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#syria



LEBANON

Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

September 13, 2013



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- More than 175,000 individuals received food coupons;
- Some 66,600 individuals received bed sheets, summer blankets, diapers and other household items;
- Over 14,000 persons registered with UNHCR this week;
- 2,800 individuals benefited from primary healthcare services;
- 609 individuals were supported with secondary care across the country;
- 107 Syrian refugees departed to Germany from Lebanon this week as part of the temporary Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP).



REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

This week, over 14,000 persons registered with UNHCR, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to over 739,000 (over 636,000 people registered and 104,000 awaiting registration).

Current geographical distribution of the registered population is as follows:

North Lebanon: 208,000 – 33%

Bekaa: 214,000 – 34%

Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 130,000 – 18%

South Lebanon: 84,000 – 13%

PROTECTION

One hundred and seven Syrian refugees departed to Germany from Lebanon this week as part of the German Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP). The HAP aims to provide temporary residence in Germany for 5,000 Syrian refugees until they are able to return home in safety and dignity or until they find other durable solutions. The HAP prioritizes Syrian refugees with particular needs including vulnerable women and children, persons with urgent medical needs and/or close family ties to Germany.

The situation at the main Lebanese-Syrian border crossing, Masnaa, east Lebanon remained relatively calm this week. The majority of Syrians crossing into Lebanon (some 70 per cent) reported arriving from Damascus.

This week was marked by heightened security measures, particularly in the Bekaa, where a number of municipalities imposed a curfew on Syrian residents between 9pm and 6am. UNHCR has been advised that this is part of a national strategy to be extended to other areas in the coming weeks. UNHCR has expressed its concern to the Ministry of Interior stating that the measures should be reasonably justified and proportional to the security risks that they are intended to mitigate.

DISTRIBUTION

More than 175,000 individuals received World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers and food parcels this week distributed by World Vision and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

In addition, over 66,635 individuals received bed sheets, summer blankets, diapers and other household items provided by UNHCR and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), DRC, and IRC.

EDUCATION

On the eve of the new school year, the back-to-school campaign is being reinforced throughout Lebanon to encourage Syrian students to enrol in the Lebanese public system. The need to meet education needs of the over 250,000 registered Syrian school-aged children is a pressing one and fraught with challenges given the limited capacity of the public school system and the dispersed nature of the refugee population. To increase capacity, the Ministry of Education (MEHE) and partner agencies are working to introduce afternoon school shifts in some 70 schools where there is a high concentration of Lebanese and Syrian children.

Children enrolling in school will benefit from the coverage of tuition fees, books, and stationary.

Extensive educational support over the summer including remedial classes, accelerated learning programmes, and recreational activities will help those who benefited from them to adjust to the new school year.

HEALTH

This week, more than 2,800 individuals benefited from primary healthcare services including consultations, treatments, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests provided by UNHCR, IMC, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC).

In addition, 609 individuals were admitted to the hospitals across the country by UNHCR and IMC, who currently cover 75 per cent of the hospitalization cost. Most hospital referrals were pregnancy-related (over 49 per cent). Other referrals included gastro-digestive problems (14 per cent), Trauma (six per cent), neonatal (six per cent) and general surgery (five per cent). Some 946 individuals received clinical and social consultations through IMC's outreach and centre based services. UNHCR and IMC continue to refer patients who are unable to cover the remaining 25 per cent fees to partner agencies.

Also this week, around 3,133 individuals received awareness sessions on health, mental health, early marriage, and gender-based prevention violence provided by UNHCR and IMC through primary health care centers and mobile visits nationwide.

Mental health support continues to form an essential part of the health programme. Over 850 clinical and social consultations were provided this week at public health centers and through outreach visits. UNHCR and IMC have also increased their focus on youth, working closely with adolescent groups to address reported feelings of boredom, hopelessness, isolation, depression and anxiety.

SHELTER

Over 6,700 refugees received shelter assistance within this week. This included cash for shelter, cash for host families, weatherproofing current shelters and the rehabilitation of collective shelters.

An increasing number of evictions in some areas of Lebanon has been observed during the past weeks, due to rising tensions between Syrian refugees and host communities. This is particularly noted in informal settlements, and presents a challenge to find alternative accommodation for these refugees, especially as the winter months approach. UNHCR continues to advocate with the Government to establish two transit sites in the North and Bekaa as part of contingency planning, but no official decision with that regard has been made.

Agencies are continuously working to identify shelter for refugees throughout the country. NRC and UNHCR will rehabilitate three large collective shelters located in Nabatieh district: Kfarouman, Kfarsir and Zawtwar. The Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF) is rehabilitating 34 host houses accommodating 380 refugees in the Chouf. Also in Mount Lebanon, a total of 16 host houses out of 26 under rehabilitation have been completed by CHF. In South Lebanon, UNHCR and UN-Habitat will also rehabilitate 400 houses until end of the year.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

CISP introduced 76 WASH facilities including showers and toilets in Abu Samra, Hay El Tenak and Haws Al Hamman (including the rehabilitation of two public water taps), and assessed WASH needs in Hay el Tenak.

Efforts are underway on winter preparations especially in flood prone shelters (informal tented settlements in West and Central Bekaa, and points close to the Litani river). Rehabilitation of these shelters is underway in the latter areas to preempt possible negative repercussions while relocation options for those living in critical areas are being considered.

CHF and UNHCR provided generators for four municipalities (Chhim, Wardaneih, Sibline, Mgeireih), which will be used to operate the water pumps in these villages.