

LEBANON INTERAGENCY UPDATE



30 January 2015

LEBANON CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN



#FutureOfSyria

Agencies and the Government of Lebanon had requested US\$ 2.1 billion in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) launched on 15 December 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 51,000 Syrian refugee children have enrolled in the second shift schools, with more than 7,000 on waiting lists;
- At least 45,000 Lebanese and Syrians will benefit from better sanitation and hygiene services in South Lebanon;
- More than 27,000 Lebanese people have benefited so far from the e-card food assistance;
- Around 7,300 consultations were conducted for primary and secondary health care services;
- A total of 32 community support projects were completed throughout Lebanon, out of 46 projects in total amounting to US\$ 2.9 million.

PROTECTION

Following the latest security incident on the Lebanese southern border on Wednesday 28 January, Syrian refugee families living around the area moved to nearby towns and other cities including Saida, Bekaa and Beirut. The majority returned the next day while few other families decided to leave for good.

Some families in the immediate outskirts of Arsal, Bekaa requested from the Lebanese Armed Forces a passage through the checkpoint cordon in order to settle inside the town, reportedly as a result of increased hardship and insecurity on the outskirts. Arsal's municipality facilitated the allocation of a plot of land on which 20 households have settled so far. Contingency stocks in Arsal will allow for water, sanitation and hygiene and shelter interventions in case of any increase in the number of families coming to the site. Further stocks will also be mobilized to deal in case there are urgent needs.

Back in October 2014, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and UNICEF had launched the National Plan to safeguard women and children in Lebanon. This plan, budgeted at US\$ 19 million, aims to ensure access to prevention and response services to vulnerable children and women. It also aims at building the institutional capacities of MOSA and its partners and help them better regulate the provision of services to children in need of protection.

Most recently, a follow-up meeting was held between MOSA and UNICEF. The implementation of the plan was kick-started at the end of January through directors of MOSA's social development centres (SDCs) and involved implementing partners who are working to roll out services to women and children at these centres.

EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has announced that it will release a circular to directors of the 147

second shift schools to ensure that they are open during weekends and holidays. Students will be able to complete the minimum of 750 hours required for the 2014/2015 academic school year.

Enrollment of students in second shift schools is still ongoing until end of January. Initial estimations from MEHE indicate that more than 51,000 children have already enrolled, with more than 7,000 on waiting lists.

This is encouraging, despite the reduced numbers in children who enrolled in first shift schools. As stated by MEHE, the first estimations on the enrolment of non-Lebanese children in the first shift of public primary schools indicate that there are more than 36,500 children enrolled.

Education and non-education humanitarian partners are massively engaged in outreach efforts and dissemination of information to encourage parents to enroll their children.

Discussions are ongoing to open a few additional schools that would also help alleviate pressures on transportation. Given limited budget available for transportation and the need to find sustainable alternatives, encouraging parental engagement and supporting community mobilization is crucial.

MEHE requested students who wish to sit for official exams this year to provide a signed document from the General Security Office or the UNHCR registration certificate with a recent stamped picture. UNHCR is working with the Ministry to facilitate the process.

In Mount Lebanon, UNHCR held a meeting with ten ROVs on their role in identifying refugee parents to take part in focus groups on the importance of education. These awareness activities will be taking place on a monthly basis.

In Tripoli, all second shift schools started operating on Monday 26 January. Although transportation is not provided, around 4,340 children are attending school.

In South Lebanon, public schools suspended classes following security incident at the border based on instructions from MEHE and school directors.

HEALTH CARE

The second phase of the 2014 polio campaign and the planning for third phase in 2015 were discussed in a meeting held in Beirut on 26 and 27 January 2015. Sessions involved participants from eight different countries by their Ministries of Health in addition to the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF.

Discussions focused on the successful containment of the polio outbreak in the Middle East, which prevented the spread of polio after cases were identified in Syria and Iraq. Examples were given from Afghanistan where polio is still a challenge as well as Pakistan which registered a record in 2014 that exceeded previous years. As a result, all countries reaffirmed their commitment to prevention, as well as to strengthening Routine Immunization Systems.

At least 6,100 primary health care consultations were conducted including treatments, referrals, medication, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, child health care and diagnostic tests. Consultations were provided by Amel, Caritas Lebanon Migrants Centre (CLMC), Makassed, Union for Relief and Development Association (URDA) and UNHCR in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) through mobile or center-based clinics. Additionally, some 1,200 individuals were hospitalized this week with UNHCR's support.

Another 3,500 individuals benefited from awareness sessions provided by CLMC, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), URDA and UNHCR. Sessions covered malnutrition screening, nutritional awareness, reproductive health, infant and young Child feeding (IYCF), contraception, first aid and health promotion for children.

In South Lebanon, UNHCR organized a health briefing session to refugee outreach volunteers (ROVs) to inform them about UNHCR's health strategy, available health services and how to access them as well as limitations in coverage.

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SHELTER

Since the beginning of January 2015, Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF) assessed and completed bill of quantities (a document used in tendering in the construction industry) for 34 small shelter units benefiting 66 households (330 individuals) in the Chouf area.

Out of the 34 small shelter units, eight are vacant and can accommodate 22 households (110 individuals). Furthermore, 57 small shelter units for 102 households (510 individuals) have been identified and CHF is conducting a vulnerability assessment and negotiating with landlords to facilitate the process.

The International Committee for the Development of People (CISP) completed the rehabilitation of three small shelter units in Sala'a and Burj Al-Shamali in South Lebanon, which will benefit 11 vulnerable households (55 individuals).

In partnership with Najdeh Association, Welfare Association completed the rehabilitation of 70 shelters in Shatila and Burj el Barajneh Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut. Humanitarian assistance was also provided to newly arrived families - 475 Palestinian families and 276 Syrian families - including blankets, warm clothes, hygiene kits and other relief items both in-kind and cash.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

UN-Habitat and UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at providing 45,000 people with better sanitation services. The project amounting to US\$ 2.2 million starts early February and includes:

- a. The rehabilitation of the Saida waste management system and plant,
- b. The upgrading of waste treatment in Al Ghadir and Al Rihan areas,
- c. The equipment and connection of a water well to the

Nabatiyeh water network.

UNICEF finalized earlier in January a project aimed at reducing the contamination of the spring of Yamounneh in the Bekaa Valley. *(This is to clarify that UN-Habitat is not involved in the Yammouneh project as stated in a previous Lebanon inter-agency update issued on 16 January 2015).*

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROJECTS

UN agencies and humanitarian partners completed the installation of two water pumps in Jba'a village in the South. These pumps will provide more than 12,000 Lebanese and 900 Syrian refugees with access to water.

In Tripoli, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) and Save the Children handed over jointly with UNHCR the following community support projects (CSPs):

- "Support to community projects for peaceful co-existence through education" in Kfar Hazi, Al Koura benefiting around 1,700 Lebanese and 300 Syrian Refugees;
- "Solar streetlight systems training and installation in Bcharre and Btaroun" benefiting around 10,000 Lebanese and 4,000 Syrian Refugees;
- "Establishing a public park at Deddeh" benefiting around 15,000 Lebanese and 4,000 Syrian Refugees.

Out of 46 CSPs initiated in 2014 and amounting to US\$ 2.9 million, a number of 32 projects were completed in different sectors: water and sanitation, social cohesion, livelihoods, health care and education in the North, Bekaa and Mount Lebanon.

Currently, around 14 projects are being implemented in the South. The final procurement phase of equipment was completed and delivery to municipalities is expected this coming week after it was postponed due to weather conditions.

FOOD SECURITY

Since the beginning of January, the World Food Programme (WFP) and humanitarian partners reached approximately 908,826 beneficiaries through e-cards and food parcels. Additionally, WFP and UNRWA reached out to 21,667 Palestinian refugees coming from Syria.

In the past week, CLMC distributed food vouchers in Zahle, Bekaa to 289 families. IOCC is supporting a community kitchen in the region of Minyara, Akkar for the distribution of food portions (hot pots) and bread parcels for vulnerable host and Syrian refugee families in the regions of Minyara, Halba and Tal Abbas with the support of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH). Around 720 food pots were distributed to 240 families (1,200 individuals) this week. Families also received a bread parcel with every food pot.

The second round of the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) launched in November by MOSA in partnership with various UN agencies continued. More than 27,000 Lebanese people have benefited so far from the e-card food assistance.

Food continues to be provided in Aarsal through various local organizations including Dar Al Fatwa (DAF).

WINTER ASSISTANCE

To date, a total of 341,300 litres of fuel have been delivered to 234 schools - out of a target of 548 schools - by UNICEF and humanitarian partners. In Bekaa, fuel was delivered to 71 schools; in Akkar, to 52 schools; in Nabatiyeh, to 74 schools; in the South, to 6 schools; in the North, to 30 schools; in Mount Lebanon, to 1 school.

A number of 85,000 children up to 14 years of age, living in informal settlements at high altitude, received winter assistance between November and January with at least 5,000 children in the past month alone.

In Tripoli, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) finalized a rapid assessment in 14 informal settlements affected by the storm in Koura and Batroun districts. DRC distributed 107 medium repair kits to 107 households (535 individuals) to reinforce their tents. Another 200 waterproof tarpaulin sheets were also delivered to families whose tents suffered from water leakage.

Solidarités International provided an additional 100 tarpaulin sheets to more than 50 households (250 individuals) in Minieh and Dennieh. The agency also received 5 tons of firewood donated by UNHCR to target families living in informal settlements.

The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) distributed 597 blankets to people living in Minieh and Bcharre districts. This brings the total of families receiving winter blankets to 2,641.

MOSA submitted a list of 535 vulnerable Lebanese families to UNHCR in order to facilitate the development of a distribution plan.

In Mount Lebanon, CHF assessed a total of 341 vulnerable households (1,705 individuals) in need of plastic sheets, blankets and mattresses in the Chouf District. More than 471 plastic sheets and 1,601 blankets and mattresses are ready to be delivered to these families in the coming days.

In coordination with MOSA, winter assistance is being provided to Lebanese vulnerable families. More than 292 families have received fuel vouchers of US\$ 200 each in different areas of Mount Lebanon. Criteria were set in agreement with the NPTP selection of families, living at high altitudes.

In South Lebanon, CISP distributed 35 sealing off kits to more than 38 households (190 individuals) in the towns of Hebbarieh and Hasbaya. UNHCR provided contingency stocks including 720 high temperature (HT) blankets and 720 quilts to municipalities. These stocks will enable them to respond to immediate needs in case of deteriorating weather conditions. More than 227 vulnerable Lebanese households received fuel vouchers, HT blankets and quilts.

In Bekaa, World Vision and UNHCR distributed bank cards to 10,414 households (52,070 individuals) previously assisted with fuel vouchers and an additional 1,641 newly-registered households (8,205 individuals).

World Vision and DRC are conducting household visits where 17 families have been included so far in a cash assistance programme.

UNHCR also continued the distribution of blankets and quilts to families living above 1,000 meters and registered before March 31st 2014. To date, 9,924 households (49,620 individuals) have received blankets and quilts and an additional 38,000 households (190,000 individuals) will receive assistance during the month of February (including households living between 500 and 1,000 meters).

Assistance to Lebanese families was launched in both Zahle through the Melkite Catholic Diocese and Arsal through DAF. To date, up to 500 Lebanese families have been assisted with Medco fuel vouchers (\$200 worth) and blankets (three per family). Another 1,700 families will be assisted through LRC, DAF and other local partners in the Bekaa.

DONORS

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

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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.