

Community Support Programme

November 2013

Key figures

232	Total number of locations prioritized for UNHCR CSP interventions*
132	Locations benefitting
98	CSPs completed (2011-2013)
147	CSPs on-going
USD 11 m	Funds allocated
100%	Funding level

*Prioritization based on 2004 MOSA/UNDP poverty survey, concentrations of refugees and reported incidents.

November developments

- Projects include waste management support through the procurement of waste and water trucks as well as support to youth through provision of computer and information technology training courses.
- Over 5,581 Lebanese and 18,924 Syrian refugees benefitted from Community Support Projects (CSPs) completed this month in West Bekaa, Zahle, South (Tebnine, Nabatiyeh and Bent Jbeil) and Mount Lebanon (Aley District).
- 3,500 persons (40% Lebanese) engaged in livelihood training activities between January and November.
- The CSP review committee (MOSA, UNHCR and UNDP) endorsed 117 new projects in the sectors of water, health, education, training, livelihoods social cohesion, sanitation and solid waste management. 106 CSPs began implementation during November.

Achievements: January - November 2013

Activity	Number of Projects	Completed	Ongoing
Community infrastructure and services	156	38	118
Training for livelihoods	15	5	10
Social cohesion	36	17	19
Total	207	60	147



Waste and water trucks delivered to the Al Qaytee Union of Municipalities in Akkar, with the President of the Union, Mr. Ahmad El Mir, and other heads of municipalities @ UNHCR

Needs

The presence of over 833,600 Syrian refugees in close to 1,600 locations in Lebanon is placing an immense strain on host communities, many of which were already among the poorest in the country. As the country grapples with its own political and internal divisions, the additional pressures brought on by a massive refugee influx are fraying nerves. There is a growing sense that the Lebanese are being asked to continue to accommodate a seemingly endless stream of refugees, without commensurate support. UNHCR is working to address the urgent needs of host communities in 232 prioritized locations in Lebanon. UNHCR needs to continually evaluate and update the communities in need, and is currently working on an updated needs assessment for the planning of future CSPs.

Challenges

A recent World Bank assessment¹ estimates that the Syrian crisis has cost the country billions of dollars in lost economic activity. With more people in the labour market, wages are dropping and unemployment rates of Lebanese have reportedly increased. Vulnerable Lebanese are feeling the effects, as they compete for the same basic services as refugees. Consequently, tensions between Lebanese and refugee communities in some areas are on the rise. In many host communities, particularly in areas where large number of refugees live, increased support is needed to ensure access to the already fragile electricity, water, sanitation, transport, health and education sectors. UNHCR is working to ensure that CSPs are responsive to the needs of host communities.

Strategy

The overarching goal of UNHCR's community support programme is to ensure protection space by supporting communities that are hosting refugees, as well as by providing individual support. Efforts to this end will include:

- Infrastructural interventions at the community level;
- Enhancing livelihood opportunities of host communities and refugees through skills training, capacity building and enhancement of production capacities; and
- Identifying and addressing both the real and perceived causes of conflicts and tensions attributed to the presence of Syrian refugees through social cohesion projects;
- Strengthening community capacity for dispute resolution and conflict management in affected host communities throughout Lebanon;

The Government of Lebanon, as well as host communities, refugees, civil society and local leaders, will continue to be involved in the identification of needs and conflict risks, as well as in the planning and implementation of the broad range of interventions benefitting host communities and refugees.

UNHCR implementing partners

Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Relief and Development (IRD), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), International Orthodox Christian Charities, USA (IOCC-USA), Right to Play, UNDP, UNOPS, Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), ACTED, CISP, Al Majmoua, Oxfam GB, Concern Worldwide.

¹ 'Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict', World Bank, 17 September 2013