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DIRECT BENEFICIARIES ASSISTED BY DRC IN 2013

350,000

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES (INCLUDING LEBANESE) ASSISTED BY DRC IN 2013

445,700

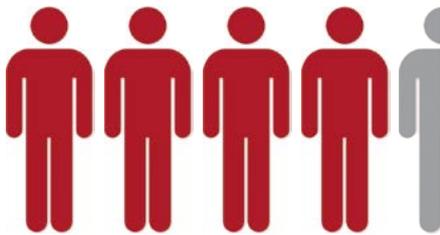
SYRIAN REFUGEES REGISTERED AND AWAITING REGISTRATION WITH UNHCR BY DECEMBER 2013

858,641

GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON IN NOVEMBER 2013

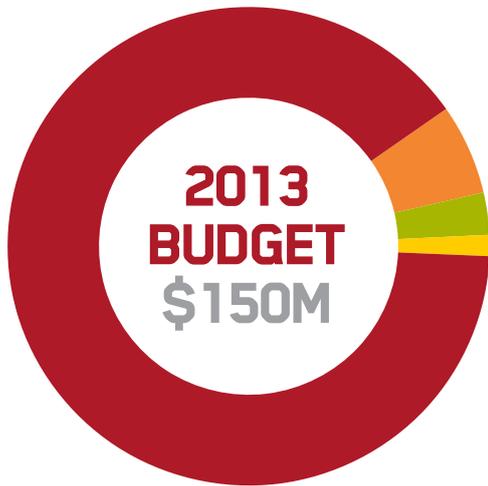
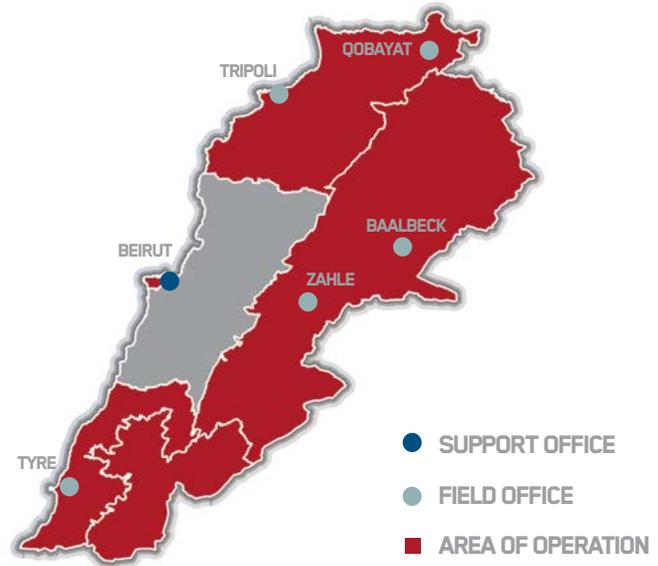
1,200,000

### STAFF IN 2013

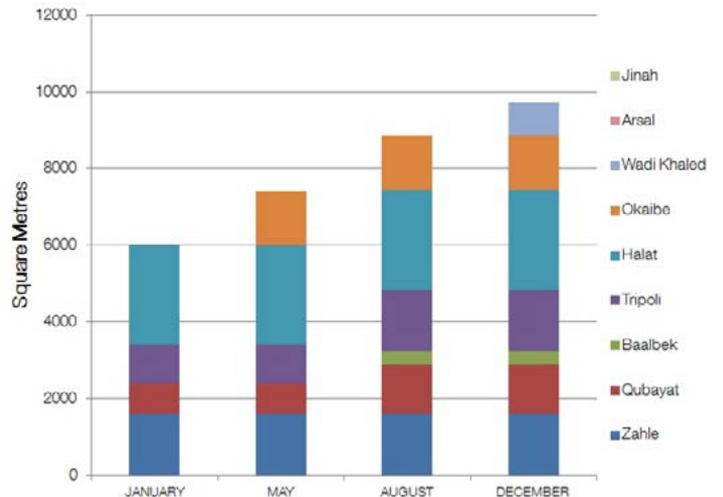


400 NATIONAL

50 INTERNATIONAL



- PROTECTION
- SHELTER
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- DISTRIBUTION



Capacity of DRC Warehouses across Lebanon



*Daily visit by the Collective Center Management (CCM) team to Kherbet Daoud Collective Shelter, Akkar, North Lebanon, December 2013*



*Unfinished buildings, Aarsal, North Bekaa, December 2013*



*Ghazze, West Bekaa, May 2013*



*Collective Shelter, North Lebanon, May 2013*

# OVERVIEW

## The Danish Refugee Council

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a humanitarian, non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1956 that works in more than 30 countries throughout the world.

DRC globally fulfills its mandate by providing durable solutions to conflict-affected populations around the world, and by advocating on behalf of refugees, internally displaced populations and host communities. We define “durable solutions” as the means by which the situation of refugees can be permanently enhanced, enabling them to live dignified lives. Durable solutions can be voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement.

DRC provides assistance in an impartial, inclusive and neutral manner, on the basis of humanitarian principles and the Human Rights Declaration, and adhering to the Code of Conduct of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

## DRC in Lebanon

The Danish Refugee Council has been operating in Lebanon since September 2004. The focus of the organization has shifted over time as the country’s needs changed.

DRC’s main focus in Lebanon in 2013 has been on providing emergency assistance to refugees from Syria, and on developing the capacities of hosting communities across Lebanon. The emergency response program focuses on four sectors of intervention: Protection, Direct Assistance, Shelter/Community Center Management, and Community Development.

In parallel, the organization’s Development Programme works with Migrant Domestic Workers and Women at Risk.

# MAIN PROJECTS

Projects	Expenses (USD)	Area (s)	Targeted population	Donor
<i>Emergency response for displaced Syrians</i>	\$ 64,091,127	<i>North, Bekaa and South Lebanon</i>	<i>Syrian refugees</i>	<i>The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</i>
<i>Emergency food distribution to displaced Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese host families</i>	\$ 63,915,297	<i>North Lebanon and Bekaa</i>	<i>Syrian Refugees</i>	<i>The World Food Programme (WFP)</i>
<i>Emergency assistance to conflict and displacement affected populations in Syria and neighbouring countries</i>	\$ 18,494,193	<i>North, Bekaa and South Lebanon</i>	<i>Newly arrived and non registered refugees</i>	<i>The Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Commission (ECHO)</i>
<i>Protection of women at risk in Lebanon</i>	\$ 1,079,343	<i>South ,Beirut and Mount Lebanon</i>	<i>Women at risk and Migrant Domestic Workers</i>	<i>The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)</i>
<i>Enhanced Protection Mechanisms for Displaced Syrians in Northern Lebanon</i>	\$ 769,276	<i>North Lebanon</i>	<i>Syrian refugees</i>	<i>The Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM)</i>
<i>Emergency Child Protection response for conflict affected populations in Lebanon</i>	\$ 722,404	<i>North, Bekaa and South Lebanon</i>	<i>Syrian refugees</i>	<i>The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</i>
<i>Regional emergency assistance to populations affected by the Syrian crisis</i>	\$ 511,672	<i>South Lebanon</i>	<i>Syrian refugees</i>	<i>The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)</i>
<i>Emergency Assistance (Private funds)</i>	\$ 292,160	<i>South Lebanon</i>	<i>Palestinian refugees</i>	<i>Erik Thunes</i>
	\$ 267,610	<i>South Lebanon</i>	<i>Syrian refugees</i>	<i>POLITIKEN</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 150,143,082</b>			





# NEWCOMERS

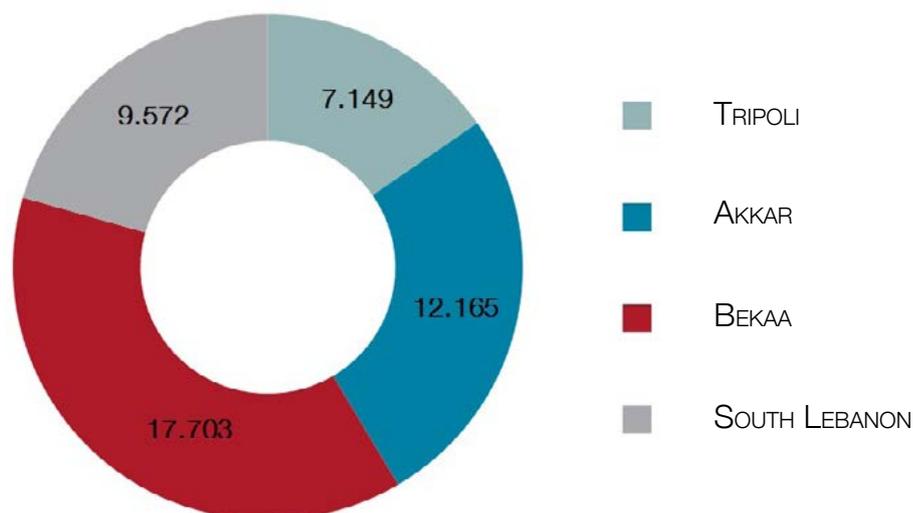
# PROGRAMME

Families from Syria often go through multiple internal displacements before crossing the border into Lebanon. By the time they arrive in Lebanon, they have exhausted their resources and are in dire need of assistance.

The average waiting time to complete registration with UNHCR in Lebanon – and receive humanitarian assistance - is between 25 and 30 days. To address this gap, DRC's newcomers programme was conceived in collaboration with the European Commission – Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO), to provide basic materials to unassisted and unregistered new arrivals.

DRC reaches out to new arrivals in Lebanon with the help of local volunteers, actors and authorities that help identify and refer newcomers in their community. As soon as a new family is identified, DRC's newcomers team visits them and assesses their situation to determine the material and psychosocial support they need. The collected information is then shared internally - with DRC's distribution, protection, and shelter teams – and externally, with other specialized agencies, as appropriate. This process ensures that households receive a comprehensive assistance package customized to their specific needs.

**In 2013, DRC was assisting approximately a third of all newly arriving refugees in Lebanon.** This is the equivalent of 25,000 people assessed and assisted, out of the 75,000 total number of arrivals per month.



Number of newcomer households assisted

**DONORS:** ECHO, WFP, UNICEF, DANIDA, UNHCR, POLITIKEN

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## AARSAL INFLUX

On November 15, **the first major influx of refugees into Lebanon since May 2013 occurred in the Northern Bekaa village of Aarsal.** Approximately 20,000 individuals arrived in the village, already home to 30,000 refugees, putting significant pressure on various aid agencies. **In response, DRC activated its emergency plan and shifted more than 100 staff from different sectors and areas to Aarsal.** DRC deployed a rapid assessment team and to help the local municipality identify new arrivals to the area. DRC assisted through protection monitoring and interventions, provision of food and non-food assistance, as well as technical advice for potential temporary camp solutions. The whole process from assessment to distribution was set up in coordination with local stakeholders and through close collaboration with other organisations present on the field, under UNHCR coordination.



### DISTRIBUTION

**3,923 households were assisted** with food parcels, hygiene kits, baby kits, dignity kits, mattresses, blankets and kitchen sets.



### PROTECTION

**18,470 newcomer individuals (92% of the new arrivals) identified and assessed.** A protection team of 20 staff, including child protection and child friendly space animators were present onsite to monitor the protection situation and give refugees contact information to meet their needs. To strengthen the response, four protection desks divided by sector (child, women at risk, persons with specific needs and shelter) were set up to provide information on services, fast assessment and referral when needed. At assessment level, social workers identified 272 people with specific needs and referred them to the desk to facilitate the assistance process. Also, 84 focus groups were set up by protection staff to highlight the main challenges faced by the refugees, provide counseling and emotional support and deliver hygiene and sanitation messages.



### SHELTER

**DRC immediately deployed a Collective Center Management (CCM) coordinator to provide support to UNHCR and MoSA on shelter solutions,** including potential tented settlements. Field assessment has been done to identify lands to provide a capacity of 180 HH on 4 sites.



# FROM THE FIELD



*Collective Shelter, West Bekaa, February 2013*

In February, a Syrian family of seven approached Tarik, a local resident of West Bekaa, seeking information about assistance in the area. Tarik is one of hundreds of focal persons across Lebanon that help DRC reach out to newly arriving refugees from Syria. As soon as the focal person learns of a newly arriving family in their community, they notify a newcomers team in the region, and the latter schedules a house visit to assess the family's condition and determine their needs.

The family was initially staying in a run-down one-room unit. The seven were sharing one mattress, and were under pressure to leave by the owner of the room. After the house visit by DRC's newcomers team, and a few phone calls, Tarik and the head of the local municipality began searching for an alternative and more suitable residence for the family. In parallel, and due to the urgent need for assistance, the newcomers team contacted the DRC distribution team to deliver mattresses, blankets, a kitchen set, a baby kit and a food kit directly to the family.

**The family was relocated within a few hours, and the items were delivered directly to their new home.**

"The assistance my family and I received from DRC has been more than we could have ever asked for," says Mazen, head of the household.

As the past three years have shown, the needs and vulnerabilities amongst displaced families vary. As a result, DRC adapts its operations on a regular basis to stay relevant and meet the needs of the people we serve. This would not have been possible without the assistance and flexibility of our network of focal persons, the local authorities in Lebanon, and of course the DRC field staff.

The network of local focal points and the newcomers' assessment assistance are supported through funds from ECHO, UNICEF and WFP. Shelter Support is funded through UNHCR.



*Assessment of a newcomer family , Akkar, June 2013*



*Home visit, Jezzine, South Lebanon, March 2013*



*Post-Distribution survey, Bekaa, February 2013*



*Collective Shelter, North Lebanon, October 2013*

# DISTRIBUTION & CASH ASSISTANCE

In 2013, DRC worked closely with its partners and donors to ensure the distribution of basic amenities to newly arrived refugees, and to refugees registered with UNHCR.

DRC provided in-kind assistance - food, mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, baby kits, kitchen sets – and cash assistance through UNHCR's ATM cards, and WFP's electronic cards. In addition, and as part of its winterization programme, DRC distributed cash, thermal blankets, heating stove, and fuel cards to **58,620 households** living in harsh climatic conditions around Lebanon. In rural areas where cash machines were not accessible, DRC distributed fuel vouchers and in-kind materials instead.

Distributions were carried out over monthly cycles in DRC's five regions of operation. The distribution sites were organized and monitored in coordination with local municipalities. DRC protection desks were set up at the sites to identify persons with specific needs and ensure proper follow-up and referral.

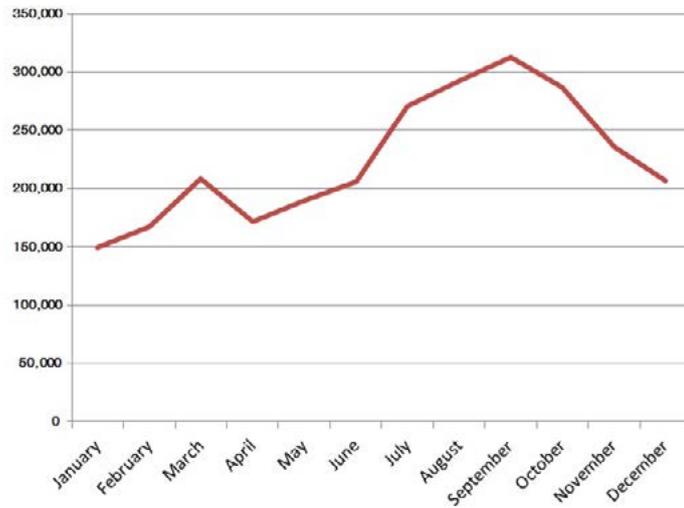
DRC used SMS to inform beneficiaries of the date and location to pick up their assistance kits. In particular cases, and if recommended by the DRC protection team, distribution staff would deliver the kits directly to the homes of people unable to attend the distribution site.

DRC also conducted post-distribution surveys with beneficiaries at distribution sites. Participants were asked to evaluate different stages of the distribution process, and feedback was used to refine and adapt DRC activities and projects.

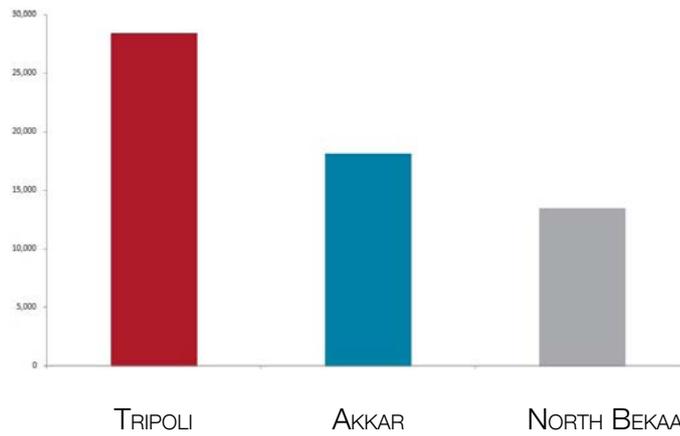
DRC and partners operate **28 distribution sites around Lebanon**: 12 in the South, 3 in Central West Bekaa, 7 in North Bekaa, 2 in Tripoli, and 4 in Akkar and had by the end of 2013 **over 10,000 square meters of warehouse** and 17 full time staff.

**The largest number of refugees reached in one month of distribution in 2013 was 25,000 newly arrived and 250,000 registered refugees.**

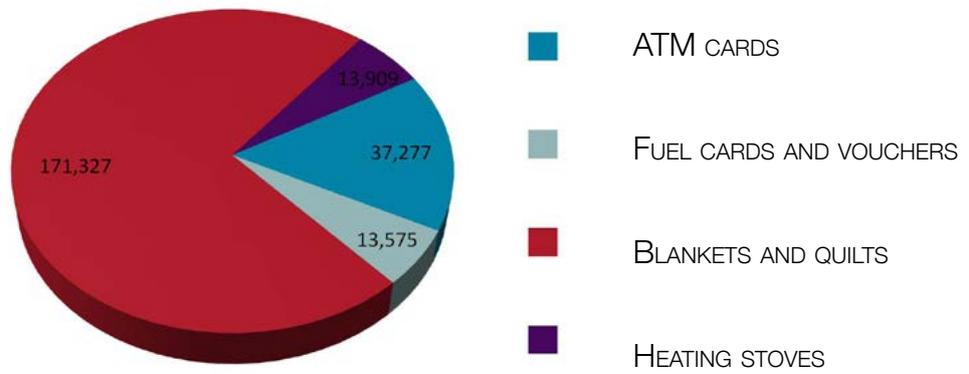
***DONORS:** UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, DANIDA, UNHCR*



Number of registered and newcomer refugees assisted in 2013



Highest number of registered households assisted in a month in 2013



Winterisation Assistance to registered and newcomer refugees

# FROM THE FIELD



It was a standard February distribution for newly arriving refugees in Ghazze, West Bekaa.

Sometime around noon, Bilal, DRC's distribution assistant was approached by a beneficiary and led towards a middle-aged woman and a man crying in embrace. The assistant tried to calm them down, offer them some help, and even ask what the problem was.

Turns out that the two are mother and son. They were separated a year and a half ago when the conflict hit their town in Syria and they began their separate journeys of multiple internal displacements. **They hadn't heard from each other since, and had no idea of each others' whereabouts.** According to DRC records, and unknown to them, it seems the two crossed into Lebanon a few weeks apart, and settled in close proximity to each other. They were assessed by the newcomers teams around the same time, and were then invited to pick up their assistance kits on the same day at the same distribution site. All by pure coincidence.



*Distribution site, South Lebanon, October 2013*



*Distribution site, Bekaa, October 2013*



*Distribution site, North Lebanon, November 2013*



*DRC Emergency Response to the Aarsal influx (North Bekaa), November 2013*

# PROTECTION

In line with DRC's Protection mandate, the overall objective of emergency response is to ensure that refugees and host communities are protected from violence, abuse, and exploitation. DRC Lebanon's protection team works through a community-based approach to build the resilience of vulnerable groups through outreach and centre-based activities. This empowers individuals and helps them overcome challenges linked to displacement.

In addition, DRC offers individual case management assistance, provision of material support, provision of psychosocial counseling and emotional support to persons with special needs.

**In 2013, 8,000 cases of Persons with Specific Needs were identified and more than 3,500 cases were referred to different service providers.**

In partnership with local NGOs, the DRC Community Development Programme operates four Women's Resource Centers that target vulnerable women in both local and refugee communities across the country. The centers who are implemented together with local NGOs offer activities that help women build their coping mechanisms through a community based approach.

**594 Women at Risk and survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)** benefited from vocational trainings, life skills activities; psychosocial group and individual support provided through the Women's Resource Centres in Akkar, Tripoli, Baalbeck and Saida.

In addition, DRC and partners established two mid-way houses in Central/West Bekaa and Tripoli, implemented through the local NGO ABAAD. These houses provide shelter and other protection services to survivors of GBV.

DRC started piloting a pioneer community mobilization project on engaging with men on GBV prevention and response (EMAP) with a local partner, KAFA.

**Child friendly spaces and mobile teams provide psychosocial support to over 2,500 children per month.**

## Key vulnerabilities identified and assisted

Specific type of need	Children/ Women/ Elderly at risk	Serious medical condition /Chronic disease	Psychosocial needs	Physically/ Mentally disabled	Pregnant women	Security issues/ Physical protection	Legal protection
Akkar	621	536	136	355	238	144	19
Tripoli	1,223	325	271	156	73	227	14
Bekaa	1,443	691	483	354	109	2	4
South	76	60	32	3	26	15	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,363</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>40</b>

**DONORS:** UNHCR, UNICEF, BPRM, ECHO, SDC



*Distribution site, Aarsal, North Bekaa, December 2013*



*Collective Shelter, Akkar, North Lebanon, September 2013*



*Newcomer's assessment, Nabatyieh, South Lebanon, June 2013*

## FROM THE FIELD



*DRC Community Center, Jeb Jennine Central-West Bekaa, November 2013*

Ali is a 20-year-old Syrian refugee who recently fled to Lebanon. He is attending English classes at the Danish Refugee Council's Community Centre in Jeb Jennine (Central-West Bekaa). He is learning how to read and write in English and has made significant progress in a very short time. "The curriculum in Lebanon is different than in Syria. Here everything is taught in English, Arabic and French. **I want to continue my studies in Lebanon and DRC's English class is an opportunity for me to achieve this goal**".



*Collective Shelter, South Lebanon, July 2013*

Mohammad fled his hometown in southwestern Syria with his wife, Zeina, and four young children four months ago. He is now living in a collective shelter in South Lebanon. **“We only came with the clothes that we were wearing that day. It was too risky to take any luggage with us”**, Mohammad says. In partnership with SHIELD, a local NGO, DRC assessed and assisted his family with a newcomer’s kit consisting of mattresses, blankets, a kitchen set and a hygiene kit before they were able to register with UNHCR. “I feel lucky to have a shelter for my family but it’s really difficult to cope with this situation as I am still unemployed”, Mohamad added. He is relying on the humanitarian assistance and on the generosity of his neighbors. “My neighbor is a doctor and provided us with some antibiotics for my children”.



*Kherbet Daoud Collective Shelter, Akkar, North Lebanon, September 2013*



*Distribution site, North Lebanon, September 2013*



*Collective Shelter, Bekaa, October 2013*



*Child Friendly Space activity, South Lebanon, July 2013*

# SHELTER

The aim of DRC's Shelter programme in Lebanon is to provide beneficiaries and host communities with a dignified and safe living environment. The shelter team identifies, assesses and rehabilitates preexisting unfinished or uninhabited buildings in collaboration with local actors and authorities.

Upon completion of the rehabilitation process, the Collective Center Management (CCM) team oversees the relocation of households into the centers, ensures the participation of all community groups in its day-to-day activities, and monitors the residents' access to basic services. This is done in coordination with the Protection team that provides direct assistance and case management to households with specific needs.

**Since January 2013, DRC rehabilitated or rented 19 collective shelters where 500 households currently reside and handed over 145 box shelters across the country**

In 2013, DRC managed 16 Collective Centers across Lebanon: 10 in Bekaa - accommodating 165 households, and 6 in Akkar - accommodating 136 households.

Based on recommendations by the protection teams, **DRC was also able to provide cash-for-rent assistance to 2,368 vulnerable households in Zahle and 1,200 in Tripoli.**

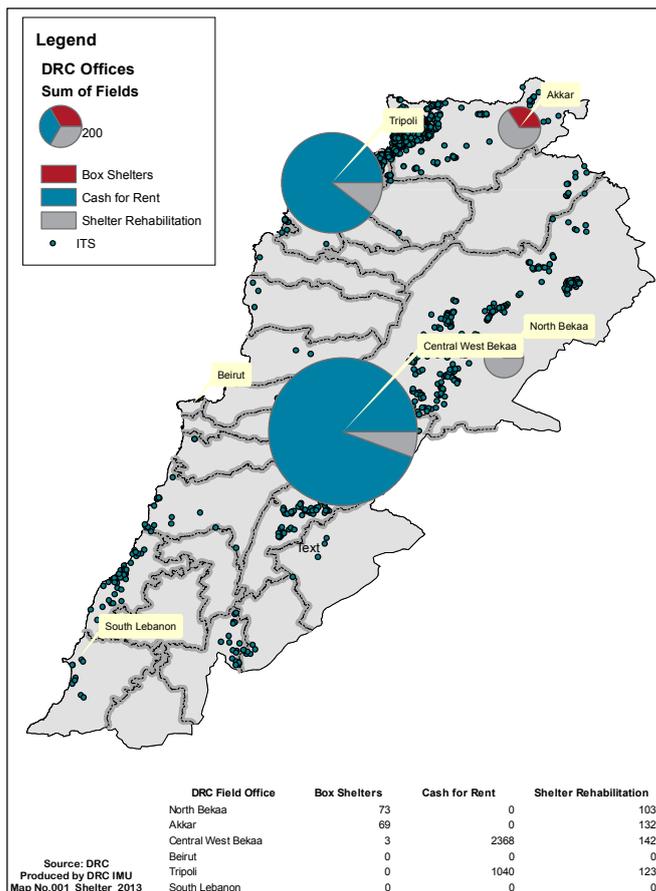
*DONORS: UNHCR*



Box Shelter, Akkar, North Lebanon, September 2013



Box Shelter placed within the perimeter of a collective shelter, North Lebanon, September 2013



# FROM THE FIELD



*Collective Shelter, Akkar, North Lebanon, September 2013*

Aisha left the city of Homs, Syria a year ago with her husband and her three children. She first sought refuge in central Syria before crossing the border into Lebanon.

**“We arrived in Saida (South Lebanon) during winter time. We didn’t have warm clothes and had nowhere else to sleep. So we slept on the beach”.**

A generous Lebanese woman gave them some money to travel to Akkar (North Lebanon) where some of their relatives were already settled.

In Halba, Aisha and her family were able to benefit from DRC’s newcomers’ assistance consisting of food and non-food items. Her husband who is physically disabled was referred by DRC’s Protection team to a service provider in order to receive assistance and support, and her children are now enrolled in a Lebanese school that runs a second shift to allow more Syrians to continue their education.

**Following newcomers assistance, the family registered with UNHCR and were found to be eligible for relocation into one of the 19 collective shelters that DRC rehabilitated in 2013.**

The collective center where the family is currently residing is managed by DRC’s Collective Center Management (CCM) team. Aisha was recently elected by residents of the center where she lives, to represent them on a committee that manages the everyday aspects of life at the center. The committee includes other members elected by center residents, and it works in coordination with the DRC CCM team to address issues at the center in an inclusive manner, empower residents, and build their capacity for self-management.

“After this long walk from Syria, I am blessed to be safe with my loved ones, and to feel useful to the community around me”.



*Collective Shelter, South Lebanon, August 2013*



*Collective Shelter, Bekaa, October 2013*



*Collective Shelter, South Lebanon, August 2013*



*Identification of a potential Collective Shelter to be rehabilitated, Central Bekaa, March 2013*

# COMMUNITY

# DEVELOPMENT

DRC's Community Development programme aims at building the capacity of local authorities and civil society, and supporting communities affected by displacement.

The programme includes two components: 1. Community Centers and 2. Community Support Projects.

1. In 2013, DRC Lebanon operated six Community Centers across Lebanon. The centers provide displaced Syrians and locals with psychosocial support through Skills Development trainings, counseling sessions, awareness classes and recreational activities for adults and children. **In 2013, approximately 2,500 people attended Skills Development trainings and life skills activity sessions at the different community centers.**

Child Friendly Spaces have been established in all DRC Community Centres, run by the Protection team, in coordination with Community Development.

DRC also reached **1,938** people through community awareness and sensitisation campaigns across the country. In addition, **7,560** locals and refugees benefitted from community-based mobile activities at collective centers and other locations.

2. Community Support Projects (CSPs) aim at dissipating tensions and reducing pressure on hosting communities in Lebanon. The projects are conceived, planned, and implemented in consultation and coordination with refugees, members of the hosting communities and local actors and authorities. Some of the projects completed so far include the rehabilitation of medical centers, public gardens, public libraries, installation of street-lights, repair of sewage systems, and others.

**By the end of 2013, DRC had implemented 34 CSPs across Lebanon, and another 25 were still ongoing. The completed projects are estimated to have impacted the lives of more than 500,000 locals and refugees in different communities.**

***DONORS:** UNHCR, UNICEF*



*Skills Development training, North Lebanon, September 2013*



*Treasure hunt, Tripoli, North Lebanon, October 2013*



*Road rehabilitation Community Support Project (CSP), North Lebanon, October 2013*

# FROM THE FIELD



Aysha is an 18-year-old Lebanese university student. Three of her four siblings attend school, and her father's pension barely covers their living expenses, medication, and education.

Aysha is majoring in Geography at a University in Tripoli, North Lebanon. It takes her about an hour and a half to get there from her house in Akroum, further North in Akkar. Aysha's father tries his best to provide her with the money she needs to cover the cost of photocopying and printing her study materials, using the Internet for research, and transportation. But they struggle to make ends meet.

The DRC Community Development team in Tripoli identified the University students' needs and, as part of its community support program, equipped the only Study Center at the University area with two sophisticated photocopying machines, paper, laptops, desks, a high-speed internet connection, a generator, and stationary. In addition, DRC provided the center with a machine that prints IDs for students, so they can receive all the mentioned services for free.

"I used to spend around 20,000 L.B.P. (around \$USD 13) per day on photocopying, online research, and printing materials... This is the equivalent of 400,000 L.B.P. (around \$USD 260) per month. DRC has been providing me with these free services for almost three months now, and I am able to use the extra money on transportation instead. It is now also a lesser burden on my parents and they're able to pay for my siblings' education expenses" Aysha happily says.

According to the director of the Study Center, there are currently 571 students subscribed and taking advantage of services at the Study Center (428 Lebanese, and 143 Syrian).

"... The DRC community support project here is very successful," he says. "The project not only helped the students financially but also led to better integration between locals and the Syrian students"



*Public Garden Community Support Project (CSP), Tripoli, North Lebanon, July 2013*



*Skills Development training, Halba Community Center, North Lebanon, February 2013*



*Drawing class, Amayer Community Center, North Lebanon, October 2013*



*English class at the Jeb Jennine Community Center, Bekaa, October 2013*

# MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS

## *Migrant Domestic Workers*

Under DRC private funding, three partner NGOs provided direct service activities to **over 500 Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs)**, these included psychosocial activities such as outings, cultural activities and group therapy sessions, capacity building activities such as computer and English classes, and medical, legal and voluntary repatriation services. In addition, DRC supported the Migrant Community Center and the production of a film written by Migrant Domestic Worker activist, Rahel Zegeye about the trials and tribulations of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon.

Through Phase II of The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) funding, DRC continued to support the Migrant Domestic Worker Coordination Consortium. The Consortium was established in 2011 by five local organizations: Anti-Racism Movement, KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation, Insan Association, Amel Association International and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, with the support of the Danish Refugee Council and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The Consortium creates common advocacy and awareness strategies for better legal protection of MDWs, coordinates the member organizations' efforts, and collaborates towards a unified referral mechanism amongst them, thus improving services and assistance to MDWs. **This year the Consortium enabled a group of Migrant Domestic workers to participate in the Beirut marathon and to run for an end to the Sponsorship system that permits the exploitation of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon.**

*DONORS: SDC*



*Migrant Domestic Worker's Parade, April 2013*



*Migrant Domestic Worker's Day Celebration, April 2013*



*Migrant Domestic Workers running the Beirut Marathon, November 2013*

# FROM THE FIELD



**“It is important that people see us for who we are, that they can think like us, put themselves in our shoes. We are humans, sisters, daughters, mothers. We have families back home that we support, and this is our job... I am a Migrant Domestic Worker.” - Rahel Zegeye**

Rahel Zegeye sits across from me, donned in black from head to toe. Earlier that day, she learned that her older brother in Ethiopia passed away.

“... and I am unable go. I can't leave Lebanon at the moment. I'm not even sure I'll be allowed into Ethiopia if I get there.”

Rahel has been in Lebanon for 14 years. She did what hundreds of thousands of young Ethiopian girls do annually: leave home seeking employment as domestic workers in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe.

Most are unaware of the hardships that await them.

In Lebanon the current system puts the minimum wage for a migrant domestic worker at \$USD 150 per month. Many employers still do not pay up, and the law is not being implemented.

“I know many many girls who work for months on end without getting paid a single dollar. [...] If they speak up or complain, their employers can easily throw them in jail for “theft” or “violent behaviour”. No one investigates, and no one cares. I know one girl who has been in jail for nine years because her employer claims she stole a pair of earrings.”

Rahel decided to fight back in a rather unconventional way.

“My dad used to write, and I learned a bit from him in Ethiopia. [...] I used to write children's stories before moving to Lebanon.”

After a number of nightmare scenarios with some of her employers, and after hearing of others' stories, Rahel shifted back to writing.

She decided she wanted to write a movie on the difficulties faced by Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon. “It's a movie for the world! So they can see what we go through on a daily basis.”

**According to Rahel, movies can change people's perspectives, and that's what she intends to do.** Her movie, “Shouting without a Listener”, sheds light on issues that are happening in plain sight, but no one notices.

“People here and elsewhere need to understand that we are humans, we have feelings, stories, lives and we share houses with our employers. [...] If you hire a domestic worker then you need one, and if you need one then please care for her. If you respect me, I will respect you and respect your house, and everyone is happy. It's a very simple equation.”

On a personal level, writing a movie was a form of therapy for Rahel, and it opened her eyes to the issues faced by hundreds of other migrant domestic workers in Lebanon.

“Writing helped me process and understand the things I went through. [...] I also visited girls in hospitals, jails, schools, and met with other migrant domestic workers to see what they were going through and what they needed. I lived their lives and it's not pretty. I had to see it in my own eyes to believe it, and document it. I felt the need to tell their stories or their voices will be lost forever”

**DRC was able to cover all production costs for Rahel's movie. The production is now complete and editing begins in mid 2014.**

“If we had been given the opportunity at some point, I'm sure we would've made great engineers, doctors and business people. That didn't happen. But at the end of the day, work is work, and while someone's job is to be an engineer, mine is a Migrant Domestic Worker.”





# DONORS



Humanitarian Aid  
and Civil Protection



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Confédération suisse  
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Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK  
**DANIDA** | INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

**POLITIKEN**

# COORDINATION

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, DRC is working closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs MoSA and Municipalities to help them deal with the refugee influx. DRC is in constant consultation with the Lebanese Government and on the provision of special needs funds to vulnerable populations referred by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

# PARTNERS



# PRIVATE DONORS

The Danish Refugee Council would like to extend its gratitude to its private donors, whose generosity allows the organisation to maintain its activities.

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