

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE: LEBANON INTER-AGENCY UPDATE

February 14, 2014

#FutureOfSyria

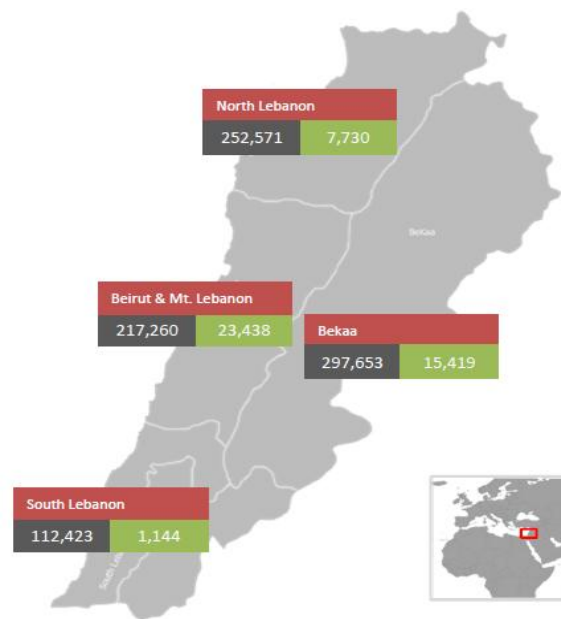



LEBANON

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- Over 600,000 refugees benefited from food assistance so far in February;
- More than 32,000 individuals received a range of core relief items;
- 10,600 refugees participated in health awareness sessions;
- More than 11, 000 individuals benefitted from various types of shelter support;
- Some 7,000 individuals received access to primary healthcare services;
- Over 1,900 Syrian students attended remedial classes;
- An estimated 500-600 families arrived in Aarsal from different areas in Qalamoun;
- 12,500 persons registered with UNHCR this week.

PROTECTION, REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS



	927,638	Total
	879,907	Registered
	47,731	Awaiting

Over 12,500 persons registered with UNHCR, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to 927,600 (879,900 people registered and 47,700 awaiting registration).

PROTECTION

Humanitarian partners responded to the arrival of an estimated 500-600 families in Aarsal between 10 and 14 February. The new arrivals are coming from the towns of Sahel, Jreijeer, Flita and Yabrud in Qalamoun region, where military operations are reported to have substantially escalated in the last two days. Humanitarian partners have been on the ground since Tuesday to support municipal authorities in providing food and other relief supplies.

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UNHCR and partners held participatory assessments with refugees in several areas in the North, targeting different age groups as well as minorities, to better identify needs and inform programmatic interventions. Common concerns and needs identified by the refugees included access to education, recreational activities for children, psychosocial support as well as livelihood opportunities. Refugees were informed about available services and gaps incorporated in future response.

Community-level and household monitoring visits were undertaken by IRC in 21 villages across Mt. Lebanon and Akkar, and included information sessions on health, education, birth registration, registration with UNHCR, and legal services.

DRC inaugurated a protection desk in the new-comers distribution site in the southern city of Sidon, where information about registration, relief supplies, cash for rent and health services are provided. Desks are already operational in distribution sites and collective centers in other areas (Tripoli, Akkar, Central/West Bekaa).

Some 140 legal consultations and four legal awareness-raising sessions on were provided by IRD in their legal centers in Tripoli and Akkar, in close coordination with UNHCR. The sessions focused on birth registration, property law and other legal issues.

In addition, 20 social workers, health personnel and lawyers were trained on gender-based violence prevention and response by Heartland Alliance and UNHCR.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROJECTS

More than 250,000 Lebanese and Syrian nationals benefited from completed community support projects including the installation of solar public lights, the provision of generators and waste management support to various municipalities in Tripoli, South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon.

*Over 250,000
Syrians and
Lebanese stand to
benefit from
community support
projects*

FOOD SECURITY

So far in February, 600,000 registered refugees received food assistance in the form of ATM cards, food coupons or food parcels by the World Food Programme (WFP).

In order to ensure that those most in need are receiving assistance, more than 30,000 families were visited by verification teams and assessed for re-inclusion in the distribution mechanism this month. Of all visited families so far, 23 per cent have been re-included in the food assistance schemes.

As part of its vaccination programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) held a three-day training on surveillance and outbreak investigation of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) – animal diseases that have the potential to adversely affect human populations. More than 30 experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, field veterinarians, livestock technicians and engineers working in the areas close to the border with Syria were trained on veterinary epidemiology, types of surveillance, questionnaire design and outbreak investigation. Improving the surveillance system in Lebanon and in the region in general is crucial considering the increasing threat of TADs coming from Syria where veterinary services have been significantly disrupted during the last three years. The ultimate aim of the programme is to reduce the number of dying or malnourished animals in order to preserve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable Lebanese and refugee livestock keepers, who rely on their animals as the only source of income.

The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) supported a community kitchen in the region of Minyara (Akkar) in distributing food portions (hot pots) for vulnerable refugee families in the region. A group of six women (Syrian and Lebanese) worked together in the kitchen to develop menus, purchase local food, cook different types of healthy traditional meals and assist in the distribution process. This week, 720 food pots benefiting 240 families in the regions of Kousha and Halba (Akkar) were distributed.

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DISTRIBUTION

More than 32,000 individuals received mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, fuel vouchers, stoves and other household items provided by agencies nationwide.

In Aarsal, core relief items including mattresses, blankets, stoves, fuel vouchers and kitchen sets were distributed to alleviate the immediate needs of 428 newly arrived refugee families. A new barcode system which scans IDs/passports was used to speed up identification for distribution. Stocks are in place to respond to further new arrivals.

SHELTER

More than 11,000 refugees benefitted from various types of shelter support nationwide including the distribution of cash for rent and cash for host families, the rehabilitation of collective shelters, weatherproofing activities, support to informal tented settlements and the distribution of sealing off kits.

Additionally, some 1,000 Lebanese returnees, who had been living in Syria and had to flee due to the ongoing events, received cash for shelter support from the International Office of Migration (IOM).

In Aarsal, the majority of new arrivals have settled in tented settlements still under construction, existing tented settlements inside Aarsal in addition to private accommodation. Many are also being hosting by Lebanese families or relatives. The shelter situation however remains extremely challenging. Agencies are working with the local authorities and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) in order to identify additional shelter options in case of further influxes. DRC was also able to identify 100 empty shelter units within collective shelters in West and Central Bekaa and will be made available to Syrian families.

EDUCATION

Over 1,900 refugee students attended remedial classes provided by Amel Association. Additionally, over 260 out-of-school children were assisted with Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) classes in the Bekaa.

11,000 refugees received various types of shelter support s types of shelter support

1,900 Syrian children attended accelerated learning programme classes

A workshop was held amongst all partners working on education focusing on the non-formal education response to refugee students who have not been able to enroll in Lebanese public schools. The workshop was organized by all education partners working on the response, in collaboration with the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD). This workshop aimed at harmonizing the approach in reaching out-of-school children who may have missed up to three years of school education.

HEALTH

Close to 7,000 individuals received primary health care services provided by UNHCR, Amel Association, IOCC, and the International Medical Corps (IMC). Another 2,949 refugees benefited from primary healthcare consultations provided through mobile clinics.

A further 10,667 people participated in health awareness sessions on a number of health issues including family planning, and pre- and post natal care.

IOCC, UNICEF and UNHCR conducted training to primary and secondary healthcare providers on the treatment and management of malnutrition. So far, these trainings have been conducted in 50 primary health care centers.

IOCC is also working on the establishment of a nutrition surveillance system to improve the screening of malnutrition at the primary health care level in 40 selected primary health care centers. Active community screening for malnutrition is now taking place amongst children between 6-59 months and below 2 years of age respectively. All children identified with malnutrition are being immediately referred for treatment at the assigned primary or secondary healthcare centers. When no equipped health care centers with trained staff were available in the area, IOCC staff provided on-site treatment. Over the past week, four out of 854 screened children between the ages of 0-59 months in the South and Bekaa were diagnosed with malnutrition and provided with immediate treatment.

*Over 7,000
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WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE (WASH)

*Some 31,300 Syrian
and Lebanese
individuals benefited
from WASH
activities*

Over 31,300 individuals residing in central and west Bekaa received hygiene and baby kits distributed by UNHCR, UNICEF, World Vision and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

In Aarsal, the increasing concerns about the sanitation and hygiene of new arrivals from Qalamoun are being addressed by UNHCR, ACF, IOCC, Intersos, Oxfam, and the Union of Relief and Development Associations. In order to alleviate the situation, agencies are providing latrines and water tanks to the informal tented settlements.

DONORS

USA, Kuwait, EU, Japan, UK, Germany, Australia, Norway, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Russia, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Italy, Ireland, Austria, Republic of Korea, Spain, Luxemburg, Estonia, Czech Republic, Iceland, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Chile, Mexico, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Slovakia.

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AGENCIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

