

Community Support Programme (CSP)

October 2013

Key figures

812,268	Total number of refugees
1,587	Total number of hosting locations
232	Total number of locations prioritised for CSP interventions
234	Host community support projects (2011-2013) 79 projects completed 155 projects on-going
55	Cadastral zones Reached by CSPs
USD 11 m	Funds allocated

*Based on 2004 poverty survey, presence of refugees and reported incidents

October 2013 developments

- 3 community support projects (CSPs) were completed in Tripoli-(Tebbaneh) and the South (Nabatiyeh and Bent Jbeil). The projects, which benefit 38,149 Lebanese and 10,217 Syrian refugees, were in the sectors of WASH and health. These included the provision of health awareness sessions for women, as well as of sewage and water trucks.
- 69 new projects in the sectors of water, health, education, livelihoods, social cohesion, sanitation and solid waste management were endorsed by the review committee in Beirut comprising MOSA, UNHCR, and UNDP. Among these, 29 have started implementation.

Achievements: January - October 2013

Activity	Number of Projects	Number of Lebanese beneficiaries	Number of Syrian refugee beneficiaries
Community infrastructures and services	46	1,165,149	253,798
Training for livelihoods	14	66,204	51,792
Social Cohesion	30	50,822	9,053
Total	90	1,282,175	314,643
Total number of locations benefiting			45

Needs

The presence of over 812,268 Syrian refugees in over 1,587 locations in Lebanon is placing an immense strain on host communities, many of which were already among the poorest in the country. As the crisis extends, the pressures on Lebanon deepen. A recent World Bank



assessment¹ estimates that the Syrian crisis has cost the country billions of dollars in lost economic activity for the period 2012-14. The refugee influx has placed increased pressure on already fragile electricity, water, sanitation, transport, health and education sectors. With more people in the labour market, wages are dropping and unemployment rates of Lebanese have reportedly increased.

As the country grapples with its own political and internal divisions, the additional pressures brought on by a massive refugee influx are fraying nerves. There is a growing sense that the Lebanese are being asked to continue to accommodate a seemingly endless stream of refugees, without commensurate support. Consequently, tensions between Lebanese and refugee communities in some areas are on the rise.

Vulnerable Lebanese are feeling the effects, as they compete for the same basic services, including limited income opportunities, as the refugees. In many host communities, particularly in areas where large number of refugees live, increased support is needed to ensure access to infrastructure and basic services such as the health care, public education, water and sanitation, and energy supply.

Challenges

The scale of the needs belies the fact that a number of efforts have been made to support communities hosting refugees. The latter include: a broad range of projects aimed at mitigating the effects of displacement on host communities, mainstreaming of assistance to host communities across broader humanitarian programming, as well as projects building national capacities at the ministerial and municipal level, or directly benefitting local communities. Planning and implementation of assistance efforts are further complicated by the scattered location of refugees. There is so far no consolidated or comprehensive needs assessment that would guide the planning of interventions. Moreover, the continuing increase in needs requires constant programmatic adjustments, which in turn, poses challenges for partners to plan and implement.

Strategy

The overarching goal of UNHCR's community support programme is to ensure protection space by supporting communities that are hosting refugees, as well as by providing individual support. Efforts to this end will include:

- Infrastructural interventions at the community level;
- Enhancing livelihood opportunities of host communities and refugees through skills training, capacity building and enhancement of production capacities; and
- Identifying and addressing both the real and perceived causes of conflicts and tensions attributed to the presence of Syrian refugees through social cohesion projects;
- Strengthening community capacity for dispute resolution and conflict management in affected host communities throughout Lebanon;

The Government of Lebanon, as well as host communities, refugees, civil society and local leaders, will continue to be involved in the identification of needs and conflict risks, as well as in the planning and implementation of the broad range of interventions benefitting host communities and refugees.

UNHCR implementing partners

Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Relief and Development (IRD), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), International Orthodox Christian Charities, USA (IOCC-USA), Right to Play, UNDP, UNOPS, Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), ACTED, CISP, Al Majmoua, Oxfam GB, Concern Worldwide.

¹ 'Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict', World Bank, 17 September 2013