



LEBANON

# Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

August, 2013



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

- More than 343,000 individuals received World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers;
- More than 200,000 refugees benefited from the distribution of hygiene and baby kits ;
- Over 22,500 individuals benefited from the distribution of summer blankets, mattresses and other household items;
- More than 19,200 refugees nationwide received primary healthcare services including consultations, treatment, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests;
- Over 11,800 individuals received awareness sessions on various topics including pre/post natal care, mental health, nutrition, early marriage and the importance of breastfeeding;
- Some 3,000 patients were admitted to hospitals nationwide;
- 55,000 refugees were registered with UNHCR.



## REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

This month, over 55,000 persons registered with UNHCR, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to over 716,000 (over 606,000 people registered and 109,000 awaiting registration).

Current geographical distribution of the registered population is as follows:

**North Lebanon:** 200,000 – 33%

**Bekaa:** 206,000 – 34%

**Beirut and Mount Lebanon:** 119,000 – 18%

**South Lebanon:** 79,000 – 13%

The average waiting period dropped back to 34 days and is expected to drop further following the month of Ramadan and Eid celebrations during which the no-show rate increased and the registration process slowed down. Also in August, the number of Syrian refugee children topped one million in the region, and 300,000 in Lebanon. The tragic milestone of the one millionth child was recorded in Lebanon.

## PROTECTION

The last week of August did not witness any significant changes in the patterns of arrivals at the borders despite heightened tension inside Syria. As a means of contingency planning, the Ministry of Social Affairs, along with UNHCR and partners agreed that a reception area would be established at Masnaa border to provide information and counseling to refugees upon their arrival. Water, sanitation and health facilities will be available in this area and refugees with specific needs will be identified and referred to specialized agencies in Lebanon.

Authorities are exercising more caution in checking documents at the border and denying access to people without valid passports /ID cards or to those whose documents are damaged. They are also not permitting entry to those they have reason to believe have no legitimate reasons to come into Lebanon.

The Government is still reluctant to authorize the establishment of formal transit sites in Lebanon. In the absence of these sites, UNHCR and the Government are continuing to identify buildings that could be rehabilitated and used as collective shelters for refugees.

## SECURITY

The security situation across the country impacted programmes this month – hindering humanitarian access including distribution activities mainly in northern Bekaa and Wadi Khaled.

## DISTRIBUTION

More than 343,000 individuals received the World Food Programme (WFP) food parcels distributed by World Vision and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). In addition, over 22,500 individuals benefited from the distribution of summer blankets, mattresses and other household items provided by UNHCR, DRC and the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC).

Also this month, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and partner agencies finalized an assessment to identify the most vulnerable among the Syria refugee population. The results of this assessment will determine how food vouchers, hygiene and baby kits will be distributed in the months ahead. Unlike previously where these items were distributed to all refugee families, the distribution will be more targeted focusing on the most vulnerable and those who have no other means to provide for themselves. This is imperative to ensure that limited resources focus on those most at risk as a matter of priority. A mass communication strategy was also initiated to inform refugees and local and central authorities about these changes.

## EDUCATION

This month, over 9,500 Lebanese and Syrian students benefited from Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) and remedial classes provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Relief International, World Vision and Amel Association. Students received English, math, sciences and Arabic classes in addition to psycho-social activities. Agencies reported a brief dip in school attendance in community centres during Ramadan.

Over the summer, 45,000 students attended education programs and recreational activities provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, Amel Association, World Vision, DRC and Caritas. These programs and activities have been held in schools and community centres and have recently been introduced in informal settlements where Syrian refugee children are particularly vulnerable.

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) continues to work on a national education strategy that would support a larger number of refugee children programs in the 2013-2014 academic year through a second shift in public schools. MEHE is working in close coordination with UNHCR and its partners to increase their current pilot programs for second shift schooling up to 70 public schools, (targeting 21,000 school-aged children throughout Lebanon. School-aged refugee children will also receive basic education supplies such as school-in-box kits, school bags and early childhood development kits provided by education agencies for the 2013-2014 school year.



Syrian refugees attending remedial classes in the Bekaa © UNHCR/S.Baldwin

## HEALTH

More than 19,200 refugees nationwide received primary healthcare services including consultations, treatment, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests provided by the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), UNHCR, International Medical Corps (IMC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF-Switzerland), Amel Association, Première Urgence (PU-AMI) and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC).

Also this month, over 3,000 patients were admitted to the hospitals nationwide. As of January 2013, over 16,000 refugees received assistance with secondary healthcare provided by UNHCR and IMC. Additionally, over 11,800 individuals received awareness sessions on various topics including pre/post natal care, mental health, nutrition, early marriage and the importance of breastfeeding provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, IMC, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and PU-AMI and some 4,000 individuals benefited from clinical and social consultations provided by IMC.

Malnutrition was a priority health activity this month following the recent identification of malnourished children mainly in the Bekaa. UNHCR, IOCC, IMC, along with other agencies are working on early identification and ensuring access to specialised clinics to treat the children.

## SHELTER

This month, over 7,700 individuals benefitted from shelter assistance including cash for shelter, weatherproofing, cash for host families, support to tented settlements and the rehabilitation of collective shelters provided by agencies nationwide bringing the total number of assisted individuals since the outset of the crisis to 117,000.

Agencies continue to prioritize winterization plans including the identification of safe shelters for refugees living in flood-prone areas and the planned provision of plastic sheeting, stoves, fuel vouchers, blankets and other needed items. Also as part of contingency planning, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and UNHCR will continue to identify and renovate public buildings to be used as collective shelters, while no official decision has been made regarding the establishment of transit sites for refugees.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

This month, more than 200,000 refugees benefited from the distribution of hygiene and baby kits by UNHCR, UNHCR, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), Humedica, DRC, SHIELD, World Vision, International Medical Corps (IMC), INTERSOS, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC).

Other water, sanitation and hygiene activities included the installation of some 590 latrines and hand-washing stations, and the distribution of over 730 water filters tanks provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, Premiere Urgence (PU-AMI), Action Contre La Faim (ACF) and World Vision.

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE PORTAL

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

### UPDATES

- UNHCR LBN WASH 2013-Aug-06 A4, MoM SOUTH WASH WG
- UNHCR LBN SHELTER 2013-Aug-06 A4, MoM-ITS
- UNHCR LBN SHELTER 2013-Aug-06 A4, MoM-Shelter-WG
- NEW Lebanon Contact List - Syrian Refugee Response 12.08.2013
- UNICEF Syria Regional Crisis Bi-weekly Humanitarian SitRep
- Lebanon Registration Trend Overview 08 August 2013

### MAPS

- UNHCR LBN WASH MAP 2013-08-012 A3, Selected WASH Sector Activities Reached During July-2013
- UNHCR LBN WASH MAP 2013-08-12 A3, Selected WASH Sector Partners During July-2013
- UNHCR LBN SLT Map 2013-July A0, DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMAL TENTED SETTLEMENTS FOR BEKAA
- UNHCR LBN SLT Map 2013-July A0, DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMAL TENTED SETTLEMENTS FOR NORTH
- UNHCR LBN SLT Map 2013-July A0, DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMAL TENTED SETTLEMENTS FOR SOUTH
- UNHCR Lebanon Registration Map 31-July-2013 A3, Syrian Refugees Registered In Lebanon

### STATISTICS

Lebanon Registration Daily Stats 09, 12-14 August 2013

### REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS

International Medical Corps Lebanon Syrian Refugee Response January-June 2013