

Key figures

833,685	individuals registered or pending registration
78%	women and children
39%	persons with specific needs
23%	children at risk



A refugee woman participating in a vocational training course @ UNHCR /B.Ahmed

November developments

Community mobilization

- 116 out of a target of 200 refugee outreach volunteers (ROV) are now mobilized to reinforce linkages and trust with refugee communities. ROVs alert UNHCR to critical protection and assistance gaps and have, to date, referred 1,164 families at risk to UNHCR, 56% of whom required immediate attention.

Livelihoods and self-reliance

- 3,500 persons (40% Lebanese) engaged in life-skills activities.
- 2 livelihood centers offering job matching, targeted trainings and referral to micro-finance were established in November; another one is underway.

Social cohesion and conflict mitigation activities

- 200 youth trained in conflict resolution.
- 8 senior mediators trained in conflict resolution and mediation.
- 167 young basketball coaches trained and 1,080 children from both local host and refugee communities engaged in positive communication through play.
- This month a total of 11 Community Support Projects (CSPs) were completed and 106 new CSPs started.

Specific needs case management

- Case management committees (multi-functional teams) have been established in all field offices to resolve complex protection cases.
- Some 7,900 individuals have benefitted from emergency cash assistance this year.

Achievements January – November

Activity	 individuals reached Jan- Nov	 2013 Target
Specific needs cases referred	21,516	9,000
Livelihoods trainings	3,500	3,500
Conflict resolution trainings	375	100
Refugee outreach volunteers	116	200
Community centres established	22	37

Needs

The official refugee population in Lebanon is now above 830,000 and soon one in five persons in the country will be a Syrian refugee. The UN Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR) concluded in mid-2013 that 72% of refugees are financially unable to address their own basic needs. In addition, many refugees suffer from psychosocial distress related to their displacement. In Lebanon, both refugees and vulnerable Lebanese are severely affected by the effects of the conflict particularly due to overstretched public services, diminishing job opportunities, and inflation in the price of basic goods. The World Bank impact assessment (ESIA) from September 2013 estimates that during 2014, 170,000 Lebanese will be driven into poverty and up to 320,000 will become unemployed due to the crisis. Financial hardship is pushing refugees to adopt negative coping mechanisms to survive and Lebanese to react negatively to the refugee presence. Curfews imposed on refugees in local villages, and recent evictions of refugees from apartments and land used for informal settlements are testament to growing tensions between Lebanese and refugee communities. Women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons in refugee and host communities most exposed to the associated protection risks like harassment, exploitation, discrimination, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), human smuggling and trafficking.

Challenges

Overstretched social services: The specific needs and trauma among refugees are very high. National health, legal and social systems require additional support to expand services, especially for the specific needs of women and children.

Dispersed refugee population: Refugees live in close to 1,600 different locations in Lebanon. This makes information dissemination and outreach even more important for refugees.

Limited job opportunities: Livelihoods and self-reliance are priority for refugees but jobs within established markets are numbered. Diminishing salaries and opportunities linked to an increasing workforce have brought about tensions and restrictive government policies regarding livelihoods programmes for Syrians.

Increasing tensions: Tensions are building in refugee-hosting communities threatening the continued protection space for refugees in Lebanon, especially women and children.

Strategy

To effectively address vulnerabilities and safeguard protection space for refugees in the country, the strategic priorities of UNHCR are:

- to assist refugees most in need with basic services;
- strengthen outreach with refugees and host communities;
- empower and promote self-management in communities;
- increase livelihood opportunities and promote social cohesion among Lebanese and Syrians through dialogue and community support projects.



Refugee women in the “Basketball for Peace” programme implemented by Right to Play in Tripoli, Lebanon @ UNHCR/ S.Baldwin

UNHCR implementing partners

Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Social, Right to Play, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Search for Common Ground, International Alert, UNDP, Al Majmoua, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).