



Lebanon Update

Support to Displaced Syrians

06 April - 13 April 2012



Syrian family being registered in Halba, Northern Lebanon © UNHCR – Fouad Juez – March 2012.

Highlights of the week

Numbers

UNHCR and partners are working with the government, local authorities and international and national partners assisting over 20,000 displaced Syrians throughout the country, nearly half of whom (9,666) have been jointly registered by UNHCR and Lebanon's High Relief Commission in the North. Registration is ongoing.

The Syrian refugee population is concentrated in north Lebanon, with over 9,000 in the Wadi Khaled area and an estimated 3,000 in Tripoli. The latter are to be registered once the modalities are agreed with the authorities.

Latest assessments show approximately 7,500 displaced Syrians in the Bekaa Valley. As the HRC is not present in the Bekaa, registration will be through local municipalities.

There are more limited concentrations of displaced persons known to be residing in the Beirut area, over 700 of whom have been registered by UNHCR.

Protection and Security

The death of a Lebanese cameraman in Khat Naft in Wadi Khaled, and gunfire reaching Lebanese villages, has led to

increased security precautions in those areas. UNHCR is working with the UN Department of Safety and Security and the Lebanese authorities to map those areas where our programmes may need to be moved to afford better security. UNHCR is also in discussions with displaced and local communities regarding possible relocation of displaced families from certain areas which have experienced cross-fire to areas where such risks are reduced.

Regarding wounded Syrians, 21 were admitted to hospitals.

Assistance in North Lebanon

Distribution

Some 1,500 people were provided with food and hygiene kits, fuel, sanitary napkins and baby diapers through distribution conducted by UNHCR's implementing partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

Shelter

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) rehabilitated some 20 host families' homes through provision of cash grants. Among the improvements being made are weather-proofing, improving water and sanitation as well as providing doors and separation walls for privacy.

The rehabilitation of the Freidis collective shelter was completed and the building is

ready to receive newly arrived families.

In addition, three volunteers from the Lebanese Red Cross have joined UNHCR and partners' shelter teams helping map the Tripoli and Halba areas with the aim of identifying potential collective shelters.

Education

The security situation continues to prevent some families from sending their children to classes on a regular basis, especially in the border villages' schools like Bani Sakher.

Recreational activities continued in Ibra collective shelter and were expanded by UNHCR and implementing partner Save the Children Sweden (SCS) to include drama and various activities of expression as a way to help the children cope. Psychological support is also being provided.

Health

To enhance the response to psycho-social needs, International Medical Corps (IMC), UNHCR's health implementing partner, established support services at the Karameh clinic in Tripoli.

Many displaced are dealing with emotional distress, depression and grief from the events they have endured. Pregnant women are especially vulnerable as many experience uncertainty with their situation. IMC outreach workers are identifying those in need of psycho-social support at surrounding hospitals and on home visits to ensure care is received.

Assistance in other parts of Lebanon

Distribution

UNHCR assisted some 1,500 people (293 families) in the Bekaa, through the DRC, with the help of local municipalities and charities. Distribution included food and hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets, sanitary napkins and fuel.

Monitoring and follow-up visits to displaced families in Al Sahel (Greater Fekha area) were conducted to verify distribution. These visits indicated that families who have received assistance are satisfied with the quantity and quality of the items provided.

In addition, seven outreach teams conducted over 280 house visits to verify reports of new arrivals. The exercise is yet to be finalized but reports indicate that there have been a number of new arrivals over the past two weeks. Findings will be included in UNHCR's statistics as soon as the project is finalized.

Distribution is ongoing as are missions to assess new and additional needs.

The long distance between the different villages where displaced families are residing remains one of the biggest challenges in distribution and outreach efforts. UNHCR and partners are planning to provide training and the necessary equipment to local NGOs and community volunteers so they can assist in these efforts.

Education

Four child friendly spaces were established in Baalbeck, Brital and Bar Elias to the benefit of some 200 displaced Syrian and local Lebanese children. The spaces will be providing psycho-social support to children and their families as well as serving as a place for recreational activities and games.

Health

The provision of primary healthcare continues to be challenging as there is a shortage of chronic and acute medication, even for Lebanese nationals, in addition to a lack of available doctors.

Moreover, there is no health information system in place to keep track of patients' records. UNHCR and IMC are identifying

additional Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) in the Bekaa that can provide proper health assistance to displaced families in the area.

So far, 840 displaced Syrian patients have received consultation and/or diagnostic tests through local PHCs.

Shelter

In Aarsal and Saadnayal, 77 host families' houses have been identified for rehabilitation in the coming weeks. Local families are hosting some 240 Syrian displaced families.

Meanwhile, NRC, started upgrading 18 collective shelters in Aarsal, each with the

capacity to house three to four families. An additional 9 host families' homes were rehabilitated.

The Al Masjed Al Bukhari school in Baalbeck is being used as a collective shelter, currently hosting four families, and a plan for its rehabilitation is underway to enable it to host an additional six families.

For more information on Syrian displacement in Lebanon, please visit the Lebanon page on the webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. There you will find facts, figures, and 'who does what', as well as updates on food and non-food items distributed per area. Additionally, for more on UNHCR's current programme per sector, and for information on how the response is being coordinated and the many contributions of various agencies, please click on "situational overview" of the Lebanon page.