



Refugees from Syria: Lebanon

March 2015

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Refugees from Syria: Lebanon

Introduction

The impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon has been profound. With over 1 million uprooted Syrians now living among a national population of more than 4 million, Lebanon today has the highest per capita concentration of refugees in the world. But this extraordinary generosity has come at a steep price for the country and its people.

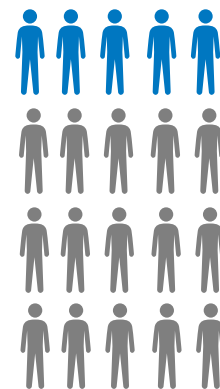
Economically, Lebanon has suffered a loss of trade, tourism and investment. Its public services and infrastructure -- fragile even before the crisis -- are now under severe strain as a result of the refugee influx. The country's security is being tested as the conflict in Syria spills across the border, intermittently throughout the country and consistently in Arsal, north Bekaa, during the last quarter of 2014. Socially, even the most remote Lebanese communities are feeling the stress. Refugees live throughout Lebanon in over 1,700 localities. Many refugees are living in communities that are among the poorest in the country. In some places, refugees now outnumber local residents.

Humanitarian appeals have been made in six consecutive Regional Response Plans since 2012. With prospects for peace in Syria still remote and the burdens borne by Lebanon and other countries in the region continuing to grow, it became increasingly apparent that a broader appeal mechanism was needed. This is now embodied in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), launched on December 18, 2014. The 3RP, comprised of separate country chapters, is a multifaceted plan to address refugee protection and assistance needs as well as to strengthen host country institutions and communities severely affected by the Syrian crisis. The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) makes up the Lebanon chapter of the 3RP.

It is co-managed by the Government of Lebanon (GOL), represented by the Minister of Social Affairs, and the United Nations, represented by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. The Plan aims to address the humanitarian needs of refugees and other vulnerable populations as well as invest in Lebanese institutions, services and systems in a manner that helps maintain Lebanon's stability throughout the crisis. These efforts engage over 50 partners. The refugee

and resilience/stabilization aspects of the collective response are led by UNHCR and UNDP respectively, alongside specialised partners such as UNICEF, WFP, and WHO.

‘ one in four
persons in
Lebanon is
displaced
from Syria,



Refugee needs are myriad, and funding has never been enough to respond to all needs nor to address the negative impact of the refugee presence on Lebanon. Partners work to respond to the most critical needs across all sectors.

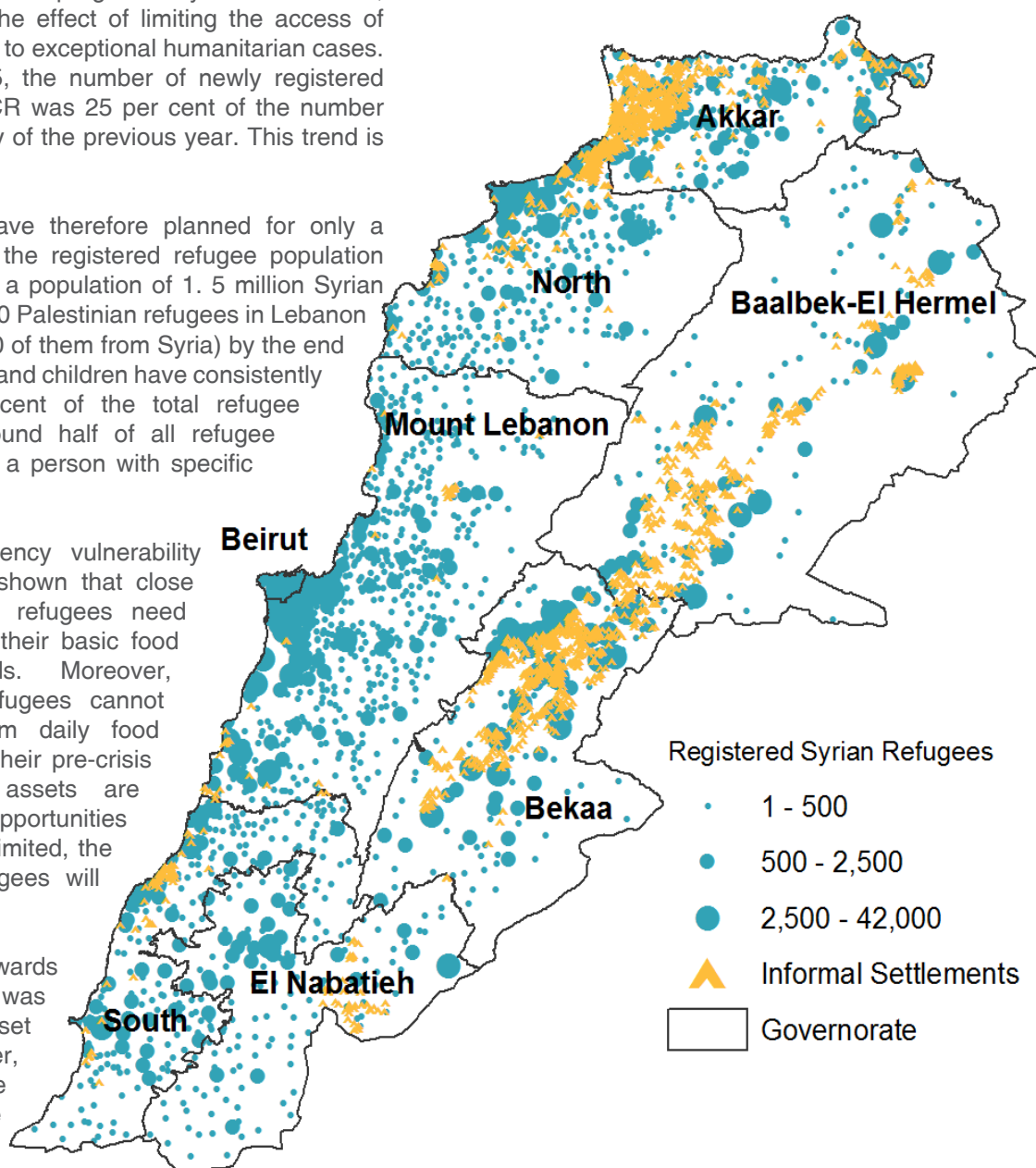
Refugee arrivals to Lebanon grew at a prolonged and unprecedented pace throughout 2013 and 2014, with 47,000 refugees on average being registered by UNHCR per month. As the conflict showed no signs of diminishing, and as the proportion of refugees to Lebanese grew to one quarter, the Lebanese government took steps to limit access to Lebanon. The GOL explained that its measures were necessary to preserve peace and stability in Lebanon. Introduced progressively from mid-2014, the measures had the effect of limiting the access of refugees to Lebanon to exceptional humanitarian cases. At the start of 2015, the number of newly registered refugees with UNHCR was 25 per cent of the number registered in January of the previous year. This trend is likely to continue.

Partner agencies have therefore planned for only a modest increase in the registered refugee population in 2015, anticipating a population of 1.5 million Syrian refugees and 270,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (an estimated 45,000 of them from Syria) by the end of the year. Women and children have consistently comprised 80 per cent of the total refugee population, and around half of all refugee households care for a person with specific needs.

Successive inter-agency vulnerability assessments have shown that close to 30 per cent of refugees need assistance to meet their basic food and non-food needs. Moreover, 70 per cent of refugees cannot meet their minimum daily food requirements. As their pre-crisis savings diminish, assets are sold and work opportunities become ever more limited, the vulnerability of refugees will increase.

Receptivity towards refugees in Lebanon was very strong at the outset of the crisis. However, as the years have progressed, the numbers increased, and the strain

deepened, receptivity has waned. The additional pressure placed on local resources, infrastructure and services is taxing the patience of communities who do not see an end in sight. Conversely, while refugees have largely good relations with their Lebanese hosts, this too is at risk of fraying. Harsher regulations imposed by the GOL is leaving many refugees feeling more and more insecure. A heightened sense of despair at their deepening impoverishment, lack of solutions in Syria, and growing intolerance towards them in Lebanon risks sowing the seeds of disaffection with the country that has taken them in.





Protection

Admission

Admission to Lebanon for refugees is tightly restricted and likely to remain so. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) indicated that it intends to increase its capacity at the border for determining those who will be admitted on humanitarian grounds. These admissions will be made on an exceptional basis. MOSA has also expressed a desire for more technical support in these areas from UNHCR, including reviewing the files of those registered with UNHCR. In this respect, protection partners continue advocating for the admission of refugees, and continue to provide technical and capacity support to MOSA and the General Directorate of General Security (GSO).

Reception

UNHCR continues to register refugees, and verifies all previously registered refugees on an on-going basis. Registration centres provide for immunization facilitated by UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), as well as counselling for persons with specific needs. All registration centres also have child-friendly spaces where children can engage in a wide range of activities. These centres are run by UNICEF and NGO partners.

In the first two months of 2015, some 25,000 refugees were newly registered, a 75 per cent reduction compared to the same period in 2014. Most of those newly registered arrived in Lebanon prior to the imposition of the most recent stringent conditions on entry.

Registration is crucial for identifying individuals who are at risk or who have special needs. The information gained from registration ensures efficient and targeted delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Residency

New residency renewal regulations impose many conditions on refugees that are extremely difficult to meet. Besides paying a USD 200 yearly fee, refugees

must also produce an attestation of lease agreement, which many do not have. In addition, refugees must produce a notarized pledge not to work, which often includes a promise to leave Lebanon when the permit expires or if requested to do so by the government. These latter requirements leave refugees open to abuse and at risk of forcible return. Taken together, these restrictions and their consequences leave refugees with a heightened sense of insecurity, and at an increased risk of arrest and detention.

Civil documentation

UNHCR has registered over 51,000 Syrian children born in Lebanon. A sample survey in 2014 showed that up to 72 per cent of refugee children born in Lebanon do not have birth certificates. The procedure for birth registration in Lebanon is lengthy and complex, with each step presenting a number of barriers for parents. The most significant barrier for timely registration of births is onerous documentary requirements at the level of Personal Status Department. Other impeding factors include the inability to provide evidence of legal stay, as well as a general lack of awareness about procedures. In 2014, efforts were initiated to raise awareness of the importance of birth registration among affected communities. Efforts continue to be made with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) and the MOPH to remove the existing barriers.

Security from violence

There have been relatively few arrests of Syrian refugees for reasons of illegal entry or over-stay. However, recent measures that make it more difficult to renew and regularize their status increase such risks. Advocacy is on-going with the GOL to reduce the barriers to renewal and regularisation. Legal assistance is provided by UNHCR and partners to support individuals with existing administrative and civil processes, as well as those who are detained and otherwise at risk.

Serious security incidents and grave instability in some areas, notably Bekaa and Tripoli, have led to stricter

security measures throughout Lebanon. These measures include security searches and sudden evictions. Partner agencies liaise with the authorities to ensure such searches are conducted in a manner that respects basic human rights, and to assist those individuals who are evicted.

Persons with specific needs

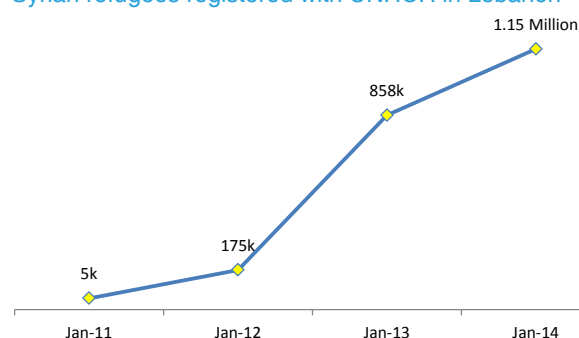
Women and children are disproportionately affected by violence and abuse. Almost one in four reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) involves a child. One in four reported GBV cases is related to incidents of sexual violence, with the highest number being incidents of rape. Incidents of domestic violence are increasingly reported. One of the contributing factors of this rise is the high level of stress experienced within households. This is linked with the deteriorating socio-economic situation of refugees over the past few years, pushing families to send their children to work and to resort to child marriage. Both older persons and persons with disabilities are marginalized and perceived as a burden on the community. In many cases, their families

assume that they do not have the capacity to contribute effectively to the well-being of the household. Access to specialized care and services remains limited.

Durable solutions

UNHCR estimates that 10 per cent of any refugee population is in need of resettlement. The Office has set a goal of 130,000 Syrian refugees to be resettled from the region by 2016. For Lebanon, the target is to ensure 9,000 refugees are resettled in 2015.

Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Lebanon



Key Agency Activities

Population Coverage

Register and verify Syrian refugees in need of international protection	1,500,000
Make available multi-sectorial support to persons with specific needs, including SGBV survivors and children at risk	98,000
Provide legal counselling on access to civil documentation, including birth certificates, legal residency, security of tenure and arbitrary detention	40,000
Participation of refugees in community center and community-based activities, such as psychosocial services, life-skills and recreational activities, protection services and refugee outreach	194,000
Facilitate burden sharing through resettlement to a third-country for the Syrian refugee population	9,000

Refugee Planning Figures

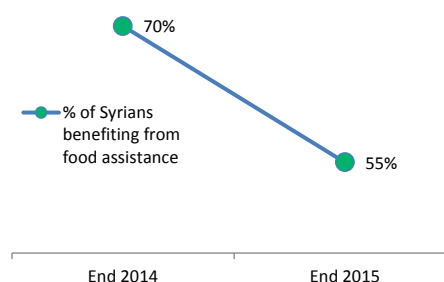
1,500,000	34	135 million
Persons targeted	Number of partners	Requirements (USD)



Food Security

The vulnerability of refugees continues to deepen. Restrictions on the right to work, coupled with the depletion of savings and other assets, are among the root causes of poverty among the refugee population. A joint vulnerability assessment conducted by the UN and partner agencies in May 2014 revealed that 75 per cent of refugee households require assistance to meet their basic food needs, while 29 per cent need help to meet their minimum survival needs. Partners therefore prioritize those in the latter category for food and other basic assistance. WFP has been providing 72 per cent of all refugees with monthly food assistance. In 2015, WFP reduced the value of the food voucher by 40 per cent due to funding shortfalls. Further targeting of food assistance is anticipated to reduce the coverage from 72 per cent to 55 per cent of the refugee population by mid-2015. Agencies

are working together to identify the most vulnerable individuals. These individuals are identified using common criteria that are applied to information gained from registration data and supplemented by home visits. Efforts to meet refugee monthly food needs are linked to efforts to improve food security for all populations through agricultural interventions.



Key Agency Activities

Population Coverage*

Provide food assistance to most vulnerable families	985,000
Increase refugees awareness on good nutritional and food safety practices	9,600

* Persons

Refugee Planning Figures

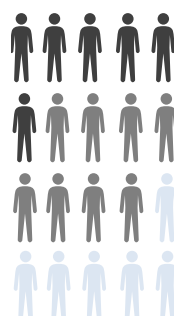
985,000	14	385 million
Persons targeted	Number of partners	Requirements (USD)

Basic Assistance



The inter-agency vulnerability assessment confirmed the great difficulties refugees face in meeting their basic non-food needs such as blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets and sanitary supplies.

Partners seek to ensure that those who are the most severely vulnerable receive such assistance, largely through the provision of unconditional cash and in-kind support for new arrivals or those affected by poor weather conditions.



Syrian Refugees

29% Severely economically vulnerable

70% require assistance

30% don't require basic assistance

Key Agency Activities

Population Coverage*

Conduct social-economic profiling of refugee households	230,000
Assist most vulnerable families with cash-based assistance	467,975
Reach targeted households with seasonal cash, voucher or in kind distribution to help through winter months	442,500

* Persons

Refugee Planning Figures

500,000	28	261 million
Persons targeted	Number of partners	Requirements (USD)



Shelter

Most refugees pay rent that averages about USD 200 per month, which cumulatively amounts to a monthly injection of USD 33 million to Lebanese property owners. Increase demand for shelter has raised the price of accommodation in some areas, negatively affecting Lebanese renters.

For refugees, shelter conditions remain extremely poor. 33 per cent of refugees interviewed earlier this year claim that their accommodation conditions are still not acceptable, particularly as it relates to roof conditions. Some 59 per cent of refugees rent apartments. Among those, 45 per cent have no choice but to share small, basic lodgings with other refugee families in overcrowded conditions. This is the only means for them to afford rent. The remaining 39 per cent live in fragile and insecure accommodation, including tents in informal settlements and other types of sub-standard shelters such as garages, work-site

sheds, and unfinished buildings. These shelters are often exposed to the wind, rain and snow, and lack appropriate sanitation. Agencies are often constrained in what they can do to improve shelters. Landlords and municipalities often resist structural changes needed from an environmental, health and cost perspective, for fear that improvements will encourage refugees to remain in Lebanon. Work is on-going with relevant line ministries to see how the situation can be positively addressed to ensure that refugees are better protected and that local communities are better served.

Given the extreme vulnerability of the shelters in which many hundreds of thousands of refugees live, shelter partners prioritize those living in the most insecure dwellings by providing weatherproofing material as well as safe sanitation and drinking water. Additional efforts are directed towards upgrading buildings and supporting collective shelters.

Key Agency Activities

Population Coverage*

Increase availability of shelter through new installations, rental support, or upgrades to uninhabitable shelter spaces (thereby making them habitable)	160,000
Upgrading of occupied shelter units to improve living conditions	400,000
Site improvements and Infrastructure upgrades within neighbourhoods and temporary settlements	191,000
Create conditions for secure affordable housing by providing counselling and assistance for leasing arrangements	163,000

* Persons

Refugee Planning Figures

863,417	23	115 million
Persons targeted	Number of partners	Requirements (USD)

Health



Like the general population, refugees have various health care needs. For refugees, however, health can be further compromised by the often difficult and traumatic experiences they faced in Syria and during their flight, as well as from complications arising from the extremely poor conditions in which most of them currently live.

In Lebanon, health care is largely privatized and very expensive. Since agencies cannot meet all healthcare needs, partners prioritize access to primary healthcare and secondary care for obstetrics and life-saving emergency treatment.

Meanwhile, UNHCR, WHO and the World Bank are working with the MOPH and key donors to review health coverage in Lebanon and seek to enhance

access to services for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese.



48% of secondary health care is for obstetric care

Key Agency Activities

Population Coverage*

Improve access, coverage, and quality of primary health care (PHC) services.	900,000
Contribute financially towards hospital care of refugees for life saving conditions and deliveries	77,745
Provide essential equipment and rehabilitation for selected public clinics and hospitals	82 Hospitals

* Persons

Refugee Planning Figures

900,000	26	157 million
Persons targeted	Number of partners	Requirements (USD)



Education

Around half of Syrian refugees -- some 617,000 people -- are children, of whom nearly 400,000 are of school age. Since the outset of the crisis, the goal has been to get as many of these refugee children as possible enrolled in the public school system. The challenge is best illustrated by the fact that there are now more Syrian children in need of a public education than there are Lebanese children in public schools. The public school system has been historically under-resourced, which has led most Lebanese to prefer to educate their children in private schools.

In 2014, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) introduced 'Reaching All Children with Education' (RACE), which envisages at least 150,000 Syrian children enrolled in the formal public system for the 2014–15 academic year (nearly twice the number as in 2013-14). The steering committee of RACE, with representation from the MEHE, donors, and UN agencies, supports this ambition with a progressive raising of the target to 200,000 children

by 2016.

Collective efforts are also underway to overcome some of the obstacles which hinder school attendance, including: high transportation costs; parental reluctance; bullying at school; and lack of help with homework. Moreover, recognising that the number of refugee children in need of an education exceeds the number that the public school system can absorb, partners support the creation of other learning opportunities for children out of school, for which the MEHE is designing a regulatory framework. For the 2014- 2015 academic year, some 106,000 Syrian refugees are enrolled in public schools. Formidable challenges remain in ensuring they can complete their year, in expanding opportunities for GOL-sanctioned non-formal learning, and for expanding activities for the many tens of thousands of children outside any learning environment.

Key Agency Activities

Population Coverage *

Facilitate access to learning for school-aged boys and girls	489,145
Provide training to teachers to improve the quality of learning Provide school supplies to children attending school	397,935
Strengthen national education system by rehabilitating schools and providing other assistance	180 schools

* Persons

Refugee Planning Figures

661,100	29	196 million
Persons targeted	Number of partners	Requirements (USD)

WASH



Lebanon has for many years struggled with inadequate water and sanitation services. Over 48 per cent of water supplied by the public system is lost through seepage. Wastewater networks are extremely poor. In some areas, they are non-existent. Over 92 per cent of Lebanon's sewage runs untreated directly into water-courses and the sea. Solid waste-treatment facilities are in short supply. National institutions such as Water Establishments and the Ministries of Water and Energy and Health, lack the capacity to address these difficult challenges.

The increased demand that refugees place on the fragile infrastructure has been immense. Moreover, close to 30 per cent of the refugee population lacks access to safe drinking water. An equal proportion are without adequate latrines, particularly those living in insecure accommodation, including tents, unfinished buildings, warehouses and garages.

Water interventions prioritize those who live in insecure dwellings, both to ensure water safety and

proper waste treatment. Key shifts for the coming year include: further strengthening the capacity of municipalities to ensure coordinated waste collection and water supply; linking humanitarian interventions to needed development investments; improving solid waste collection and drainage in an environmentally sustainable manner, especially in informal settlements.

Key Agency Activities

Population Coverage*

Facilitate access to adequate, clean and safe water to refugee families	1,190,000
Provide water storage installations to communities and families	
Ensure access to adequate sanitation through construction and maintenance of sanitation facilities	335,000
Improve drainage, waste water and sewage systems to reduce the risk of diseases	

* Persons

Refugee Planning Figures

1,500,000	34	122 million
Persons targeted	Number of partners	Requirements (USD)



Social Stability

While sectarian tensions in Lebanon pre-date the Syrian conflict, the political, security and economic shocks brought by the crisis have further shaken Lebanon's stability. So too has the demographic shift brought by the presence of over 1 million refugees from Syria.

Continuous presence of refugees as a result of the ongoing conflict in Syria without additional support may lead to further tensions arising from a whole range of pressures, including growing demands on public services, stress on an already fragile infrastructure, and competition for increasingly scarce jobs.

Partners therefore seek to invest in measures that promote interaction, mitigate tensions and deal

peacefully with conflict through various initiatives. One of the initiatives is "Search for Common Ground", which sets up joint local committees of both Syrians and Lebanese who identify problems, priorities and solutions.

The focus is on investing in institutions of local governance, including municipalities and Unions of Municipalities as well as institutions such as Social Development Centres. Examples of these investments include new water networks in Wadi Khaled.

Key Agency Activities

Population Coverage*

Communal level support projects	242 Communities
Refugee youth in peace building initiatives	18,624

* Persons

Refugee Planning Figures

242	27	16.5 million
Communities targeted	Number of partners	Requirements (USD)

Livelihoods



With an economy heavily reliant on sectors such as trade, services and tourism, the economic and social stability of Lebanon has been severely taxed by the Syrian crisis. According to a World Bank Assessment in October 2013, the economic impact of the Syrian crisis was estimated to cost Lebanon USD 7.5 billion. The country's GDP growth has plunged from 10 per cent before the crisis to 2 per cent. According to the World Bank, unemployment has climbed to nearly 20 per cent from 11 per cent in 2010, mostly affecting young people and the educated.

Refugees are seen as taking jobs away from Lebanese, especially in the low-skilled, poorly-paid informal sector.

While Syrians are permitted by law to work in certain sectors, and indeed have filled a critical demand in those sectors (e.g. agriculture, construction), new restrictions aim to exclude work for refugees registered with UNHCR.

Partners are therefore seeking ways to obtain GOL approval and donor financing for investments in labour-intensive sectors to create jobs, enhance skills, stimulate local markets and improve local economic growth.

Key Agency Activities

Population Coverage*

Facilitate access to rapid income generating opportunities for refugees
Improve employability through skills training

98,738

* Persons

Refugee Planning Figures

98,738	20	32 million
Persons targeted	Number of partners	Requirements (USD)

Planning and Implementation

An extensive refugee coordination system is in place, steered by the Government, UNHCR and working through nine sectors both in Beirut and in the five field locations. Specialized agencies and relevant line ministries lead the sectors in their areas of expertise: Protection (MoSA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA), Shelter (MoSA, UNHCR), Basic Assistance (MoSA, UNHCR), Social Cohesion (MoSA, UNDP, UNHCR), Livelihoods (MoSA, UNDP), Food Security (MoSA, MoA, WFP, FAO), Health (MoPH, WHO, UNHCR), Education (MEHE, UNICEF, UNHCR), and Water & Sanitation (MoEW, UNICEF, UNHCR). NGOs participate in sector coordination, particularly in field locations.

Refugee Planning Figures

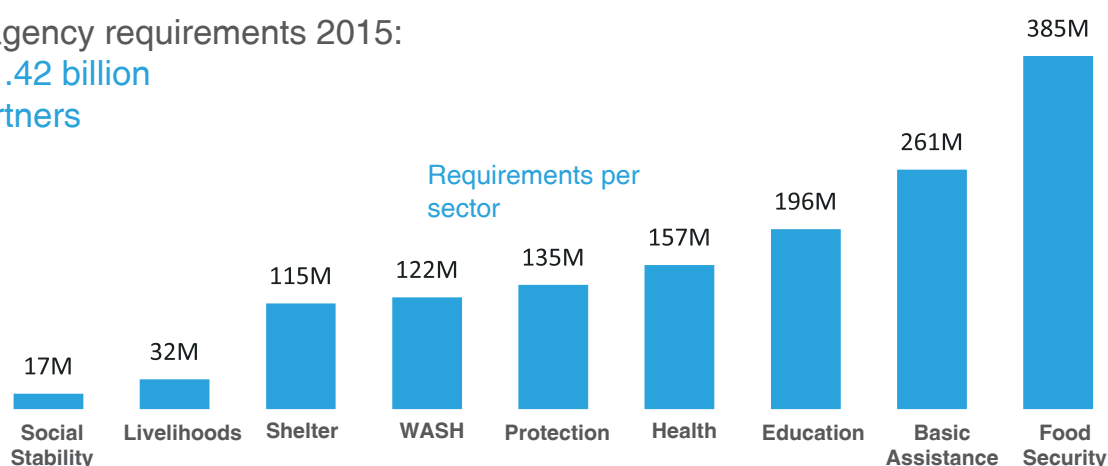
1,500,000	270,000	45,000
Syrian Refugees	Palestine Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)	Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS)

Funding

Inter-agency requirements 2015:

USD 1.42 billion

59 Partners



Partners Requirements (USD)

As it appears in the Lebanon chapter of the 3RP (LCRP)

Partner	Refugee	Stabilization	Total	Partner	Refugee	Stabilization	Total
ABAAD	280,000	120,000	400,000	Mercy USA	125,500	125,500	251,000
ACF	2,189,250	2,712,250	4,901,500	MEW	10,750,000	11,450,000	22,200,000
ACTED	13,375,403	12,581,096	25,956,499	MoA	1,200,000	4,800,000	6,000,000
ActionAid	745,850	442,150	1,188,000	MoPH	9,000,000	24,000,000	33,000,000
ADRA	400,000	100,000	500,000	MoSA	17,537,607	68,002,461	85,540,068
AMEL	1,566,793	1,564,705	3,131,498	NRC	19,286,064	5,206,993	24,493,057
ANERA	5,415,260	4,507,860	9,923,120	OXFAM	8,944,463	7,113,670	16,058,133
ARMADILLA	202,394	156,394	358,788	PCPM	18,885,334	1,893,959	20,779,293
AVSI	550,100	165,900	716,000	PU-AMI	7,474,831	5,067,883	12,542,713
British Council	768,300	682,700	1,451,000	RET	2,572,300	2,157,200	4,729,500
CARE	8,969,250	3,680,850	12,650,100	Relief Intl.	5,483,800	2,068,750	7,552,550
CCPA	288,000	72,000	360,000	Safadi Foundation	328,000	2,522,000	2,850,000
CISP	960,000	930,000	1,890,000	Save the Children	30,885,949	16,784,966	47,670,915
CLMC	17,871,602	6,215,250	24,086,852	Seraphim Global	264,000	66,000	330,000
CONCERN	10,004,623	3,795,446	13,800,069	SFCG	351,905	928,245	1,280,150
COOPI	1,975,178	731,295	2,706,473	Solidarités Intl.	8,238,739	771,261	9,010,000
DCA	900,000	-	900,000	SIF	4,523,111	1,350,182	5,873,292
Digital Opportunity Trust	240,000	60,000	300,000	Solidar Suisse	2,275,090	745,110	3,020,200
DRC	18,260,600	8,559,900	26,820,500	SOS Village	209,450	91,550	301,000
FAO	10,490,000	21,510,000	32,000,000	TdH - Italia	1,053,445	98,855	1,152,300
FPSC	439,425	188,325	627,750	TdH Lausanne	632,250	332,750	965,000
GVC	780,000	903,000	1,683,000	Toastmasters International	24,000	6,000	30,000
Handicap Intl.	11,142,000	-	11,142,000	UNDP	29,220,273	192,572,005	221,792,278
Humedica	368,274	164,066	532,340	UNESCO	1,272,200	1,809,300	3,081,500
HWA	302,000	388,000	690,000	UNFPA	4,077,200	4,198,800	8,276,000
ILO	324,150	11,675,850	12,000,000	UNHABITAT	4,973,500	14,700,500	19,674,000
IMC	4,951,241	3,086,213	8,037,454	UNHCR	391,958,152	79,150,434	471,108,586
International Alert	220,000	400,000	620,000	UNICEF	189,140,812	99,881,651	289,022,463
Intersos	2,725,825	3,375,050	6,100,875	UNIDO	-	7,250,000	7,250,000
IOCC	3,959,300	3,723,700	7,683,000	UNRWA	50,509,542	13,036,145	63,545,687
IOM	28,375,384	11,743,296	40,118,680	URDA	8,553,050	3,078,150	11,631,200
Islamic Relief	2,473,500	301,500	2,775,000	WCH	2,654,730	1,919,170	4,573,900
IRC	15,769,835	6,707,762	22,477,597	WFP	348,134,720	-	348,134,720
Leb Relief	851,460	824,710	1,676,170	WHO	3,332,500	5,002,500	8,335,000
MAG	497,500	497,500	995,000	WRF	2,013,737	177,581	2,191,318
Makassed	171,645	153,290	324,935	WVI	30,854,529	12,359,924	43,214,453
Makhzoumi	2,687,556	283,702	2,971,258	TOTAL	1,419,048,853	724,206,229	2,143,255,082
MAP	926,153	398,098	1,324,250				
Medair	7,943,820	2,133,279	10,077,099				
MEHE	14,780,000	7,820,000	22,600,000				
Mercy Corps	7,166,400	10,131,600	17,298,000				

Prepared by

