



SITUATION ANALYSIS - March

The total number of Syrian refugees at the end of March was 1,192,280. The imposition of admission restrictions beginning in January 2015 has resulted in a nearly 75 per cent drop in monthly refugee registrations with UNHCR, compared to the same period in 2014. A total of 45,150 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) has been recorded by UNRWA. This includes 397 persons who were registered this first quarter. The total number of Lebanese returnees registered to date is around 50,000 persons.

On 31 December 2014, the General Security Office (GSO) issued a circular introducing new entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals taking effect from 5 January 2015. Admission to Lebanon for Syrian nationals is restricted to those who can produce valid identity documents and proof that their stay in Lebanon fits into one of the approved entry categories. Seeking refuge in Lebanon is not an approved reason other than in exceptional circumstances. The Government also issued new regulations governing the renewal of residency permits. Syrians who are registered with UNHCR must pay a fee of US \$200 and in addition provide: a housing commitment (certified copies of a lease agreement or real-estate deed); certified attestation from a mukhtar (village leader) that the landlord owns the property; and a notarized pledge not to work. Some refugees are also asked to sign a notarized pledge that they will return to Syria when their permit expires or when requested by the Government. Most refugees are not able to pay the US \$200 fee, nor can they produce the documents required since most do not have formal lease agreements. In addition, there is a newly added requirement that refugees provide proof of their financial means. As a result of these measures, there is a growing sense of insecurity and unease in refugee communities. Protection partners have been following these legal changes closely and providing critical legal advice and support to refugees.

Evictions of refugees from informal settlements caused considerable concern early in the year because of harsh winter conditions and a lack of alternative shelter but the evictions rate abated towards the end of March. Some 6,800 persons had to relocate this year, mainly on orders from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in the Bekaa for being in or too close to military-sensitive areas. Another more than 6,500 persons still remain at risk of eviction. Some are relocating themselves and others are trying to find alternative local solutions. Partners are working to assist the most vulnerable among those at risk.

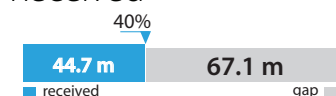
Low birth registration among newborns remains a grave source of concern, particularly for refugee children who risk being stateless and face difficulties in eventually returning home. Partners work closely with the authorities to address this concern, including through awareness campaigns and legal advice and support.



FUNDING

Required/Received

111.8 m (required)
Received



During the initial months of the year some partners may use un-earmarked global funds to ensure programmes can begin in the absence of funding earmarked specifically for the sector



PEOPLE

In Need/Target

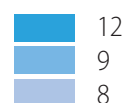
3.3m People in Need
2.2m People Targeted
Refugees: 1,815,000
Vulnerable Lebanese: 370,000



PARTNERS

19 partners in Lebanon

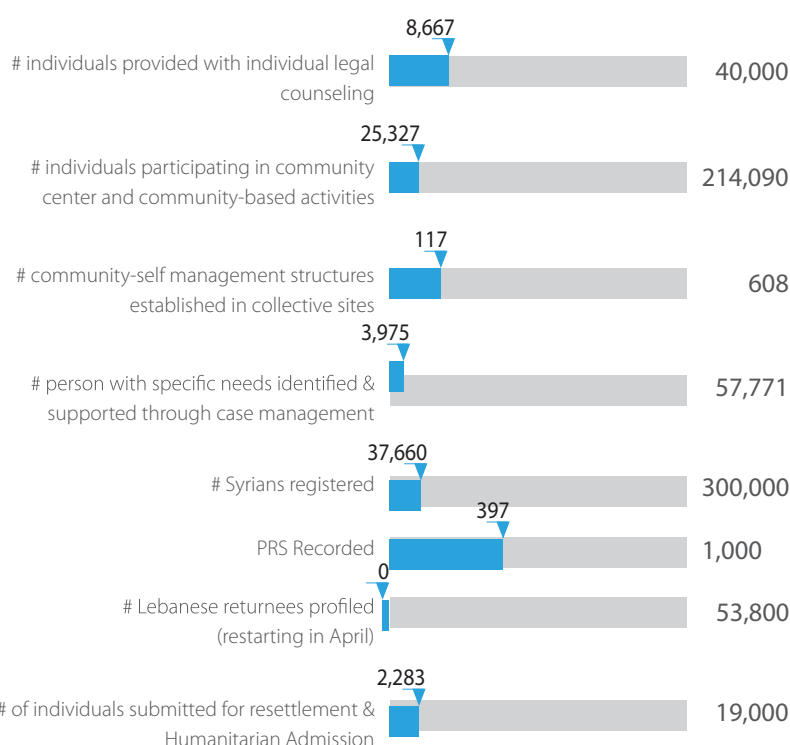
Count of partners per area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

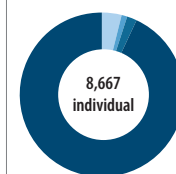
1st Quarter progress

Progress
Jan - Mar



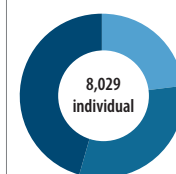
PROGRESS BY DISAGGREGATION

INDICATOR 1: # individuals provided with individual legal counseling (By type)



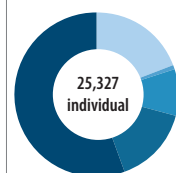
| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Documentation | 8,029 |
| Housing/Land/Property | 202 |
| Detention | 104 |
| Other matters | 332 |

INDICATOR 1: # individuals provided with individual legal counseling (Documentation: By type of documents)



| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Birth certificate | 3,642 |
| Legal stay | 2,521 |
| Other documents | 1,866 |

INDICATOR 2: # individuals participating in community center and community-based activities



| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Age < 18 | 14,056 |
| Age 18-25 | 3,762 |
| Age 26-59 | 2,269 |
| Age 60+ | 371 |
| Age not recorded | 4,914 |



Progress towards Sector Outcome and Outputs in Quarter 1

The total number of Syrian refugees at the end of March was 1,192,280. The imposition of admission restrictions beginning in January 2015 has resulted in a nearly 75 per cent drop in monthly refugee registrations with UNHCR, compared to the same period in 2014.

A total of 45,150 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) has been recorded by UNRWA. This includes 397 persons who were registered this first quarter. The total number of Lebanese returnees registered to date is around 17,510 persons.

Moving into 2015, a broader, community-based approach for protection is being more systematically implemented by protection partners. Collective site management, greater use of refugee volunteer and outreach workers, and an enhanced role for Community and Social Development Centers are all part of the approach aimed at strengthening the capacity of refugee communities to address their own and their community's needs.

Changes in Context in Quarter 1

On 31 December 2014, the General Security Office (GSO) issued a circular introducing new entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals taking effect from 5 January 2015. Admission to Lebanon for Syrian nationals is restricted to those who can produce valid identity documents and proof that their stay in Lebanon fits into one of the approved entry categories. Seeking refuge in Lebanon is not an approved reason other than in exceptional circumstances.

The Government also issued new regulations governing the renewal of residency permits. Syrians who are registered with UNHCR must pay a fee of US \$200 and in addition provide: a housing commitment (certified copies of a lease agreement or real-estate deed); certified attestation from a mukhtar (village leader) that the landlord owns the property; and a notarized pledge not to work. Some refugees are also asked to sign a notarized pledge that they will return to Syria when their permit expires or when requested by the Government. Most refugees are not able to pay the US \$200 fee, nor can they produce the documents required since most do not have formal lease agreements. In addition, there is a newly added requirement that refugees provide proof of their financial means. Not all registered refugees are in receipt of international assistance. As a result of these measures, there is a growing sense of insecurity and unease in refugee communities. Many are fearful of arrest or detention because of lapsed residency visas or are feeling increasingly vulnerable to abuse given their irregular status in the country. Protection partners have been following these legal changes closely and providing critical legal advice and support to refugees.

Evictions of refugees from informal settlements caused considerable concern early in the quarter because of harsh winter conditions and a lack of alternative shelter. But the eviction rate abated towards the end of the quarter. In all some 6,000 persons had to relocate in the first quarter, mainly on orders from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in the Bekaa for being in or too close to military-sensitive areas. Another 6,000 persons still remain at risk of eviction. Some are relocating themselves and others continue to try and find alternative local solutions. Partners are working to assist the most vulnerable among those at risk.

Low birth registration among newborns remains a grave source of concern, particularly for refugee children who risk being stateless and face difficulties in eventually returning home. Partners work closely with the authorities to address this concern, including through awareness campaigns and legal advice and support.

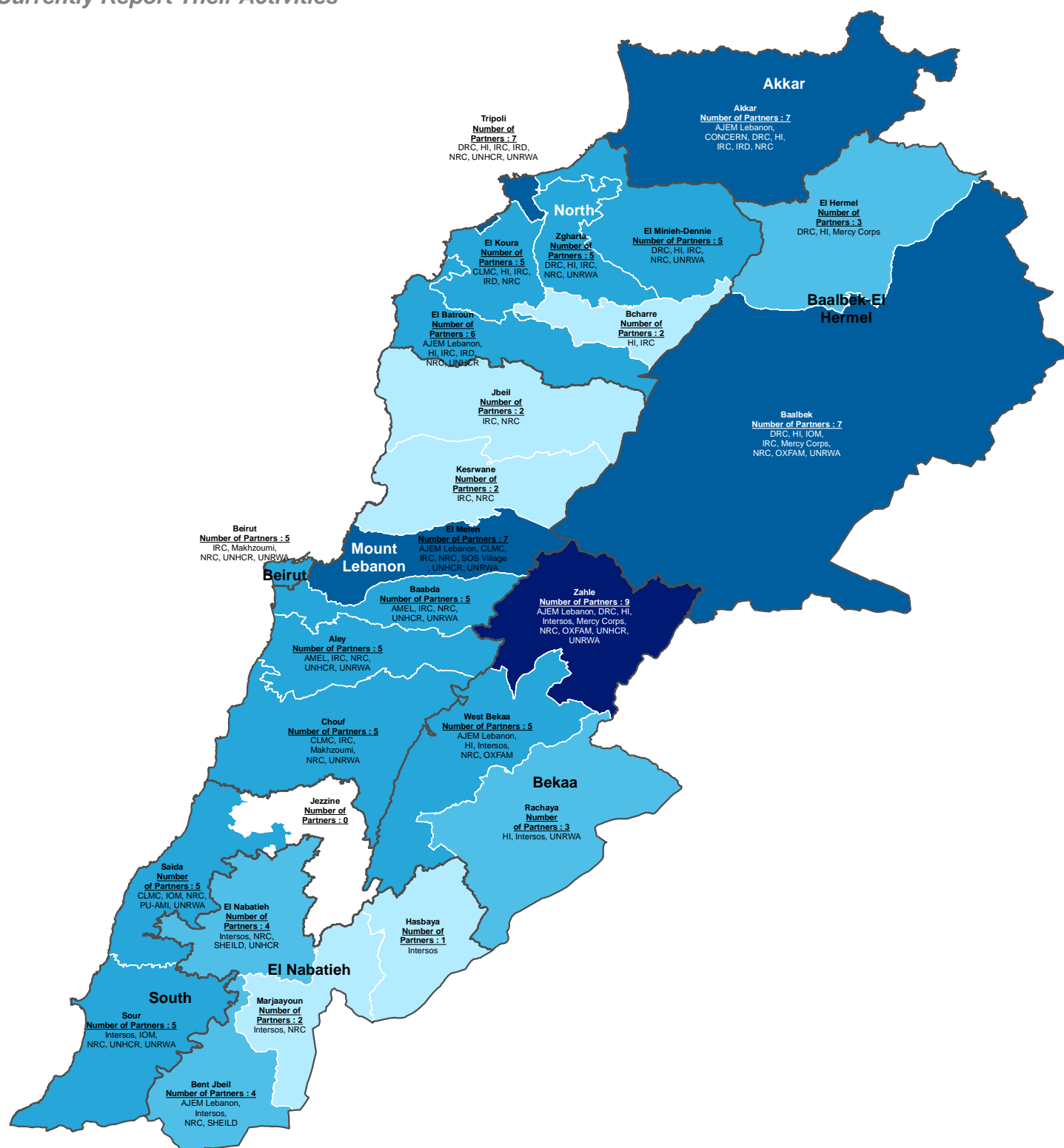
Recent surveys indicate some refugees are becoming increasingly isolated and restricted in their movements due to curfews and a lack of residency documents. They also confirmed increased financial pressures due to reduced assistance provided by humanitarian partners, which in turn leads to growing concern over child labor and early marriage.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

*A Total Number of 19 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Protection Sector, please contact:
Kiran Kaur at kaurk@unhcr.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Aung Thu WIN at wina@unhcr.org

Disclaimer:

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Legend

- Governorate
- District

Number of partner per district

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7-8
- 9-10

Reporting Partners:

AJEM Lebanon, AMEL, CLMC, CONCERN, DRC, Handicap International, Intersos, IOM, IRC, IRD, Makhzoumi, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, PU-AMI, SHEILD, SOS Village, UNHCR, UNRWA