

REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

26 September 2013

LEBANON

This chapter on Lebanon is part of the [September Regional Analysis of the Syria conflict \(RAS\)](#), which seeks to bring together information from all sources in the region and provide holistic analysis of the overall Syria crisis. The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For more information, comments or questions please email SNAP@ACAPS.org.

Displaced

Syrian registered refugees and awaiting registration	756,630
Unregistered Syrians	243,000
Palestinian refugees from Syria	45,000
Syrian migrants	~250,000
Syrian return	Unknown
Lebanese returnees	Unknown



Non displaced

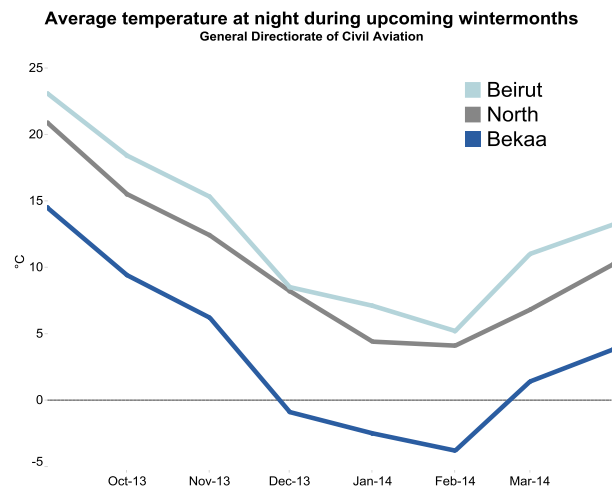
Host communities	1,200,000
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Source: [UNHCR 2013/09/25](#) ,[UNRWA 2013/09/07](#)

Key issues September

- The most pressing need continues to be access to adequate shelter. Many informal settlements and unfinished buildings used as accommodation will not provide sufficient protection from the cold temperatures in the coming winter months. Many informal tented settlements are in areas prone to the flooding that occurs in the Bekaa Valley between November and February. Due to the rise in rental prices and limited livelihood opportunities, an increasing number of refugees are forced to leave their rented apartment and move into informal tented settlements.
- Due to funding constraints, UN organisations will soon reduce the proportion of registered refugees receiving aid. Targeted assistance, whereby only 72% of registered individuals will receive NFI and food aid, will be implemented in Mount Lebanon and Bekaa in October and in the rest of the country in November. Although targeted assistance has yet to be implemented, there have been reports of individuals hesitant to register with UNHCR due to the planned reduction in aid and unconfirmed reports of refugees returning to Syria because they will no longer receive assistance. Furthermore there are concerns that the selection methodology excludes up to 20% of those eligible.

➤ During the winter months, livelihoods opportunities for Syrians, who mostly work as casual labourers, will decrease as the agricultural and construction sectors decrease their productivity. Also, the Government of Lebanon (GoL) has stepped up efforts to close down illegal Syrian-run businesses.



- An increasing number of humanitarian actors are transitioning from providing in-kind assistance toward implementing cash-transfer programmes. Cash-based programming has a number of distinct advantages, including the fact that it can support existing market systems and give choice and dignity to Syrian communities. However, as a countrywide price monitoring system is not yet in place and it is unclear if the market has the capacity to provide the needed commodities, there are concerns over the impact of the cash-injections on the local market system.
- The GoL continues to impose stricter border controls, restricting access to Syrians older than 15 years of age without valid ID cards or passports or whose papers have been damaged. There have been reports of boys younger than 15 being denied entry.
- ESCWA (the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) estimates that by the end of 2014, there will be around 2.3 million Syrians in Lebanon. If this projection, and the GoL estimates of 1 million Syrians currently in the country are correct, a further 100,000 Syrians a month will enter Lebanon between now and December 2014, up from the current rate of around 75,000 Syrians a month. This increase in the rate of arrivals seems unlikely for several reasons: many of those that intended to flee Syria will have fled by now, the deteriorating situation in Lebanon during the winter months will create less of a 'pull' factor and Lebanese border restrictions are likely to be maintained. The World Bank projects that there will be 1.6 million refugees in the country by the end of 2014.
- Public services such as health and education are increasingly struggling to cope with the large number of people requiring services. For instance, around 90,000 Syrian refugees are expected to enrol in public schools during this academic year, which will increase the number of students in the Lebanese public school system by 30%.

- Security incidents are widespread, including rocket attacks, localised clashes and IEDs. Increased hostility, aggression and frustration amongst the host community have been reported. The deteriorating security situation is impacting humanitarian access, mainly in Bekaa and the north of Lebanon where security incidents and checkpoints hamper the movement of goods and personnel.

Operational constraints

- The highly unstable security situation across the country has impacted programmes and hindered humanitarian access, mainly in northern Bekaa and Wadi Khaled: there were multiple IED explosions in the Bekaa throughout September. Although relief actors are not directly targeted, the volatile situation is hampering delivery of aid. The increased number of checkpoints in the area at times impeded humanitarian access to northern Bekaa. ([UNFPA 2013/09/10](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- Syrians are scattered across more than 1,400 municipalities. Although secondary displacement of refugees within Lebanon is common, it is not consistently tracked. The movement of refugees into new areas is making it more difficult to identify them, monitor their needs and provide aid. ([UNFPA 2013/09/10](#), [PI 2013/07/18](#), [Shelter/NFI coordination meeting 2013/07/10](#))
- It has proven difficult to identify vulnerable groups, including those not registered with UNHCR, vulnerable host communities, Iraqi refugees and Syrians from minority groups. ([PI 2013/09/04](#), [PI 2013/08/15](#))
- The GoL poses restrictions on the type of aid that can be provided to the Syrians. In August, the GoL indicated that it would not allow Syrians vocational training, so as to prevent an increase in competition for jobs between refugees and host communities. A ministerial decision on the exact definition of 'vocational training' is expected in the coming weeks.
- The GoL continues to prohibit the establishment of formal refugee camps, including transit camps. In addition, the establishment of fixed structures in informal tented settlements is not authorised, regardless of it is public or private land. This hampers interventions, particularly those related to WASH and winterisation. ([PI 2013/07/18](#), [Shelter/NFI coordination meeting 2013/07/02](#))
- The proportion of overhead costs, including wages and rent for office buildings, is relatively high in Lebanon, especially when compared to other humanitarian crises. Some donors are reluctant to match these financial requirements. ([PI 2013/07](#))
- Some goods, such as high quality plastic sheeting, are not available locally and therefore have to be imported. There have been reports of goods being held in Lebanese customs for extended periods of time. ([PI 2013/07](#))

Data sources and limitations

- 5 assessments have been published in September
 - The World Bank published an Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict for the 2012-2014 period. ([WB 2013/09/20](#))
 - Oxfam and the ABAAD – Resource Centre for Gender Equality conducted a gender situation and vulnerability assessment among Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria now living in Lebanon, among over 150 people. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#))
 - Caritas published their study on older persons among refugees coming from Syria. ([Caritas 2013/09/18](#))
 - Solidarités International published a vulnerability assessment among 49 informal tented settlements in north Lebanon. ([Solidarités International 2013/08](#))
 - Amel Association International undertook an assessment on the humanitarian needs among 176 respondents around Beirut and its suburbs in May. ([Amel 2013/09/02](#))
- UNHCR has started to publish informative sector-specific monthly updates, which include information on the needs, challenges and (planned) response. ([UNHCR data portal](#))
- A number of assessments are planned, including a market assessment for winterisation items and a survey of flood prone areas. ([PI 2013/09/24](#))
- There is far more information available on the situation in Lebanon compared to other Syrian-refugee hosting countries. However, information gaps still exist, particularly on the nutrition situation. The only nutrition assessment undertaken in Lebanon dates back to September 2012. To address this gap, WHO indicated that they will undertake a nutrition assessment in coordination with UNICEF and WFP. ([UNHCR 2013/09/03](#))
- Most assessments focus exclusively on a specific part of the country making it difficult to compare the humanitarian situation between the different areas. The only study that covers all refugee-hosting areas, the joint UNHCR/WFP vulnerability assessment, was not designed to provide a representative picture of the situation per governorate. The study focuses on registered refugees and does not stipulate the humanitarian needs of other groups such as the unregistered refugees.
- There is a lack of information on the number of unregistered refugees, the situation of migrants and Lebanese returnees and the number of daily arrivals.

Displaced

- ✦ The official Government estimation on the number of Syrians in the country is 1 million, down from a previous estimate of 1.2 million because of returnees. ([UNHCR 2013/09/24](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/10](#))

Registered refugees

- ✦ **Border crossings:** Since July 2013, the GoL has enforced pre-existing requirements to entry into Lebanon more strictly. While the border remains open to refugees, the authorities are exercising more caution in checking documents at the border and are denying access to people without valid passports or ID cards or whose documents are damaged. The authorities have indicated that persons will not be permitted entry if their identity is in doubt and/or if the authorities have reason to believe they are not coming for reasons of humanitarian need. Those arriving with only a civil registry document are not permitted to enter unless they are under 15 years of age. ([UNFPA 2013/09/01](#), [Daily Star 2013/08/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/08/16](#), [IA 2013/08/06](#))
- ✦ The majority of refugees enter Lebanon through one of the 5 official border crossings (around 87%). The remainder cross through unofficial crossing points because they lack appropriate documentation or because of fighting blocking access to official crossings. The official crossings are El Aarida, El Aaboudieh, Al-Amami (between Tartous and northern Lebanon), Mashari' Al-Qaa (between Bekaa and Homs) and Masnaa (between Bekaa and Rural Damascus). Mashari' Al-Qaa crossing has been closed since July-August 2012. ([PI 2013/09/16](#), [UNHCR 2013/03/29](#), [WFP 2013/06/05](#))

Daily arrivals:

- ✦ Between 70 and 75,000 people are estimated to cross into Lebanon each month while UNHCR registers around 60,000 Syrians a month. There are no official figures on the number of people entering Lebanon on a daily basis - the GoL does not consistently collect or publish the numbers and there is limited presence of NGOs and UNHCR at the border crossings. ([PI 2013/09/20](#), [DRC 2013/06](#))
- ✦ Despite rumours of a significant increase in daily arrivals due the threat of an US military attack, UNHCR reports that there were no significant changes in the arrival patterns at the borders. ([IA 2013/09/06](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- ✦ To prepare for an anticipated influx of Syrian refugees following the chemical weapons attacks in Damascus and the subsequent threat of international military action, a reception centre was built at Masnaa crossing. At this centre, information and counselling to refugees is provided upon their arrival although it is not designed to host people overnight. ([Daily Star 2013/09/05](#), [UNFPA 2013/09/10](#))
- ✦ The number of Syrians regularly crossing back and forth between Lebanon and Syria is unknown although estimates are as high as 200,000. ([PI 2013/07/29](#))

- ✦ **Place of origin:** Around 70% of Syrians crossing into Lebanon via the main Lebanese-Syrian border crossing (Masnaa) reported arriving from Damascus. The majority of refugees in Lebanon are from Homs, Aleppo and Idlib, and Damascus/Rural Damascus. ([UNHCR 2013/09/13](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/030](#))
- ✦ **Drivers of displacement:** 92% of those registered with UNHCR Lebanon in June and July indicated that they left Syria because of the general violence, 5% because of a lack of shelter and 3% because of a lack of food. 51% of those indicated that they chose Lebanon as a country of refuge because of the easy access to the border, 19% because they have previously worked or resided in Lebanon and 19% because Lebanon is the cheapest option. ([UNHCR 2013/09/16](#))
- ✦ **Current location:** Refugees reside in 1,400 Lebanese municipalities, mostly in Bekaa (Zahle and Baalbek) and the north (Akkar and Tripoli). ([UNHCR 2013/09/14](#))

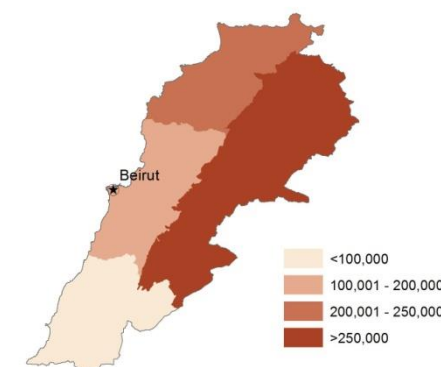
Refugee locations as registered at UNHCR (% of total number of registered refugees)

Area	Sep-2012	Sep- 2013
North	45%	33%
Bekaa	44%	34%
Beirut and Mount Lebanon	9%	20%
South Lebanon	-	13%

Please note that these figures refer to the location of registration and this may differ from the current location of residence.

- ✦ **Status:** Entering via an official Lebanese border crossing point, an individual holding a valid national Syrian identity card or a valid passport receives an Entry Coupon (also called Return Coupon) with an entry stamp. This stamp allows him/her residency for a period of 6 months and can be renewed free of charge for another 6 months at any regional office of the General Security. This procedure gives any Syrian the possibility of residing in the country for 1 year without any fees. After this period, Syrians must apply for a 6-month residence permit renewal for a fee of LBP 300,000 (USD 200), which can be then renewed another time free of charge for 6 months. Some Syrian nationals (born to a Lebanese mother; married to a Lebanese; born in Lebanon; pursuing their studies; and retired

Refugees by region (Registered and awaiting UNHCR)



diplomats) are also eligible for a “courtesy residence permit”, which is renewable, free of charge and valid for 3 years. Those who have crossed into Lebanon through unofficial borders can regularise their status for USD 600.

(LBC 2013/03/07)

- ✦ **Registration:** To obtain access to UN services and protection, registration with UNHCR is necessary. The average waiting period for UNHCR registration in Lebanon is 38 days (down from 40 days on 15 August). The lowest waiting period for registration is in the south (15 days). (UNHCR 2013/09/06, UNHCR 2013/08/15)
- ✦ Municipalities also require Syrian refugees to register, which is separate from UNHCR’s registration process. Although this registration is currently informal, it is understood that the municipalities will be formalising this process. (UNHCR 2013/09/03)
- ✦ **Characteristics:** Around 51% of the registered refugees are male, while 49% are female. 2.5% are over 60 years of age. More than 90% of registered refugees are Sunni. (UNHCR 2013/09/14, Protection Working Group 2013/07/19)

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)

- ✦ At the start of August, around 92,000 PRS were recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon. However, there is much cross border movement and some Palestinians come to Lebanon temporarily to seek medical care. As a result, the actual number of PRS residing in Lebanon is much lower. A head count of PRS remaining in Lebanon indicated that around 45,000 are currently in Lebanon. (Daily Star 2013/09/06)
- ✦ 100 to 200 PRS are entering Lebanon on a daily basis. Some Palestinians have reportedly been barred from entering Lebanon. Many PRS have been displaced within Syria multiple times before crossing the border into Lebanon. (IA 2013/09/06, Daily Star 2013/08/08, UNHCR 2013/08/16, Inter-Agency 2013/08/06)
- ✦ **Place of origin:** The large majority of recorded PRS are from Damascus (91%), primarily from Yarmouk camp. (UNRWA 2013/07/12)
- **Status:** PRS continue to be issued 7-day transit visas, valid for 15 days at LBP 25,000 (USD 17) upon arrival. On expiry, PRS can obtain another visa for a period of 3 months free of charge. The GoL announced an amnesty in September 2012, which allows PRS with expired visas to return to Syria within 1 year of their entry into Lebanon without being subject to fines at the border. This remains in place. As of June 2013, PRS who wish to remain in Lebanon for more than a year are expected to pay a LBP 300,000 (USD 200) fee. Those who pay the fee are able to continue to renew their 3-month temporary residence for another year. (UNRWA 2012/12/19, UNRWA 2013/06/25)
- **Demographic breakdown:** 52% of recorded PRS are female, and 48% are male. 15% of PRS are under 5 years of age. (UNRWA 2013/07/12)

Unregistered refugees

- ✦ The number of Syrians residing in Lebanon that are not registered and not awaiting registration with UNHCR is unknown. However the number is thought to be significant, illustrated by the fact that around 50% of those registering had been in Lebanon for more than 3 months prior to registration while 10% had been in Lebanon more than a year. (Protection WG 2013/07/19)
- ✦ Relying on the September GoL estimate of 1 million refugees, there are around 243,000 refugees estimated to be unregistered. There were also around 250,000 Syrian workers in Lebanon pre-crisis, some of them are now registered with UNHCR.

Refugee needs and concerns

Shelter

- ✦ Shelter has been identified as an urgent concern. Due the limitations of the GoL and donors, only a few new housing units have been created for Syrians. Syrians are forced to seek shelter in existing buildings, which are not always affordable, adequate or available. As a result, an increasing number of refugees live in substandard dwellings. Over 450 informal tented settlements, of which 232 are in Bekaa, have been identified, where Syrians are living with little access to services. In April, a shelter survey found that 11% of registered refugees were residing in informal tented settlements, by August this proportion increased to 14%. (UNHCR 2013/09/06, Winterisation WG 2013/08/02, Inter-Agency 2013/08/06, Inter-Agency 2013/08/05, UNHCR 2013/09/13, Inter-Agency 2013/09/06)
- ✦ The majority of registered Syrian refugees continue to reside in rented apartments and houses. The strain exerted on the rental market is leading to an increase in rental prices - a Consumer Price Index monitoring system reported a 44% increase in rental prices between June 2012 and June 2013. (CAS 2013/06)
- ✦ An increasing number of evictions in some areas of Lebanon, particularly in informal tented settlements, have been observed in recent weeks due to rising tensions between Syrian refugees and host communities. (UNHCR 2013/09/13)
- ✦ With winter approaching, there are significant concerns over the capacity of the local market to supply the needed winterisation items such as blankets, stoves and winter clothes. Refugees living in areas at high altitudes (+500m) have been identified as specifically vulnerable due to the low temperatures during the winter. At least 8,000 individuals living in informal flood-prone areas urgently require alternative accommodation. Floods in these areas are common from November to February. Those residing in tents, unfinished houses and garages/shops are deemed the most vulnerable. These shelters are often inadequate, their security of tenure is limited and significant security risks exist. Preparing these shelters for the winter months is urgently required as are measures to mitigate the impact of the floods. (UNHCR 2013/09/06, SCI 2013/07/24, AFP 2013/07/19)

- A nationwide poll found that the majority of the Lebanese interviewed would like to see UN refugee camps established, to relieve them from the burden of hosting the refugees. However, the GoL has not changed its policy towards the establishment of camps and it is unlikely that a policy decision on the issue will be made before the current interim Government is replaced by an elected one. Similarly, the GoL prohibition on structural interventions in informal tented settlements severely hampers winterisation efforts. Organisations are, for instance, only allowed to distribute plastic sheeting for tents in the settlements, which is not adequate to provide protection during the winter months. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) circulated a list with allowed shelter interventions, including weather-proofing of informal tented settlements, establishment of formal settlements and cash for rent. ([FAO 2013/04/03](#), [PI 2013/07/22](#), [SCI 2013/07/24](#))

Health and nutrition

- Primary and secondary health-care services are provided mostly through the existing Lebanese health infrastructure. UNHCR and implementing partners currently cover 75% of the hospitalisation cost. Although there are some organisations paying the remainder for vulnerable refugees, many Syrians are not covered by this additional support and face large out-of-pocket payments, which are beyond the means of many. Some providers require upfront payment of these uncovered costs. Medications and diagnostic tests are frequently overprescribed, increasing costs for refugees and relief organisations. Certain areas, such as Mount Lebanon, remain largely uncovered by health sector partners. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/13](#), [AFP 2013/07/15](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/16](#), [IOM 2013/09/30](#))
- Secondary and tertiary healthcare in Lebanon is exceedingly expensive and the funds of organisations supporting refugee healthcare are increasingly stretched. Due to funding constraints, UNHCR provides no coverage for illnesses requiring chemotherapy, dialysis, or blood transfusions. ([Lancet 2013/06/29](#), [UNHCR 2013/05](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- In addition to financial barriers, physical access to healthcare centres is a challenge for refugees who live in remote locations. Access is further limited by short working hours of medical facilities and the availability of trained health personnel. There is lack of knowledge about subsidised healthcare services, which hinders access to healthcare. ([Solidarités International 2013/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#), [IOM 2013/09/30](#))
- An assessment among 70 elderly refugees in May found that many cannot afford their medication. 65% of those assessed indicated that their overall health status is bad or very bad, with most respondents having multiple chronic illnesses. ([Caritas 2013/09/18](#))
- Psychosocial support continues to be a major gap, particularly given the increased levels of fear, stress and anxiety that many refugees are experiencing. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/05](#))

- Clinical care for sexual violence and specialised skills for dealing with child survivors remain scarce or absent. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- No nationwide data exists on the nutrition status of Syrian children, although several malnutrition cases have been identified in the Bekaa. ([UNHCR 2013/09/03](#))
- Common healthcare needs of refugees include: reproductive healthcare and family planning, child healthcare (i.e. vaccinations), treatment for acute illnesses (respiratory infections, gastrointestinal diseases), chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes) and mental health. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- A large number of Syrians reportedly suffer or have suffered from dental and ophthalmological problems. ([UNHCR 2013/07/05](#), [Amel 2013/06](#))
- Maternal and paediatric care is another area of concern, with many children left unimmunised. High pregnancy rates are a problem as well. Some refugees are reportedly taking the risk of returning to Syria to give birth due to the high costs involved in childbirth in Lebanon. ([Amel 2013/06](#))
- **Sexual and reproductive health:** A UNFPA needs assessment in 2012 showed a number of needs related to reproductive health (54% of displaced women and girls suffered menstrual irregularity and 33% genital infection symptoms), maternal health (23% suffered anaemia during pregnancy and 16% had no antenatal follow up) as well as significant delivery-related complications such as bleeding (29%), preterm birth (26%), and new-born problems (52%). Only 37% of married women used contraceptive methods. ([UNFPA 2013/07/03](#))

Protection

- Since July, it has become more difficult for refugees from Syria to access Lebanese territory through official border crossings. The stricter border controls deny access to Syrians without valid ID cards or whose cards have been damaged. ([UNFPA 2013/09/01](#), [Daily Star 2013/08/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/08/16](#), [IA 2013/08/06](#))
- Within Lebanon, Syrians increasingly face a lack of freedom of movement:
 - A number of municipalities impose a curfew on Syrian residents between 9pm and 6am: reportedly part of a national strategy to be extended to other areas in the coming weeks. ([UNHCR 2013/09/13](#))
 - The deteriorating security situation has led to an increase in checkpoints. Checkpoints are reported to be increasingly strict on undocumented or irregular Syrians and some incidents of maltreatment of Syrians have been reported. ([Protection Working Group 2013/07/19](#), [Assafir 2013/09/04](#))
 - Some Syrians indicate to limit movement because of insecurity and fears of harassment or attack. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#))
- Insecurity, rising tensions and evictions endanger the physical safety of refugees while relocation and shelter alternatives remain limited. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))

- Tit-for-tat kidnappings are not uncommon in Lebanon and instances of kidnapping of Syrians have been reported. On 14 September, for instance, unidentified gunmen kidnapped two Syrian traders in the Bekaa. ([Daily Star 2013/09/15](#))
- A growing number of Syrians have irregular legal status due to having entered Lebanon through unofficial border points or because their residency permit has expired. As Syrians have limited access to livelihood activities, many do not have the financial means to pay for these procedures. Without a regular status, Syrians are hampered in their movement, do not have access to legal safeguards, cannot register births and face additional difficulties finding employment. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [USAID 2013/07/03](#))
- Due to the deteriorating situation, more refugees are forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms. Reported harmful coping strategies include child labour, survival sex and child marriage. Although early marriage of daughters was common practice in Syria before the conflict began, this is reportedly also being increasingly resorted to as a new coping strategy, either as a way of protecting young girls or easing pressures on family finances. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- Competition over resources and the perception that Syrians receive more support than poor Lebanese communities is heightening tensions between Syrians and their host communities, including localised clashes. Many respondents to an Oxfam survey reported experiencing xenophobia, discrimination and hostility. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#), [World Vision 2013/07](#), [Protection Working Group 2013/07/19](#))
- Violence towards women and children has increased within the household as some men vent their frustration and abuse their power. Outside the household, there are also examples of women and girls who are vulnerable to physical and verbal harassment, including sexual harassment, and in many areas they fear kidnap, robbery and attacks. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/03](#))
- Vulnerable groups:** Among those registered, over 200,000 persons with specific needs have been identified including persons with disabilities, women and children at risk, persons with serious medical conditions and SGBV survivors. ([Protection WG 2013/09/18](#))

 - Elderly refugees:** An estimated 6% of the Syrian population was older than 60 before the conflict, while only 2.5% of registered refugees in Lebanon are over 60. Elderly people often have difficulties registering due to a lack of mobility and limited access to livelihood opportunities. ([IRIN 2013/09/06](#))
 - Widowed and other women without a male member in the household** have difficulties registering because cultural norms often prevent them from going to register by themselves. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06](#))
 - Persons with a disability** generally represent 15% of a given population and this proportion can increase to 18%-20% in case of a conflict-affected population. However, only 1% of the UNCHR registered population in Lebanon are persons with disabilities. ([Protection WG 2013/09/18](#))
- New arrivals** are specifically vulnerable as they are often unable to fully access support from international relief organisations for between 1 and 3 months due to delays in the refugee registration process. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#)[UNHCR 2013/07/19](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/17](#), [FAFO 2013/06](#))
 - Minorities:** Fewer than 2% of total registered refugees are Christians, while an estimated 10% of the Syrian population are Christian. It is assumed that Christians refrain from registration out of fear or due to a lack of awareness regarding the process. However, Christian refugees appear more at ease registering in Beirut/Mount Lebanon, where they represent 4.5% of the registered refugee population. ([UNHCR 2013/06/20](#), [Protection Working Group 2013/07/19](#))
 - Palestinian Refugees from Syria** PRS are considered to be more vulnerable than Syrians because they have fewer legal safeguards, no opportunities to find legal employment, and the majority are hosted in Palestinian refugee camps, which represent some of the poorest host communities in Lebanon. PRS face additional hurdles due to the frequency of visa renewal that is required. Without legal status, PRS are rendered ineligible for civil registration and their access to certain refugee camps is prevented. ([UNRWA 2013/07/06](#), [Daily Star 2013/06/20](#))
- Child protection:** Although incidents are not formally tracked, an increase in child labour has been noted amongst populations affected by the crisis is reported. Due to the loss of livelihoods, limited access to education and family separation, children have become particularly vulnerable, including to the worst forms of child labour. ([CPieWG 2013/08/14](#))
- A child protection assessment by the Child Protection in Emergency Working Group highlighted several concerns:

 - Separation of children from their families due to population movement, the need for children to work, a lack of space in accommodation and family tensions.
 - Physical violence and verbal harassment
 - Sexual violence against children, including sexual harassment, rape, and transactional sex.
 - Child labour, with boys often starting working from the age of 10 years. Common types of paid employment for boys are selling goods, working in construction and in agriculture. Children often leave school in order to work.
 - Limited capacity of and access to child protection services. ([CPEWG 2013/02](#))
- Psychosocial distress, child recruitment into armed groups and child trafficking were not covered by this assessment. While there are assessments available

on psychosocial distress, there is a lack of information on the latter two issues. ([CPEWG 2013/02](#))

Livelihoods and food security

- ✦ Syrians have limited livelihood opportunities, particularly during the winter months when productivity in agriculture and construction sectors, which traditionally employ a large number of Syrians, slows down. Even if they do find work, wages are low, working conditions generally poor, and they often face discrimination or harassment. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06](#), [PI 2013/09/17](#))
- ✦ In July, the GoL announced that it would start enforcing laws that require local businesses to have proper documentation. This primarily affects Syrian refugees, who often run unlicensed micro-enterprises to obtain an income. At least 55 Syrian-owned illegal businesses have already been closed in the Bekaa. ([Livelihood WG 2013/16/09](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/09/02](#), [ARA News 2013/09/03](#))
- ✦ An assessment in Beirut among 170 respondents indicated large income gaps – with the average monthly income totalling USD 366, while monthly rent alone is USD 375. Rent, food and healthcare were considered the most important expenditures by the majority of participants. ([Amel 2013/09/02](#))
- ✦ The following coping strategies have been reported: spending savings, taking loans, buying food on credit, eating less preferable meals or skipping meals, reducing expenditure for schooling and healthcare and selling of assets. Other coping mechanisms reported include child labour, begging, early marriage and sexual transactions. Many women assessed during an Oxfam/Abaad assessment indicated that they have cut down on their own food intake so that children and men in the household can eat. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06](#), [DRC 2013/05](#), [CPEWG 2013/02](#))
- ✦ A vulnerability assessment among registered refugee households found that around 65-75% of households were classified as moderately and/or severely vulnerable, with 70% of the visited households living below the minimum expenditure basket. As of October/November, UN NFI assistance and food aid will target these specifically vulnerable individuals. ([Vasyr 2013/06](#))
- **Palestinian Refugees from Syria:** The PRS perceive the standard of living in Lebanon to be below that of Syria. Unlike Syrians who have long experience as migrant workers and have the legal framework and informal social networks to find employment in Lebanon, Palestinians are legally prohibited from seeking employment. ([Daily Star 2013/06/20](#))

WASH

- ✦ Those residing in informal tented settlements are often forced to use unsafe water sources. A survey of water sources used by refugees residing in the north of the country found that 12 of the 15 sources assessed were contaminated. ([Solidarités International 2013/08](#))

- ✦ Syrian refugees interviewed during an Oxfam/Abaad assessment indicated a lack of access to appropriate water and sanitation facilities. ([Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06](#))
- ✦ There is a lack of sewage treatment facilities in Lebanon and the existing facilities are overburdened by the Syrian influx. This creates a significant risk for the spreading of diseases. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))
- ✦ The lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities in informal tented settlements is of major concern. A needs assessment highlighted a lack of WASH interventions in Mount Lebanon. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [SCI 2013/06/18](#), [Oxfam 2013/06/11](#))
- **Palestinian Refugees from Syria:** Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon are under severe pressure in terms of water, waste management and power supply due to overcrowding by both PRS and Syrian refugees. ([UNHCR 2013/06/10](#))

Education

- ✦ The registration period for Lebanese and foreign students in public schools for the 2013/2014 academic year has been extended until 10 October. During the 2012/2013 school year, around 30,000 Syrian children were enrolled in public schools, leaving an estimated 90% of Syrian refugee children aged 6 to 17 out of school. The main barrier to education is the limited capacity of the public school system to absorb the large number of additional pupils. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/13](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/21](#))
- ✦ Other academic barriers have been identified, including the use of English and French in Lebanese schools, curricular differences, lack of academic support at home and in the community, family poverty and repeated exam failures. Some students face bullying and racism which negatively affects their performance. Some children are forced to work to complement the family income. Others families reported preferring to keep their girls at home to do the housework rather than allowing them to attend mixed Lebanese schools. ([Oxfam 2013/09/03](#), [NRC 2013/07/11](#))
- ✦ At least 200 Syrians residing in Palestinian refugee camps face difficulties accessing schools because they are not Palestinian and can therefore not be enrolled in schools run by UNRWA. ([Daily Star 2013/09/12](#))
- ✦ **Palestinian Refugees from Syria:** To date, only 35% of PRS children in Lebanon have enrolled in school. ([UNRWA 2013/09/01](#))

Lebanese Returnees

- By April, an estimated 30,000 Lebanese had returned from Syria. Most of them are concentrated in rural, agricultural districts in northern and eastern Lebanon. There is no updated information on the number of returnees. However, in April smallholder returnees were identified as specifically vulnerable as they face Lebanon's high animal feed costs and lack of winter

grazing lands. Previously, these used to benefit from Syria's (winter) seasonal pastures and generous feed subsidies but these sources are no longer available. ([FAO 2013/04/03](#))

Syrian Migrants

- Between 300,000 and 600,000 Syrians were working in Lebanon before the crisis, mostly in agriculture, construction and services. Syrian migrants who traditionally reside in informal settlements in Lebanon during the agricultural season are becoming increasingly vulnerable. Due to the crisis, they face a decrease in daily wages, while the cost of living, including rent, is increasing. Many have brought their families to Lebanon, resulting in a further increase in expenditure. As more Syrians settle in informal tented sites, they become increasingly overcrowded, while access to services is limited. ([SCI 2013/06/18](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/13](#), [IRIN 2012/12/24](#))

Non-Displaced

- Lebanon is hosting a number of registered Syrian refugees and recorded Palestinian refugees equal to 20% of the total estimated Lebanese population. As a result of the crisis in Syria and consequential refugee influx, an estimated 1.2 million Lebanese were in need at the time of the publication of the Regional Response Plan in June. As the situation has further deteriorated and the influx has increased, it is likely that a higher number of Lebanese are currently directly or indirectly affected. ([UNHCR 2013/09/14](#), [UNCR 2013/06/21](#), [UNHCR 2013/06/10](#))

Shelter

- Overcrowding is becoming a significant problem in many host communities and in over 133 locations, Syrian refugees already account for more than 30% of the overall population. The subsequent rent increase (44% increase in rental prices between June 2012 – June 2013) is affecting the Lebanese as well as the Syrians. The poorest Lebanese are often not able to pay the rent increases and there are reports of people being forced to leave areas to make space for refugees. Refugees are often able to pay higher rents because they agree to live with several families in a single apartment. ([CAS 2013/06](#), [World Vision 2013/07](#))
- The influx of refugees is putting increasing pressure on public services, such as waste disposal, water and electricity. The Central Administration of Statistics noted a 7.4% increase in prices for water, electricity and gas between June 2012 and June 2013. ([CAS 2013/06](#), [NRC 2013/07/11](#), [World Vision 2013/07](#))

Livelihoods and food security

- Competition over jobs is one of the main challenges faced by Lebanese host communities. A survey among Lebanese found that Syrians are perceived to be able to accept lower salaries as they receive additional support from aid agencies. The increased competition and lower wages are particularly

impacting those lacking formal education that depend on the unskilled labour market. These groups are also most likely to be reliant on the public services most affected by the refugee influx, such as health clinics and public schools. ([World Vision 2013/07](#), [FAFO 2013/06](#))

- Lebanese families reported food price increases over the last 12 months. This was attributed to an increase in demand without additional supply entering the market. Interviewees also noted increased competition from cheap Syrian businesses and smuggled goods coming across the border from Syria as further damaging the local economy. ([World Vision 2013/07](#))
- However, there are also Lebanese who are benefiting economically from the influx - the arrival of aid agencies is injecting money into the local economy and creating job opportunities, local businesses are benefitting from the availability of cheap labour, whilst landlords and landowners are making significant profits on renting out land or living space. ([World Vision 2013/07](#))

Economy

- After an assessment of the economic and social impact of the Syrian conflict the World Bank estimates that by the end of 2014:
 - GDP growth is cut with 2.9% each year between 2012-2014, resulting in large losses in terms of wages, profits and taxes.
 - 170,000 will be pushed Lebanese into poverty on top of 1 million Lebanese currently living below the poverty line.
 - The employment rate will double to above 20%, most of them unskilled youth.
 - Government revenue collection will decrease by USD 1.5 billion, while Government expenditure will increase USD 1.1 billion due to the increase in demand for public services. ([WB 2013/09/20](#))
- The conflict also has had positive effects on some sectors – revenues for the Beirut Port increased by 26% in 2013, as regional traders increasingly rely on Lebanese merchants and infrastructure. Lebanese exports have replaced some Syrian exports: industrial exports increased by 13.5% between June 2012 and 2013. ([Daily Star 2013/06/20](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/06/17](#))

Protection

- The Syrian conflict continues to spill over into Lebanon and security incidents are common in the north and Bekaa. Shelling is on-going in the border region, with Syrian Air Forces regularly firing rockets into Lebanon. Security is also affected by the increasing tensions between local communities. Kidnappings involving families from the Sunni-majority Aarsal and the Shia clans of the northern Bekaa Valley have reportedly been on the rise since the beginning of the Syrian crisis. ([Daily Star 2013/08/05](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/14](#), [World Vision 2013/07](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/09/09](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/09](#))

- More Lebanese children are reportedly involved in child labour due to the deteriorating economic situation. There are no concrete statistics, but the Ministry of Labour has increased its 2006 estimate of 100,000 child workers in the country to 180,000. ([IPS 2013/08/07](#))
- Host communities assessed report feeling less safe as a result of the influx of refugees, and many reported that insecurity, including petty crime and electricity theft, had increased dramatically in the last 6-12 months. ([World Vision 2013/07](#))

Health

- The Lebanese hospitals are receiving an increased number of patients due to the mass influx of refugees and wounded fighters. In December 2012, 40% of primary healthcare visits were by Syrians. WHO reported that, based on the current influx of refugees into Lebanon, Syrians' demands for healthcare services will increase by at least 30% over the coming months. ([OCHA 2013/07/23](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/06/19](#), [World Vision 2013/07/15](#), [Reuters 2013/09/19](#))

Education

- 90,000 Syrian children are expected to enrol in public school during the upcoming academic year, in addition to 300,000 Lebanese children in the public school system. Most refugees are concentrated in north Lebanon and the Bekaa, where the strain on education is particularly acute. ([WB 2013/09/20](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/13](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/07](#))