

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE: LEBANON INTER-AGENCY UPDATE



21 November 2014

LEBANON



#FutureOfSyria

Agencies and the Government of Lebanon had requested US\$1.89 billion in the inter-agency funding appeal.

The mid-year review in June resulted in a downward revision of these requirements to US\$ 1.68 billion. US\$646 million - 38 per cent - has been received as of 15 October.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly 60,000 people received fuel vouchers and another 4,823 were given blankets in the Bekaa;
- 24,678 primary healthcare consultations were conducted;
- 17,850 refugees received food assistance through WFP e-cards;
- 10,000 people received fuel vouchers in Mount Lebanon;
- 12,500 people in Tripoli received winter quilts;
- 5,790 refugees (1,158 vulnerable households) were provided with weather proofing kits;
- 300 water tanks and 60 latrines were delivered to informal settlements in Aarsal.

WINTERIZATION

A major effort to prepare refugee families for winter is now in full swing across Lebanon. In all, UNHCR and its partners estimate some 132,000 refugee households (660,000 people) are in need of some kind assistance during the winter to keep them warm and dry. With refugees scattered across some 1,700 localities, providing that help is a huge undertaking.

The winter programme covers a wide range of activities and aid items. These include ensuring that sub-standard shelters are sealed off against the elements, and the provision of high-thermal blankets, stoves, fuel vouchers and cash to purchase various items people need to stay warm. The priorities are based largely on first reaching those living at higher altitudes and the most economically vulnerable.

In the Bekaa, where temperatures are now beginning to drop sharply, the distribution of winterization items is in its second week. During the first eight days of distribution, a total of 11,626 households (60,000 people) received fuel vouchers and 4,823 individuals were given blankets. The caseload covered so far in these distributions represents about 40 percent of those targeted.

Some 7,630 households (38,000 people) received financial support amounting to \$80, while another 4,586 households (22,500 people) received \$175 to help them make ends meet this winter.

Dar Al Fatwa (DAF) continued its distribution of fuel vouchers and jerry cans in Arsal. So far, more than 2,400 households (12,000 people) have received such assistance. DAF also started with a door-to-door distribution of stoves and has so far covered over 300 households (1,500 people). DAF's distributions to date have gone smoothly, allowing it to increase its daily coverage targets.

In Mount Lebanon, a total of eight distributions under the Winterization Assistance Programme were carried out by both ACTED and Makhzoumi Foundation. Out of 2,487 households (12,000 people) targeted to receive fuel vouchers, 1,910 households (10,000 people) have so far been reached. The total number of vouchers distributed was 22,920.

In Tyre, both \$175 and \$80 cash cards have been distributed to vulnerable refugees living between 875 and 1,000 metres. Over a two-day period, 350 households were provided cards – or about three-quarters of the 475 families targeted for such assistance.

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In Tripoli, winter quilts have been distributed so far to 2,502 of the 4,315 refugees targeted. At the UNHCR registration centre, fuel vouchers have been provided to 991 households (5,000 people) out of 1,377 targeted for such assistance. The distribution was expected to be completed by Nov. 21.

An inter-agency coordination meeting was also held on Nov. 20 in Tripoli to focus on preparedness measures in advance of extreme weather conditions which were forecast for the coming week. An emergency task force to assess needs was activated, with focal points assigned by various organizations. Assistance referral mechanisms were discussed as well as information sharing channels agreed.

PROTECTION

In cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and ABAAD, UNICEF kick started a training of trainers on the clinical management of rape in early November – an area that presents many gaps and requires much attention in Lebanon.

Twenty healthcare workers from Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) across the country have taken part in the training, with the aim of creating a pool of national trainers to address gaps in this field.

On a separate note, 5,695 refugee parents and other caregivers for children, including grandparents and other relatives, attended information sessions on where to access basic services, in addition to psychosocial support, bringing the total number of caregivers who benefited from this UNICEF programme to 121,081.

EDUCATION

Public schools continue to welcome Syrian children in the morning first shift following a mid-October decision by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE).

The donor community and UN agencies have also committed to cover enrollment costs for 45,000 refugee children in the afternoon second shift. A circular regularizing the enrolment of Syrian children in the second shift is currently being developed by MEHE in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR.

4,000 new students began attending non-formal classes

But even when efforts are maximized, current funding levels and public school capacity will only allow for the enrollment of some 150,000 children in the public education system. That means more than 200,000 children can't attend school. UNICEF and partners are working to provide non-formal learning opportunities to those children. Nearly 4,000 new students began attending non-formal classes across Lebanon this month, joining another 62,000. And at least another 1,000 students have enrolled in public vocational schools with support from UNHCR and partners.

Scores of run-down schools and community centres around the country are being rehabilitated by UNICEF and UNHCR to ensure healthy and welcoming learning environments. The focus is on ensuring that proper water, hygiene and sanitation facilities are in place. This includes gender-segregated sanitation facilities, access to potable water, as well as hygiene promotion in school. So far, 93 schools have been rehabilitated, benefitting some 26,000 students.

A UNHCR-ACTED mission from Beirut visited four schools in Qobayat area on November 17 to view ongoing rehabilitation work funded by the European Union. Of the four schools (Jdidet Al Joumi, Arida, Qlayaat and Kfartoun), two were found to be completed. The mission met with the principals of the schools to discuss the rehabilitation work, which included addition of extra classrooms. The mission also met students in Arida and Qlayaat and explained that the rehabilitations had been funded by the EU, managed by UNHCR and implemented by ACTED.

A two-week "Do You See What I See" photography workshop for young refugees wrapped up with an exhibition of selected photos taken by the participants. The closing event was attended by the children's parents and local media. The workshop and the event have received positive media attention. "Do You See What I See" workshops conducted by photographer Brendan Bannon have also been held with refugee populations in other countries, including in Jordan. A story about the project is also expected this week in The New York Times.

FOOD SECURITY

This week, over 17,850 refugees received food assistance through WFP e-cards, bringing the total number of people benefiting from the e-card system to 889,302. Over the past 2 weeks, some 2,338 newly arrived Syrian refugees waiting for registration received food parcels.

Some 2,250 refugees living in informal settlements in the Akkar and Aarsal received bread and meals from the Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA).

HEALTH

In response to reported cases of hepatitis A in Aarsal, UNHCR partners delivered 300 water tanks and 60 latrines to informal settlements throughout the area. Assessments of water quality in the area also indicated that efforts to raise awareness on chlorination have been very successful, with a large percentage of sampled trucks containing adequate levels of chlorine.

Some 250 Lebanese nurses are being trained on how to store, prepare and administer all types of vaccines in an effort to strengthen the routine immunization programme in Lebanon. The training began on October 31 in Beirut through the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the Order of Nurses, with support from UNICEF.

In 2015, MOPH, UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR will ensure the procurement of all required routine vaccines, immunisation supplies, and cold chain systems for maintaining quality. These will benefit over 257,500 children between 0-18 years of age.

In October, a total of 24,678 primary healthcare consultations were reported through UNICEF, bringing the total this year to 387,583.

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Story



In Lebanon, one in 30 Syrian refugees have suffered conflict-related injuries. The scale of this brutality has driven huge demand for prosthetic limbs – demand that far outstrips supply.

Thousands of refugees are now struggling to lead normal lives despite grave handicaps, ranging from lost limbs to blindness, burns and paralysis. UNHCR is working with partners such as the World Rehabilitation Fund to help those most in need. But the scale of the problem means much more needs to be done.

When photographer Andrew McConnell visited 12 survivors profiled, he was struck by the severity of their loss as well as the depth of their honesty and grace.

Read their story here: <http://tracks.unhcr.org/2014/10/caught-in-the-crossfire/>

5,790 refugees were provided with weather proofing kits

SHELTER

Over 5,790 refugees (1,158 vulnerable households) were provided with weather proofing kits by Medair and SCI in Central and West Bekaa.

Some 210 vulnerable refugees were relocated to a collective center and small shelter units in the Bekaa following their rehabilitation by DRC, NRC, PU-AMI and CISP in Northern Bekaa and Chouf.

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION (WASH)

In October, about 15,000 people were provided with access to safe water with support from UNICEF, bringing the 2014 cumulative total to over 493,000 people. Over 87,000 people were reached with hygiene promotion messages, bringing the total reached so far this year to 318,000.

DONORS

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, EU, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.

Contributions have also been received from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as well as from private donors, national and international organizations.

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AGENCIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT



This report is produced by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on behalf of humanitarian agencies working on the Syrian refugee response in Lebanon. The report is based on information provided by UNHCR and partner agencies. For more information, please contact Dana Sleiman at sleiman@unhcr.org or Mona Monzer at monzer@unhcr.org.