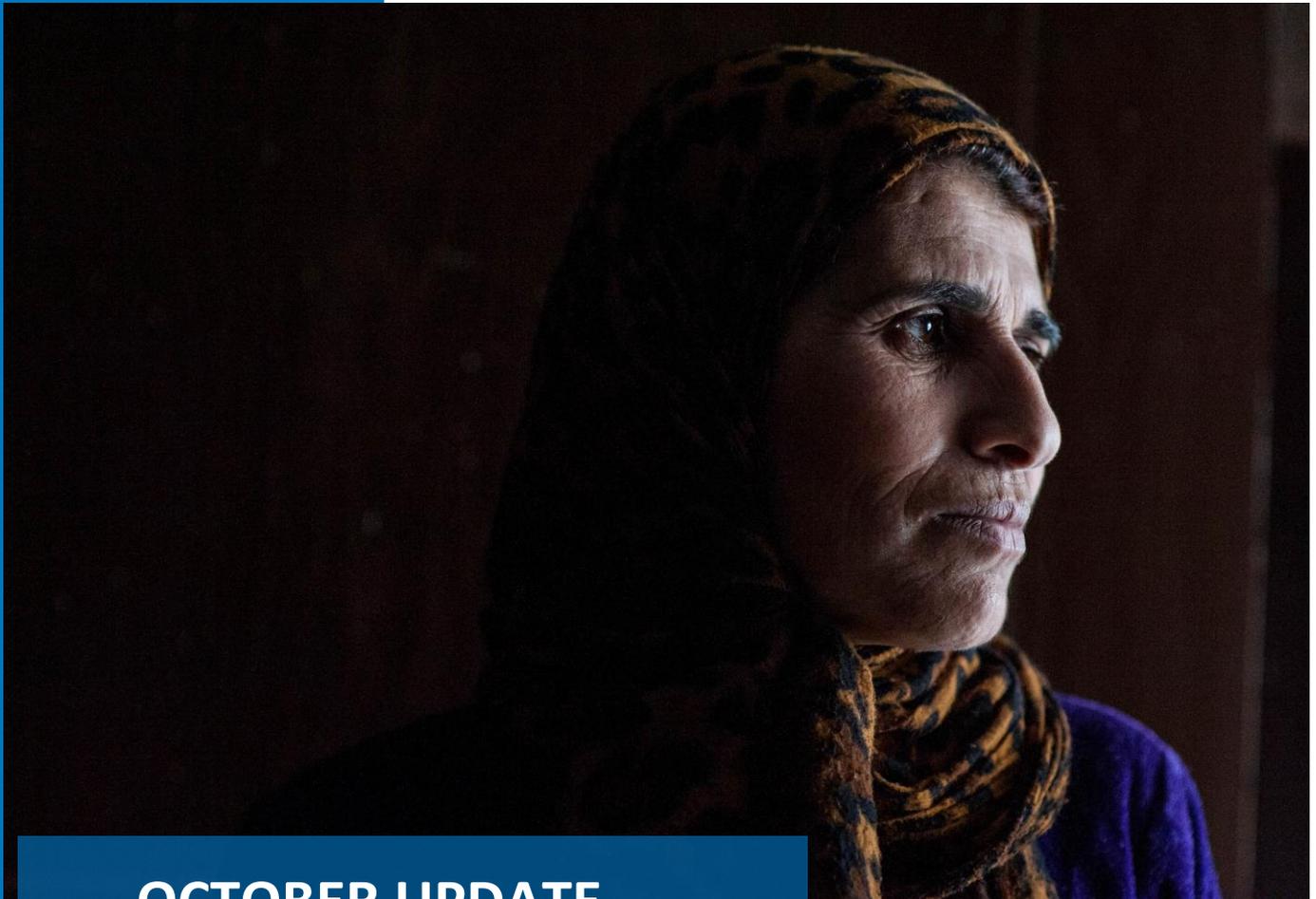




**Inter-Agency
Coordination**
Lebanon



OCTOBER UPDATE

- **October developments**
- **Refugees in Lebanon receive aid through a common card**
- **Aid agencies brace for winter**
- **Khadije's fifth winter away from home**

FUNDING

Agencies and the Government of Lebanon have requested USD 2.48 billion in the 2016 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). As of 31 August 2016, agencies reported having received USD 979.3 million.

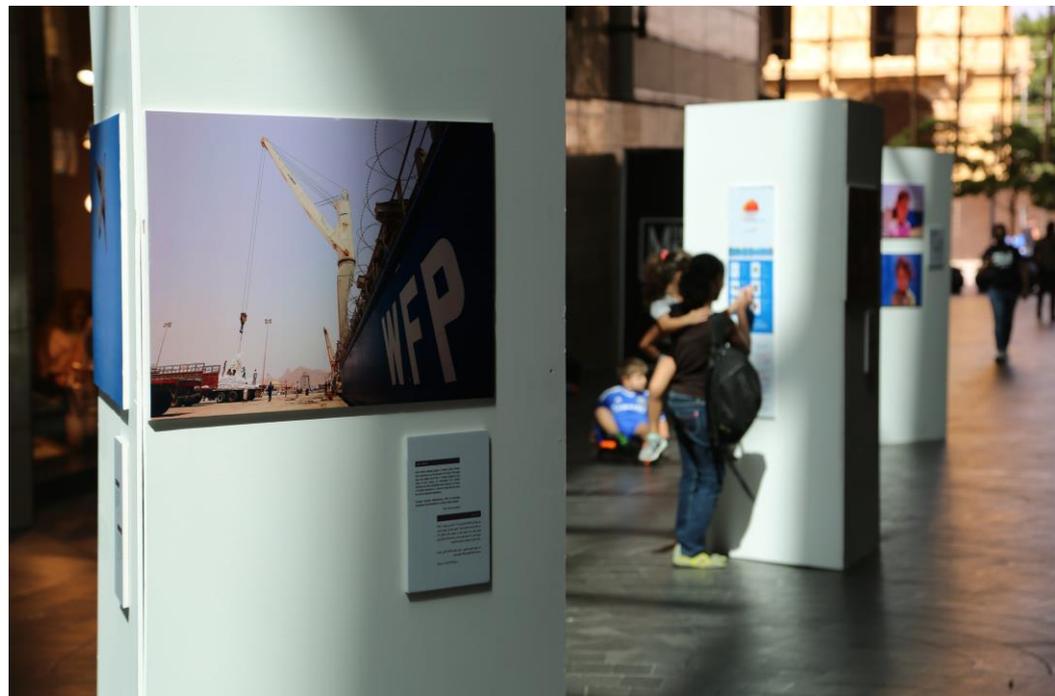
REGISTERED SYRIAN REFUGEES

A total of 1,017,433 individuals are currently registered with UNHCR in Lebanon.

Photography Exhibition marks World Food Day

On the occasion of World Food Day on 16 October, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) held an open air photography exhibition at Souk El Tawileh, Beirut Souks from 12-24 October. The exhibition highlighted the life-saving work of the agencies and their partners around the world, with a special focus on humanitarian aid to Lebanon. The themes portrayed in the exhibition included innovation, climate change, and livelihoods. The exhibition will be displayed at the Rafic Hariri International Airport for two additional weeks starting 1 November.

World Food Day is a day of action against hunger. On 16 October each year, people around the world come together to declare their commitment to #ZeroHunger.



@WFP

CT Scanner to improve medical diagnostics at Rafik Hariri University Hospital

A Computed Tomography (CT) scanner was handed over on 19 October to the Rafik Hariri University Hospital (RHUH) in Jnah, Beirut, to improve medical diagnostics for both Syrian refugees and Lebanese persons.

The equipment, worth half a million US dollars, was provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with funding from the Government of South Korea through the Lebanon Recovery Fund, a Lebanese

government-led fund. This support helps the hospital perform on-site diagnostic scans for all patients, and reduce costs incurred on patients.

H.E. Minister of Public Health Wael Abou Faour, H.E. Ambassador Lee Yeong-man of South Korea, Chairman of the RHUH Board Dr. Firass Abiad, and UNHCR’s Deputy Representative in Lebanon Mr. Emmanuel Gignac attended the event.

Deputy High Commissioner Kelly Clements visits Lebanon

UNHCR’s Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Ms. Kelly T. Clements visited Lebanon from 17-19 October. During the visit, she assessed the plight of Syrian refugees who have fled the ongoing violence in their country and took stock of humanitarian programmes targeting refugees and affected host communities.

“There are acute vulnerabilities in the refugee population in Lebanon, and as winter approaches, it’s important that an action plan to alleviate hardship is in place”, Ms. Clements said, during a visit to a collective shelter hosting refugee families in Koura, north Lebanon.

She also visited a site in Mina to witness the distribution of common cards by WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR and the Lebanon Cash Consortium (LCC).



©UNHCR / Lisa Abou Khaled

During her field visits, the Deputy High Commissioner also met with a group of Syrian refugee women attending activities at a Social Development Centre (SDC) in Nabatiyeh run by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). Ms. Clements commended the efforts of Ms. Zohad Jallal, the director of the SDC, in catering for the needs of both Lebanese and refugees approaching the centre for help.

During her stay Ms. Clements also met with senior UN and Lebanese officials, including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Interior and Municipalities and the Minister of Social Affairs.

Aid Agencies Distribute Common Cards to Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

The World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Lebanon Cash Consortium (LCC) – a group of six agencies that provide multi-purpose cash assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon – started distributing in October a new red common card that acts simultaneously as a debit card and an e-card for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon. With that common card, they can access a pool of humanitarian assistance from the above mentioned agencies. A number of vulnerable Lebanese families also benefit from similar assistance on the “Halla” green card under the Ministry of Social Affairs’ National Poverty Targeting Programme.

Before the introduction of the so-called ‘common card’, refugees who were entitled to food and other assistance may have had to use more than one card. Now, families can access food, winter assistance, education support, protection and multi-purpose cash assistance through a unified card.

Cards provide a practical means for the prompt delivery of cash assistance to beneficiaries in the country, empowering the most vulnerable by providing dignified means of receiving assistance, saving time and money spent travelling to distribution sites.



WFP@/ Edward Johnson

The cards also cut down expenses for humanitarian agencies. They allow them to make the best use of limited resources and available funds by eliminating costs

related to procurement, storage, and distribution of in-kind assistance. In addition, through such programmes, money is directly injected into the local market, boosting the economy.

The new cards are loaded at the beginning of each month, or as per the cycle of the different humanitarian programmes, and can be used in any of WFP's 480 contracted shops and any ATM machine across Lebanon.

This initiative and the various humanitarian programmes it serves is possible thanks to generous funding from:



and private donors from Switzerland and the US.

BRACING FOR WINTER

The focus of UNICEF, UNHCR and partners this year is on the provision of winter assistance to help Syrian and Palestine refugees and Lebanese families survive the cold season. For them, it is often prohibitive to meet winter needs, including fuel, warm clothes and nutritious meals. According to preliminary findings from a 2016 survey by lead UN agencies, over 70 per cent of registered refugees continue to live under the poverty line of USD 3.84 a day.

UNICEF is targeting 388,500 vulnerable Syrian and Palestinian refugee children, and poor Lebanese children, living in cold areas. A USD 40 one-time cash transfer

will be provided for every Syrian child between 0 and 15 years of age in informal settlements or collective shelters, as well as for the poorest Lebanese and vulnerable Palestinian children.

The objective of these grants is to provide these refugees with the means to cover a portion of their winter expenses and help them cope with the cold. In hard-to-reach areas where no ATM machines are available, vulnerable Syrian and poor Lebanese children will receive winter clothing. Over 570 public schools at high altitudes will also be supported by UNICEF with fuel to keep classrooms warm for Syrian and Lebanese students.

UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to transfer the cash payments to the most vulnerable Lebanese under the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) and with partners, including the World Food Programme (WFP), UNHCR and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), to target the most vulnerable refugee girls and boys in informal settlements and Palestinian camps.

UNHCR's supplementary winter programme is well underway. It includes a monthly USD 147 targeting almost 900,000 economically vulnerable refugees, with an additional USD 40 top-up for families with children under the age of 15. Extremely vulnerable refugees who receive multi-purpose cash assistance on a monthly basis will receive a USD 75 top up to cover additional needs during five winter months. Fuel vouchers worth USD 100 will be distributed instead of cash where ATM machines are not available, for example in the northeastern border town of Aarsal. Distributions started this month and will continue until March.

UNRWA is working to reach 9,720 Palestine refugee families and all Palestine families from Syria with the monthly USD 147 for families living above 500 metres of altitude and USD 100 for families living below 500 metres. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) will target vulnerable Lebanese returnees living above 800 metres with the same amount.

In addition to cash, winter interventions by UNHCR and partners also aim to scale up shelter improvements, from graveling and enhancing drainage in informal settlements, to weatherproofing insecure dwellings such as the collective shelter that Deputy High Commissioner Clements visited in Koura.

Over 55,000 refugee families living in inadequate shelters such as tents, garages, unfinished buildings, and animal stalls will receive help to weatherproof their homes.

Vulnerable Lebanese and refugee families will also receive blankets, stoves and clothing.

KHADIJE'S STORY

UNHCR© /Maria Hatem

“Blankets and fuel to keep the little ones warm. Staying warm is the most important thing in winter, food is also very important.” This is what Khadije plans to buy as soon as she receives winter assistance.

Khadije, originally from Idleb in Syria, is about to go through her fifth winter as a refugee in Nahme, Lebanon. In the picture, she is seen holding her niece's son while waiting to receive her new common card at a distribution centre near Beirut.

AGENCIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS UPDATE

FAO, IOM, LCC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, and WFP.

DONORS

Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Contributions have also been received from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as well as from private donors.