

## SUPPORT TO THE SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

*Donor Briefing Note*

*Lebanon April 2012*

### **BACKGROUND**

The number of Syrians refugees currently registered with UNHCR and the High Relief Commission (HRC) in north Lebanon is 10,386 persons, with the largest concentration in the Wadi Khaled area. However, the estimated number of refugees is estimated to be over 20,000 throughout the country, majority being women and children, and the number continues to increase on a daily basis. It is currently estimated that there are around 3,000 unregistered refugees in Tripoli and another 7,000 in Bekaa Valley. As to date, the majority of the Syrian refugees prefer to maintain a low profile and avoid registration. It is anticipated that these numbers could increase steadily during the weeks/months to come and a close follow up is critical to ensure that the humanitarian needs will be covered as required by the situation

Syrian refugees who have entered Lebanon reside mostly with host families in difficult circumstances, as the areas they are arriving at are known to be amongst the poorest in the country. The North of Lebanon houses 46% of the extremely poor population and 38% of the overall poor population. The influx of Syrian refugees is worsening the already difficult socioeconomic conditions in the north where the levels of unemployment, child labour and urban poverty are extremely high. This presents a very grim picture of the humanitarian situation in these areas, affecting refugee and host populations and more specifically children. The children have been uprooted from the homes in the midst of violent outbursts, have been traumatized by violence they witnessed back home, and are scared of rumours that the hostilities might spread to Lebanon. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that access to education and psychosocial support is limited and difficult.

### **UNICEF's RESPONSE TO DATE**

UNICEF's emergency response focuses on facilitating children's access to quality services, and catering to their physical and psychological wellbeing. UNICEF has to date set up 5 Child Friendly Spaces which provide access to remedial education, recreational activities and psychosocial support, benefiting 300 children in the Akkar region (specifically in Wadi Khaled). 45 teachers, community workers and caregivers underwent training on psychosocial interventions, identification of psychosocial difficulties and referral procedures. A number of health, social, and community workers were trained on [Facts for Life](#), UNICEF's flagship booklet providing essential information to mothers and caregivers on infant and maternal care, nutrition, hygiene, disease, and preventing injury and violence. UNICEF is also monitoring rights violations against children and women. Finally, over 800 hygiene kits and NFIs have been distributed mainly in Akkar and Beka'a valley.

**PLANNED ACTION**

In line with the Core Commitment for Children and the role of UNICEF as the leading agency in the Education, WASH and Child Protection sectors, the following interventions have been designed in order to continue to meet our most urgent needs:

- A Rapid Assessment will be conducted to provide all humanitarian actors with an immediate overview of the educational conditions and the needs of the displaced Syrian children in the Bekaa (Hermel and Baalbek) and North (Akkar) governorates, where the influx of the Syrian refugees are the highest.
- UNICEF will establish summer camps and conduct communication campaigns aimed at addressing low enrolment rates of Lebanese and Syrian children, as well as the disruption of schooling for newcomers. These camps will provide a six-week intensive reading and writing course specifically designed for preparing Syrian children to integrate into the public school system. These activities are expected to reach around 4,200 Lebanese and Syrian children from 6-17 years old.
- Support will be given to establish 30 Child Friendly Spaces in Akkar, expected to benefit 2,300 children between the ages of 5-17 with a minimum of 70% Syrian children. Training will continue to be provided to 100 teachers, caregivers and social workers, to build their capacity on psychosocial interventions, cases for referral, and referral procedures for families under stress.
- UNICEF will strive to monitor and reduce the rights violations against children and women that are often the by-product of prolonged exposure to conflict and displacement. Alleviating the psychosocial impact on the children affected by the crisis will also remain a priority.
- WASH concerns, access to clean water, and the basic sanitation needs of refugees will be addressed. To promote safe hygiene and other healthy practices, 45 community workers at the country level will be trained on *Facts for Life*, and conduct health awareness campaigns expected to reach around 12,000 children and caregivers in affected communities.

**FUNDING REQUIREMENT: USD \$2,250,000**