

HIGHLIGHTS

- World Humanitarian Day event in Lebanon celebrates those who dedicate their lives to humanitarian service.
- Lebanon Humanitarian Fund allocates \$15.5 million for 23 projects.

FIGURES

(as of 31 August 2016)

# of estimated refugees	1,500,000
# of registered refugees	1,033,513

52.1 %  47.9 %  53 % 

# of returnees	35,000
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# of Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS)	40,807
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# of Palestine Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)	277,985
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# of vulnerable Lebanese	1,500,000
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Total Lebanese population	4,400,000
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Special Coordinator for Lebanon Sigrid Kaag speaking at the WHD event in Beirut. Source: OCHA

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Lebanon celebrates World Humanitarian Day

Exhibition highlights impossible choices faced by refugees

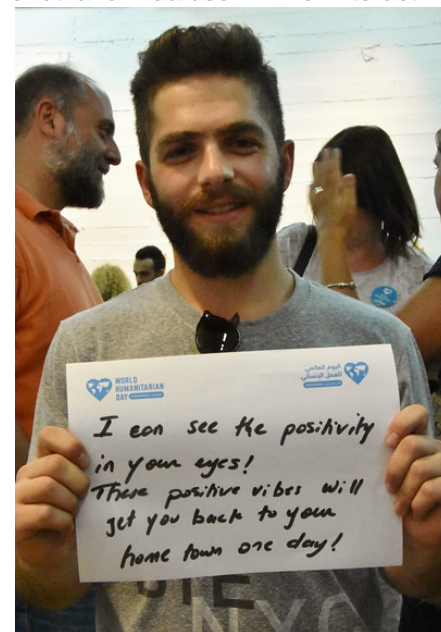
Humanitarian workers stand on the front lines of war and disaster, risking their lives every day in the most dangerous places to support the severely vulnerable. Over the past 20 years, almost 4,000 aid workers have been killed, wounded or kidnapped in the line of duty. World Humanitarian Day, celebrated on August 19, commemorates those who dedicate their lives to humanitarian service. The event marks the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Iraq.

In Lebanon, OCHA celebrated World Humanitarian Day – whose 2016 theme was 'One Humanity' – through a multimedia exhibition in Beirut and Baalbeck. Five interactive multimedia stations displayed short videos of Syrian refugees talking about their real-life experiences of facing impossible choices. They tell their stories of fleeing the war and leaving everything behind, of escaping the bombs, and of the challenge of affording medication. Khansa, a woman from Syria, describes living under the ruins of a building for more than a month, along with several other neighbors. After fleeing the conflict, she came to Lebanon as a refugee. Qousai, an 18-year-old boy who suffers from anemia and a growth disorder, explains how he was forced to drop out of school after he could no longer afford treatment (see 'Qousai's story' on p.4). The short film *'Watani, My Homeland'* by Marcel Mettelseifen shows the path of a Syrian family who lost their husband and father in the war, and sought asylum in Germany.

Dreams for the future

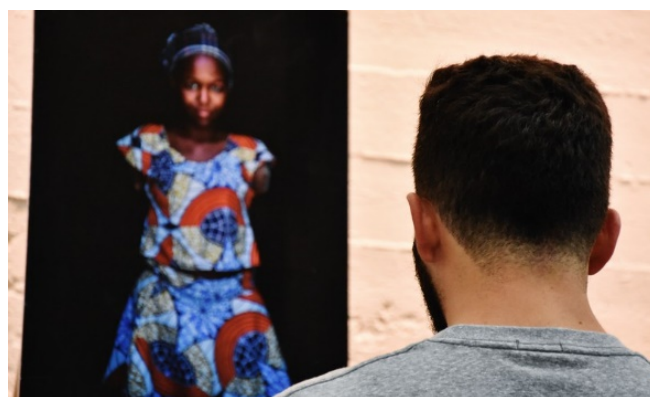
The photo exhibition "When I Grow Up", by Vincent Tremeau and Meredith Hutchison, was also presented at the WHD event. It shows children from several African countries and Syria, dressed up as their dream professions and talking about their aspirations for the future.

Today, the scale of human suffering around the world is greater than at any time since the Second World War. As a result of conflict and disaster, more than 130 million people around



A participant holds up a message during the World Humanitarian Day event in Beirut. Source: OCHA

the world need humanitarian assistance in order to survive. Together, they would form the tenth most populous country on Earth. To raise awareness, signs with key facts and figures were placed around the World Humanitarian Day venue to inspire humanitarians and the general public to do more. A video highlighted key statistics about humanitarian needs around the world.



A participant takes in the WHD photo exhibition. Source: OCHA

Raising awareness and inspiring action

Building on the World Humanitarian Summit, the event also featured the global “Impossible Choices” campaign through an interactive [Humanitarian Quiz](#) which shows the choices refugees have to make through the game “Would You Rather?”. The campaign urges members of the public to [tweet](#) their leaders and ask them to commit to action.



Humanitarian workers who attended the event actively participated in the Comments Booth, taking photos of themselves holding up their messages to the Syrian refugees. The event showed the difference humanitarian assistance can make in a person's life, and sought to inspire the community to do more as humanitarians.

For more information about World Humanitarian Day and OCHA's activities, visit the WHD [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

Funding update

Lebanon Humanitarian Fund to allocate \$15.4 million for 23 projects

The second standard allocation of the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund will support 23 projects for a total of USD 15.4 million. The selected projects include initiatives by Lebanese and international NGOs as well as UN agencies.

In total, 95 applications were submitted by 35 international NGOs, 34 national NGOs, 5 UN agencies and the Lebanese Red Crescent. The projects were reviewed by seven Sector Review Committees (SRCs) made up of representatives of the GoL, UN and NGOs.



Children in an informal tented settlement. Source: OCHA

OCHA's Humanitarian Financing Unit will proceed with the technical and financial review of the approved projects and Grant Agreements are expected to be signed by the end of September 2016.

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Qousai's story

The challenges of a chronically-ill refugee

Qousai is a refugee in an informal tented settlement near the town of Kfarzab, in the Bekaa. OCHA met and interviewed him for the World Humanitarian Day multimedia event in Beirut on 19 August (see main article). This is his story:

"I cannot afford medical treatment in Lebanon; it's very expensive and I have no money."



Qousai, talking to OCHA in his ITS in the Bekaa. Source: OCHA

"I am Qousai, from Koneitra. I am 18 years old. I was in 9th grade when he had to leave school due to the deteriorating situation in Syria. I suffer from anaemia, in addition to a growth problem and joint pain. I was under treatment in Syria, but I had to discontinue my treatment when I fled because of the war."

"I fled to Lebanon, but I could not be enrolled in any school. I'm out of school now and I am trying to get a treatment, but I cannot find anyone to help me. I cannot afford medical treatment in Lebanon; it's very expensive here and I have no money."

"I want to recover, but I cannot afford the treatment and no one is helping me. I wish I could travel to the UK in order to receive treatment, since I was told that there is a cure for me and my disabled sister there and they can take good care of us. I am currently not receiving any assistance except for food vouchers. This is not enough for us. It is not enough."

To find out more about World Humanitarian Day and see how you can help, visit the World Humanitarian Day website at: <https://worldhumanitarianday.org/>

For further information, please contact:

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