

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE: LEBANON INTER-AGENCY UPDATE



12 December 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\$659 million - 44 per cent - has been received as of 5 November.

HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP has ended its suspension of food assistance to Syrian refugees, raising more than US\$88 million in an unprecedented public campaign;
- A total of 556,851 children in Lebanon have received immunization against polio;
- More than 500,000 Lebanese and 80,000 Syrian refugees benefit from the installation and repair of 73 chlorinator systems across the country;
- A total of 11,946 consultations were conducted by primary and secondary health care services;
- School supplies worth \$1.2 million have been provided to 985 public primary schools.

WFP food assistance campaign to Syrian refugees raised US\$88.4 million, exceeding the goal of US\$64 million

FOOD SECURITY

Following an unprecedented social media campaign, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) announced on 10 December that it had raised more than US\$88 million, enabling it to reinstate food assistance to nearly 1.7 million Syrian refugees.

Thanks to substantial support from government partners in donor countries as well as from the public, WFP reported it received a total of \$88.4 million, exceeding the US\$64million it required in early December to feed refugees across the region. The additional amount will allow WFP to cover some of January's food needs as well.

"We are extremely grateful for this extraordinary support, which means that by next week, Syrian refugees in five neighbouring countries will be able to use their electronic vouchers again to buy food for their families from local shops," said WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin.

WFP's donation page is still up and running on <http://www.wfp.org/ForSyrianRefugees> and the public can continue to contribute to the provision of life-saving assistance for displaced Syrians inside Syria and in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

WATER, HYGIENE, SANITATION (WASH)

The proper discharge of wastewater throughout Lebanon is a persistent problem that pre-dates the Syrian crisis. According to a recent Minister of Environment (MOE) study, only 8 percent of wastewater in Lebanon is treated. The remainder is discharged into open lands or in watercourses.

This is an urgent problem, further aggravated by the influx of refugees. According to the MOE report, the 25 percent increase in the population now in Lebanon has led to an 8 to 14 percent increase in the amount of wastewater generated.

Informal settlements are among the most insecure areas to live – and

More than 500,000 Lebanese and 80,000 Syrian refugees benefit from the installation and repair of 73 chlorinator systems in Lebanese regions

suffer from extremely poor sanitation.

UNHCR and humanitarian partners face huge challenges in improving sites. These include the fact that many are not constructed in suitable areas for such settlements. Often, they are situated on farmland with poor drainage. In addition, site improvements and installation of proper waste treatment is prohibited by some municipalities and landlords.

UNHCR and humanitarian partners continue to advocate for measures to address these problems. Working with the Ministries of the Environment and Water and Energy, UNHCR is developing alternative waste solutions for implementation on a larger scale. These will provide needed improvements in Lebanon, benefiting all communities. They include:

- Installing bigger and more centralized holding and septic tanks;
- Using biogas digesters (closed receptacles that will accelerate the fermentation of waste);
- Connecting to local sewage networks;
- Digging trenches to channel waste water appropriately;
- Substituting makeshift latrines with environmentally appropriate ones.

Making these measures a reality requires both local cooperation and funding support from the international community.

In another development, by the end of November, UN agencies and partners had completed the installation and repair of 73 chlorinator systems, benefitting more than 500,000 Lebanese and 80,000 Syrian refugees across Lebanon.

EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon (MEHE) last month issued a circular announcing the opening of a second school shift in public primary schools for Syrian children. Classes will start at the beginning of 2015.

UNHCR is working in close collaboration with MEHE in line with the government's so-called RACE plan (Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon). The plan exclusively provides support to public schools under an agreement with the MEHE in conjunction with NGO partners who are registered with the Government of Lebanon.

UNHCR does not work with private schools or institutions, nor does it provide them with financial support. This includes ad-hoc schools outside of the purview of MEHE.

In coordination with CLMC, UNICEF has distributed school supplies worth US\$1.2 million to 985 public primary schools across Lebanon. These supplies will alleviate the financial burden on parents and contribute to the retention of students in schools. Supplies include stationary for students and teachers as well as notebooks; more than 4,000 "School-In-A-Box" kits containing supplies and material for teachers and students; and a total of 354 Early Childhood Development kits and 12 recreation kits.

PROTECTION

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

As part of the global campaign "16 Days of Activism" to combat violence against women and girls, UNICEF and ABAAD worked jointly to raise awareness on child marriage. A video animation on child marriage entitled "Marriage is Not a Game" was developed with the participation of children, adults and community leaders. It was funded by the European Union. The video highlights the risks associated with child marriage. It can be viewed on UNICEF Lebanon's Facebook page www.facebook.com/video.php?v=695696897195282.

UNHCR and the Caritas Lebanon Migrants Centre (CLMC) supported a project in which refugee children tell the story of a debt-ridden refugee family, desperate to repay their creditor. Through theater, the children show that marrying off a 12-year-old daughter to pay a family debt is not the only way.

At least 8,900 persons at risk of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) have been identified and assisted since the beginning of 2014.

"I have seen too many young girls suffer because of early marriage," said Nada, 14, who played the role of the 12-year-old-girl. "I am thrilled to be part of the play," she added.

The refugee children's parents explained that the dramatic socio-economic situation faced by families and limited access to education has prompted many refugees to resort to early marriage.

UNHCR and its partners are running protection programmes for children and women at risk, including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, torture and trauma. So far in 2014, over 8,900 persons at risk have been identified and assisted with the support of various donors, including the US, the UK, Switzerland, Canada, Germany and the Small World Foundation. More can be found at <http://www.unhcr.org/5474ab956.html>

HEALTH

Over 10,800 primary health care consultations were conducted, including treatments, referrals, medication, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, child health care and diagnostic tests. Partners included UNHCR, AMEL, CLMC, International Medical Corps (IMC), Makassed and URDA in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health through mobile or center-based clinics. Additionally, some 1,150 individuals were hospitalized this week with the support of UN and partners.

Another 15,238 individuals benefited from awareness sessions provided by UNHCR, IMC, CLMC, IOCC and URDA. Sessions covered malnutrition screening, nutritional awareness, reproductive health, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), contraception, first aid and health promotion for children.

Around 1,386 social and mental health consultations were provided by IMC in various areas in Lebanon, through its outreach and center-based services. A further 732 awareness materials and sessions were conducted on mental health, gender-based violence and early marriage.

The National Immunization Campaign for Polio was held in November with the aim of reaching 580,054 children across Lebanon. MOPH

A total of 11, 946 consultations conducted for primary and secondary health care services

*At least 7,900
refugees received
shelter support in the
past week to help
them cope with the
winter season.*

results show that 556,851 children were immunized (96 percent of the initial target).

More than 1,000 children participated in recreation activities sponsored by UNICEF in partnership with Rotary International in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and Saida. Arab Puppet Theater aimed both at entertaining participants and providing messages on polio.

SHELTER

UNHCR and partners continue to provide winter support to refugee families to protect them from the cold and rainy winter.

At least 6,280 refugees had their shelters weather-proofed through kits distributed by MEDAIR and Save the Children International (SCI) in Central and West Bekaa. In addition, more than 1,370 refugees living in six informal settlements benefited from site improvements by MEDAIR.

Almost 260 refugees benefitted from the rehabilitation of 20 small shelter units. The work was done by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in central and west Bekaa; Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF) in Chouf; and the International Committee for the Development of People (CISP) in Chebaa and Burj al Shamali in the south.

THE STORY OF ABDU

Every morning, Ahmad gently wakes his 6-year-old son, Abdu. Then he places hearing aids over the boy's ears and asks him what he can hear. It is a ritual they cherish, a moment when they remember just how much their lives have changed.

Ahmad and Abdu are Syrian refugees who fled to Lebanon over three years ago, when the war drove them from their home in Aleppo. But life in Beirut was tough for Ahmad, who struggled to find work and had to

live in a tiny flat with 10 other family members.

And there was no way to give Abdu, who was born deaf, the medical care he needed.



Now that he can hear, Abdu is learning to speak Arabic and German. UNHCR/ Marc Hofer

Hope came when the family heard they would move to Germany, through the country's Humanitarian Admission Programme. Now they live near Frankfurt. Within months of their arrival, Abdu underwent cochlear implant surgery for the second time and received two new hearing aids.

Abdu's hearing is now at 90 per cent, and he is learning to articulate his words more clearly – in both Arabic and German. He is a child discovering the sound of peace for the first time.

More stories can be found at <http://tracks.unhcr.org/2014/12/the-sound-of-peace/>

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.

AGENCIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

