

Syria Crisis Weekly Humanitarian Situation Report Lebanon Date: 20 September 2012

LEBANON

Highlights

- The overall enrolment rate of Syrian children in Lebanese public schools is progressing well.
- Schools directors are working on solutions to better integrate Syrian children and support them through additional English and French language classes.
- UNICEF-supported water voucher distribution continues in the Bekaa Valley, with 442 vouchers distributed in Baalbek, Doures and Sadnayel this week, each valid for 1,000 litres of water. This will cover water needs for 834 individuals over the coming four weeks.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs:

Estimated Affected Population (Estimates based on initial figures from UNHCR Portal, 20 September 2012)			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	52,410	24,633	27,777
Children Affected (Under 18)	26,729	13,627	13,103
Children Under Five	9,958	5,241	4,717

A total of 52,410 refugees are currently registered with UNHCR and the Lebanese High Relief Commission (HRC) and an additional 20,503 Syrians are awaiting registration. More than 50 per cent of the registered refugees are children under 18. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 refugees throughout the country and 6,575 Palestinians from Syria have recently arrived in Lebanon. As most refugees are living with host families in the poorest areas of the country, UNICEF emergency response also covers host communities.

Inter-Agency Collaboration and Partnerships: Last week, UNICEF met with Palestinian partners to coordinate emergency interventions. UNICEF confirmed its commitment to mobilize resources to cover the gaps in the UNRWA appeal, particularly in the areas of education, primary healthcare and child protection. The findings of the UNICEF-supported needs assessment on Palestinian refugees from Syria will be made available this week to mobilize financial resources. Led by UNHCR, UN agencies are preparing the third version of the RRP.

Programme response:

WASH: UNICEF-supported water voucher distribution continues in the Bekaa Valley. In the last week, 442 vouchers were distributed in Baalbek, Doures and Sadnayel, each of them valid for 1,000 litres of water. This will cover water needs for 834 individuals over the coming four weeks.

Next week, UNICEF will chair the first coordination meeting of the WASH working group, after it was decided to split the Shelter and WASH working groups.

Estimated #/% coverage (80%)	UNICEF & operational partners	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)
Emergency affected population provided with access to safe water	40,000	Approximately 4,333* people weekly
UNICEF Current Operational Partners: ACF (Bekaa)		

*The number of people receiving water on a weekly basis will change as the redeemable water voucher system has been implemented.

Child Protection: UNICEF amended existing Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) for Child Friendly Spaces, targeting an additional 1,800 children. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), UNICEF is expanding psychosocial support and other child protection activities through Social Development Centres (SDCs) in affected regions. UNICEF distributed 12 recreational kits and 27 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits to 11 SDCs in the North and Tripoli.

The Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group co-chaired by UNICEF and MoSA is discussing scale-up plans and will conduct an inter-agency needs assessment and establish common processes for referral, mapping and case management. The Child Friendly Spaces working group will work to improve reporting Child Friendly Space activities and further develop the case management strategy.

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF & operational partners		
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	% of Target Achieved
Children with safe access to community spaces for socializing, play, learning	11,500*	5,500**	48
UNICEF Operational Partners: Save the Children, THD, War Child, Association Culturelle du Hermel, Mercy Corps, Amel Association			

* This is the target set for the immediate scaling up and represents 50% of the Syrian children (i.e. 7,750) aged 5-17 years (CFS age group) based on a Syrian population of 50,000, plus Lebanese children (approximately 2,500). We are revising target figures upwards to accommodate the possibility of 100,000 Syrian refugees (scenario 1 UN contingency plan) and also to take into account Palestinian children from Syria (an estimated 4,000 have arrived in the country). The original RRP target was 3,000.

** This is the number of children expected to be reached through the existing 20 CFSs. Note that the CFS programme started only in May 2012 and number of CFS has been growing incrementally since then.

Education: As the start of the new school year (24 September) is drawing closer, UNICEF is working to ensure all 32,000 school-aged children from affected populations are enrolled in school. In Aarsal, issues are emerging over the enrolment of 900 Syrian school-aged children in the three public schools in the area, which can only absorb 100 students. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and other education stakeholders to find alternative solutions. Most of the refugee families who have been living in operational schools have had to relocate, to ensure that the schools are ready to open on 24 September.

The overall enrolment rate of Syrian children in Lebanese public schools is progressing well as most school directors are open to the idea of inclusion of refugee children in schools. To address the challenges of schools' absorption capacity and the barriers facing refugee children in integrating into the Lebanese education system, schools directors are working on solutions to better integrate Syrian children and support them through additional English and French language classes.

UNICEF has shared the Back-to-School strategy with the MEHE and the strategy has been approved by the Director General. UNICEF plans to hold a series of meetings with the Union of Municipalities in the coming days to seek their support to the Back-to-School campaign.

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF & operational partners		
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	% of Target Achieved
School-aged children in affected areas in schools/learning programmes	6,300	2,050	32.5
Children with access to psychosocial support in education programmes	6,300	2,050	32.5
UNICEF Operational Partners: Iqra' Association, Save the Children International, Amel Association, Sawa Group			

Supply and Logistics: UNICEF is developing distribution plans for 151 ECD kits, 105 Recreational kits, 2,500 Hygiene kits and five Health kits. In addition, 15 cartons of water purification tablets and 3,000 Baby Hygiene kits are awaiting custom clearance. A supply specialist (consultant) has joined the Lebanon Country Office to assist with establishing Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with local suppliers.

Human Resources

	Number staff
Country Office staff	19 (3 internationals and 16 nationals)
Temporary staff	11 (3 internationals and 8 nationals)
Surge	-
Standby partners	6
Under recruitment	2 Drivers, one for the North and one for Bekaa
Standby partners: NRC, Irish Aid, RedR	

Next Situation Report: 27 September 2012

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