enter. While other refugees have entered Lebanon on humanitarian basis, the new controls are leading to longer waiting periods. Moreover, the authorities note that some people are denied entry if they do not have the required identification or if the purpose of their entry is not considered legitimate. UNHCR continues to work with the Government on establishing safe and protection sensitive border processes.

Protection agencies have developed a tool to help identify persons who are at risk of being evicted from their accommodations. By more rapidly identifying persons at risk of eviction, agencies will be better able to develop strategic responses to improve tenure security, including negotiating on their behalf or finding alternative shelter if necessary.

UNHCR conducted trainings for new refugee outreach volunteers in Nabatiyah and Halba this week, focusing on building partnerships with the community and identifying persons with specific needs.

SECURITY

The volatile security situation across the country continued to impact programmes – hindering humanitarian access to some areas mainly northern Bekaa and Wadi Khaled.

DISTRIBUTION

More than 83,000 individuals received the World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers distributed by World Vision and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). In addition, more than 10,000 individuals benefited from the distribution of summer blankets, mattresses and other household items provided by UNHCR, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC) and DRC.

WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and partner agencies recently finished an assessment to identify the most vulnerable among the Syria refugee population. The results of this assessment are informing the manner that food, hygiene and baby kits will be distributed in the months ahead. Unlike previously where these items were distributed to all refugee families, the distribution will be more targeted focusing on the most vulnerable and those who have no other means to provide for themselves. This is imperative to ensure that limited resources focus on those most at risk as a matter of priority.

A mass communication strategy has already been initiated to inform refugees and local and central authorities about these changes.

EDUCATION

The second round of official exams took place this week, giving Lebanese and Syrian children who were not successful in the first round a second chance. As the summer season is coming to a close, agencies are focusing on finalizing the education programme for both Syrian and Lebanese children for the coming academic year. The Ministry of Education, UNHCR, UNICEF, and partners are working to introduce afternoon shifts –an approach that has successfully been piloted in Aarsal last year- in 70 public schools in Lebanon. Afternoon shifts will enable schools to receive additional children who cannot be accommodated in regular morning shifts. Next year's programme will also entail the provision of school-in-a-box kits containing stationary and all items needed in the classroom, and remedial classes aimed to help Syrian students adapt to the curriculum taught in Lebanon.



Syrian refugee children attending an accelerated Learning programme in the Bekaa. UNHCR/S.Baldwin

Currently, 45,000 students are attending summer education programmes and recreational activities provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, Amel Association, World Vision, DRC, and Caritas in order to prepare them for the next school year. These activities are being provided in schools and community centres, and have recently been introduced in informal tented settlements where children are

particularly vulnerable.

HEALTH

More than 7,100 refugees received primary healthcare services including consultations, treatment, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests provided by the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), UNHCR, UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF-Switzerland) International Medical Corps (IMC), Amel Association, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), Première Urgence (PU-AMI) and International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Additionally, over 640 patients were admitted to supported hospitals.

Some 887 individuals benefited from clinical and social consultations provided by IMC's mental health unit through both outreach and centre-based services.

Also this week, more than 2,300 individuals benefited from health awareness sessions provided by UNHCR, IMC, PU-AMI and IOCC. The sessions focused on mental health, nutrition, early marriage and the importance of breastfeeding.

SHELTER

Shelter interventions assisted some 2,500 individuals this week including cash for shelter, cash for host families, weatherproofing, support to tented settlements and the rehabilitation of collective shelters provided by agencies nationwide.

Meanwhile, agencies continue to prioritize winterization plans including the identification of safe shelters for refugees living in flood-prone areas and the planned provision of plastic sheeting, stoves, fuel vouchers, blankets and other needed items.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

More than 129,000 refugees this week benefited from the distribution of hygiene and baby kits provided by UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), World Vision, Makhzoumi Foundation, SHEILD, and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC). Additionally, 10,300 individuals benefited from the distribution of water tanks, garbage bins and water vouchers provided by UNICEF, Première Urgence (PU-AMI) and Action Contre La Faim (ACF).

Other water, sanitation and hygiene interventions included the distribution of 204 water tanks and the construction of 54 latrines in the Bekaa by World Vision.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE PORTAL

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

UPDATES

- UNHCR LBN WASH 2013-Aug-06 A4, MoM SOUTH WASH WG
- UNHCR LBN SHELTER 2013-Aug-06 A4, MoM-ITS
- UNHCR LBN SHELTER 2013-Aug-06 A4, MoM-Shelter-WG
- NEW Lebanon Contact List - Syrian Refugee Response 12.08.2013
- UNICEF Syria Regional Crisis Bi-weekly Humanitarian SitRep
- Lebanon Registration Trend Overview 08 August 2013

MAPS

- UNHCR LBN WASH MAP 2013-08-012 A3, Selected WASH Sector Activities Reached During July-2013
- UNHCR LBN WASH MAP 2013-08-12 A3, Selected WASH Sector Partners During July-2013
- UNHCR LBN SLT Map 2013-July A0, DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMAL TENTED SETTLEMENTS FOR BEKAA
- UNHCR LBN SLT Map 2013-July A0, DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMAL TENTED SETTLEMENTS FOR NORTH
- UNHCR LBN SLT Map 2013-July A0, DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMAL TENTED SETTLEMENTS FOR SOUTH
- UNHCR Lebanon Registration Map 31-July-2013 A3, Syrian Refugees Registered In Lebanon

STATISTICS

Lebanon Registration Daily Stats 09, 12-14 August 2013

REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS

International Medical Corps Lebanon Syrian Refugee Response January-June 2013